



****For Immediate Release****

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WILSON CENTER APPOINTS LYNN SPRANGERS AS PRESIDENT & CEO



Brookfield, WI (June 27, 2016) Following an extensive nationwide search, the [Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts](#) (Wilson Center) announced today that Lynn Sprangers will lead the institution as its new President & CEO. Sprangers will join the Wilson Center on August 1, 2016.

The announcement came from Wilson Center Board Chair Jan Wade, following a national search conducted over the past four months by Arts Consulting Group (ACG). ACG is the leading provider of hands-on interim management, executive search, revenue enhancement consulting, facilities & program planning, and organizational development services for the arts and culture industry.

“We could not be more pleased to have Lynn joining us at the Wilson Center,” said Wade. “When looking for a visionary leader, someone who could build on our successes and help guide us to the next level, all signs pointed to Lynn. There is so much momentum and excitement building at the Wilson Center. Lynn is well-connected and such a well-respected member of our Greater Milwaukee-area community,” added Wade. “She has the energy and experience to work collaboratively with our staff, board, and stakeholders to move our organization forward.”

Sprangers has been a part of the Milwaukee community since 1983 when she joined the news team at WTMJ-TV. She spent nearly 20 years in broadcast journalism in Wausau, Madison, and Milwaukee and won many awards for her work as an environmental, government, and political reporter. Sprangers served as Director of Communications in the Office of the Milwaukee County Executive from 1994-2000, then spent the next ten years as an executive with the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club where she held several roles including President of Brewers Charities, the club's philanthropic arm, Vice President of Community Relations and Coordinator of the 2002 MLB All-Star Game. From 2011 to January of this year, Sprangers was a member of the leadership team at Mount Mary University in Milwaukee. Her background in journalism, government, professional sports, and higher education gives her a unique set of leadership, fundraising, team-building, and special event skills that she will now bring to the Wilson Center.

“The Wilson Center was a big idea. A group of committed people brought it to life 15 years ago, and there is still a strong commitment to the Center today. It is a special place. Arts facilities underscore what we hold dear in the way of cultural experiences and creative assets,” said Sprangers. “Opportunities to lead an organization like this do not come along every day. I feel as if I have been given a unique opportunity to join a most capable team—creative and purpose-driven people—who are eager to guide the Wilson Center through its next phase. And, we are excited to welcome in ideas and voices from our larger community to further enrich this conversation.”

Sprangers’ appointment comes at a pivotal moment for the organization, which annually enriches more than 45,000 lives through performances, arts education, festivals, classes, exhibitions, workshops, community celebrations, and more. This fall, the Wilson Center will celebrate its 15th Anniversary Season, as well as welcome artists from all over the world for the fourth annual international Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival in August. At its recent premier arts education fundraiser, The Big Event, the Wilson Center unveiled the inaugural Lynn Chappy ArtsPark sculpture, *Flit* by Wisconsin artist Nizar Schaller, and by the end of 2016, a total of six sculptures will be installed in this multiphase, strategic initiative to unite nature and art in inspiring ways for visitors of all ages.

In addition to her work, Lynn Sprangers has a passion for community board service, having chaired the boards of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, VISIT Milwaukee, Milwaukee Urban League, and Milwaukee Women Inc. Sprangers is a member of TEMPO and Professional Dimensions and the executive committee of the United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County. Her past service includes the boards of the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center, AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, GMC Future Workforce Committee, and the Menomonee Valley Partners. Sprangers has been recognized for her work by many organizations including a TEMPO Mentor Award, Women of Influence by the Milwaukee Business Journal, Woman of the Year from Mount Mary University, YWCA of Southeast Wisconsin Philanthropy Award, Friend of the Hispanic Community from the United Community Center, Thurgood Marshall Community Service Award, and an Amiga Award from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin

Lynn Sprangers is a 1978 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point where she earned a degree in Communications. In 1990, she received an Alumni of the Year Award from UWSP Department of Communications. In 1998, Sprangers participated in a summer International Economics Program at Worcester College at the University of Oxford.

About the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts

The Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts is one of the finest multi-disciplinary cultural arts centers in the United States, with a mission to be the catalyst for lifelong discovery and exploration of the Arts. As a year-round hub of activity, the Wilson Center presents performances by world-renowned artists and ensembles; offers arts education opportunities; curates the Ploch Art Gallery, which features both national and Wisconsin-based fine artists; and is committed to extending the arts beyond the walls of the Center through Lynn Chappy ArtsPark—a vibrant, outdoor sculpture landscape that will engage and inspire the broader Southeastern Wisconsin Community. In August, the annual Wilson Center Guitar Competition & Festival celebrates the world's leading classical, rock/blues, jazz, and fingerstyle guitarists. The Center nurtures lifelong learning through innovative programs and classes for all interests, ages, and abilities in state-of-the-art studios and classrooms. Some of Southeast Wisconsin's finest arts organizations offer professional instruction at the Wilson Center, including First Stage Theater Academy, Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, and the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. From performances and recitals to meetings and special events, the Wilson Center's beautiful spaces are available for rental to individuals, schools, organizations, and corporations throughout the community. For more information, visit www.wilson-center.com or call 262-781-9470.

About Arts Consulting Group, Inc.

ACG is the leading provider of hands-on interim management, executive search, revenue enhancement consulting, facilities & program planning, and organizational development services for the arts and culture industry. The firm has offices in Boston, Calgary, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Halifax, Los Angeles, Nashville, New York, Portland, San Francisco, Tampa, Toronto, and Washington DC, with consultants located throughout North America to best serve the needs of its clients. Over the past 20 years, ACG has assisted more than 400 organizations achieve extraordinary impact in the communities they serve. Long considered a mainstay intellectual resource to the arts and culture industry, ACG's team members are specialists in every artistic and cultural discipline and have provided project consulting in revenue enhancement, donor prospecting & research, strategic planning, team building, marketing strategy & implementation, financial planning, transition management, Board training, and capital campaign management among other services. With years of hands on senior leadership experience, ACG is able to provide practical and transformative solutions to cultural organizations of all sizes. ACG is committed to growing institutions, advancing arts and culture, and enhancing communities. For more information, visit www.ArtsConsulting.com or call 888-234.4236.

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