



## **Media Alert**

### **Musicopia Announces Interim CEO**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Philadelphia, PA (April 29, 2026) — Musicopia today announced that Catherine M. Charlton, CFRE, will conclude her service as President and CEO effective April 30, 2026. Kate Lombardi, Musicopia’s Chief Operating Officer, will serve as Interim President and Chief Executive Officer.

As President and CEO of Musicopia, Charlton led the organization through significant transformation including the 2026 merger with Musicopia Dance (Dancing Classrooms Philly); the establishment of the organization’s first permanent endowment to launch the Walter R. Garrison Arts Leadership Academy; established the All City Drumlines with the School District of Philadelphia; and expanded hip-hop, global dance, and community arts programs including the Philadelphia Lullaby Project. During Charlton’s executive tenure, Musicopia partnered with the City of Philadelphia on antiviolence and overdose-prevention initiatives, winning the national Adolf Busch Award for social justice through music and the GSK IMPACT award for health outcomes.

“We are deeply grateful to Catherine for her leadership and the meaningful impact she has had on Musicopia’s growth and mission” said Richard M. Gordon IV, Board Chair. “Her commitment to expanding access and opportunity for students has strengthened the organization in lasting ways, and we are proud to see her step into this next chapter of her professional journey.”

Looking ahead, Gordon expressed confidence in the organization’s interim leadership and continuity during the transition. “Kate brings a steady, thoughtful approach and a strong understanding of Musicopia’s mission and operations, ensuring continuity and stability during this transition,” he added.

Lombardi has served Musicopia and its affiliated programs since 2008 and currently leads the organization’s operations as COO. In the interim role, she will work closely with Musicopia’s Board of Directors and staff leadership team to ensure continuity across

programs and partnerships while the Board explores the organization's long-term leadership direction. A professional modern dancer, Lombardi was Musicopia Dance's Artistic and Education Director and then Managing Director and further led Musicopia/Musicopia Dance's Philanthropy and Community Department. Lombardi worked alongside Charlton and the Board of Directors through the recent merger and strategic projects and her leadership journey has positioned her well to assume this role at an important time for the organization.

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### About Musicopia

Musicopia's mission is to inspire, educate, and connect children, youth, and their extended communities through collaborative music and dance experiences. Founded in 1974, Musicopia has helped nearly half a million young people experience the benefits of first-hand exposure to the arts and is a recognized leader in rebuilding and revitalizing arts programs across Greater Philadelphia. In 2026, Musicopia merged with Musicopia Dance (formerly Dancing Classrooms Philly).

Musicopia serves over 25,000 students annually through school and community-based music and dance programs, after school string orchestra and drumlines programs, the Walter R. Garrison Arts Leadership Academy, the Musicopia Dance Academy, the Philadelphia Lullaby Project, and its Gift of Music Instrument Donation Program.

For more information, please visit [www.musicopia.net](http://www.musicopia.net).