PlatteForum Announces Michael Gadlin as Incoming Executive Director

Gadlin will replace Kim Estes McCarty who has led the organization since 2016


Gadlin, a Denver-based artist and former Arts District TV host, has a long history with PlatteForum, beginning in 2009 when he was a resident artist. He became a board member in 2016 and was board vice chair for three years before becoming chair of the board in 2020. Following a change in staff and the board in 2016, Gadlin has been instrumental in growing the organization from a budget of $332,000 to $570,000, serving more than 4,000 individuals a year.

"I am thrilled to be selected as the next executive director of PlatteForum, with which I've been intimately involved, working closely with both our founder, Judy Anderson, and our current ED, Kim. Taking this position is an honor – to follow in their leadership footsteps," said Gadlin. "I am eager to lead this organization and equally passionate to learn, grow and serve our community through my principal value: human equity."

“Michael’s long history with PlatteForum and his extensive credentials in the arts and social justice communities makes him the perfect cultural fit for our next executive director," said Nicole Taylor, PlatteForum board of directors secretary.

Kim Estes McCarty, who announced her retirement in June, has led the organization since 2016. Under her leadership, PlatteForum dramatically changed the board and staff to better represent populations served, which are predominantly LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC. Eighty-eight percent of combined board and staff members represent the lived experiences of those the organization serves, and 54 percent are former or current clients of PlatteForum. Her final day will be Oct. 29 as she works to transition Gadlin into the role.

“Michael has been an invaluable resource since we began rebuilding PlatteForum almost six years ago and he was instrumental in all we have accomplished,” said Estes McCarty. “I couldn’t
be more confident to hand over the reins of our beloved PlatteForum to this dedicated and compassionate human.”

The search process was robust and extensive, including the input of all staff, board members and ArtLab high school interns.

“We are grateful for Kim’s leadership and all our team has done to set PlatteForum on its current trajectory,” said Keith Ambuhl, vice chair, PlatteForum board of directors. “Michael’s transition from board chair to ED is absolutely the best way to continue the legacy of what our team has worked so hard to build.”

**About PlatteForum**

PlatteForum is an award-winning and innovative arts, youth-development, and artist-in-residence program founded in Denver, Colorado in 2002. As a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization, PlatteForum teams under-resourced youth (K-12) with professional artists in intensive, structured, and long-term creative learning environments. Youth work side by side with resident artists to collaboratively plan, produce, and exhibit a body of work in an environment in which artistic excellence is highly valued. Youth in PlatteForum’s programs delve into a variety of art forms, confronting challenges and obstacles and making life-changing discoveries about who they are, what they are capable of achieving, and where they belong in the world.

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