

Dear PlatteForum Community,

As we move closer to more hopeful times, we cannot help but reflect on the significance of the past year, which has challenged all of us in so many unimaginable ways. We are incredibly proud of how PlatteForum has responded to the needs of our artists, youth, and community, while continuing to champion for Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity and Accessibility (DEIA). We are so grateful for the ongoing support of our amazing PlatteForum community which makes what we do possible. It is with all this in mind that we want to share important news with you today.

Our beloved executive director, Kim Estes McCarty, will be retiring at the end of October 2021. Kim has been instrumental in the transformational accomplishments of PlatteForum over the past five and a half years, including growing PlatteForum to a half million-dollar organization; dramatically diversifying PlatteForum's contributed revenue sources; expanding transformative resources to our ArtLab interns and artists; and increasing the number of artists, youth and community members served to close to 5,000 a year.

Most importantly, Kim's leadership, vision, and passion to DEIA has helped shift the demographics of our board and staff to better represent the communities we serve. Today, 62% of board and staff are BIPOC, 54% represent the LGBTQIA+ community, and 55% are former or current artists or ArtLab interns. Kim's commitment to DEIA for PlatteForum staff and board is the driving force behind her decision to retire, and she strongly believes it is now time for PlatteForum to be led by an executive director who is more reflective of our community. While we are incredibly sad to see her go, we respect and admire her reason and commitment to PlatteForum's DEIA crusade. Kim has given her whole heart to PlatteForum, and we are comforted knowing she will always stay connected in this way to our PlatteForum family.

We understand that a change in leadership can be concerning to our donors, partners, and community. We want to assure each of you that, as a board, we are committed to finding the best candidate to continue Kim's important work and lead PlatteForum forward. The hiring process will be thorough, authentic, and community-driven, and will include staff, artists, ArtLab interns, and partners. We plan to start our search in June, with the new executive director starting in September or October, to overlap with Kim for a period of time.

Collectively, our PlatteForum family has weathered the tumultuous storm of the past year, and together we now move forward with hope, gratitude, and optimism. Thank you again for your ongoing support and dedication to our mission, and we look forward to seeing many of you in-person in the coming months. Feel free to reach out to any of us or Kim should you have questions or comments.

With gratitude and hope,
PlatteForum Board of Directors, Executive Committee:



Michael Gadlin
Chair



Keith Ambuhl
Vice Chair



Beth Moyski
Immediate Past Chair



Nicole Taylor
Secretary



Tobias Krause
Treasurer