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Musicopia and Dancing Classrooms Philly Introduce Six New Board Members Ahead of Musicopia's 50th Anniversary

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Philadelphia, PA ... Partnering arts education non-profits, Musicopia and Dancing Classrooms Philly (DCP) expanded their shared Board of Directors to include six new members. Together with the existing Board members, they will set both organizations up for continued growth and success as Musicopia approaches its 50th anniversary in 2024. With the new members' expertise spanning various fields, Musicopia and DCP will benefit from their insights into the music industry, education, the media, technology, and more.

Newly elected Board members include:

- Tammi Forbes, Magisterial District Judge, Delaware County 32nd Judicial District
- Linda E. Grobman Ed.D., Adjunct Professor, Temple University; School District of Philadelphia, Retired
- Edward Isaack, Partner, Anchondo & Associates, IT / Business Automation
- Laju Obasaju, Executive Director, Research, Comcast NBCUniversal
- John Schueler, Medical Device Executive, Retired
- Geronimo Vannicola, Owner/Executive Producer, WavLab Studios; Voting Member, The Recording Academy Philadelphia Chapter

The six new Directors are passionate about the partner organizations' missions and values and are dedicated to supporting them in that work. "I have been affiliated with Musicopia for over ten years as an educator in Pennsylvania's public schools. Having been asked to join the Board is a privilege that I will never take for granted," shared new Board member Linda Grobman. "Musicopia and DCP are committed to providing equitable access to the arts and developing each child's spark of genius by igniting a love of music and dance that promotes and supports a high-quality education." Laju Obasaju also expressed her excitement to join the Musicopia and DCP Board, saying, "I have been looking for ways to give back that would be meaningful for me and make a difference to those around me. I was privileged enough to grow up with ballet, the piano, and the viola as integral parts of my life and I know how important it is for all kids to have the same opportunities for growth and learning."

As the partner organizations begin their new fiscal year, Executive Director and Board President Catherine Charlton shares: "We are excited to welcome our new class of Board members and are proud to be led by a Board that reflects the communities we serve, including 50 percent of Board members from the education field, and 50 percent of Board members identifying as people of color. Musicopia and Dancing Classrooms Philly prioritize Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and recognize that having diverse perspectives and lived experiences within leadership is crucial for fulfilling our missions."

The new members will help Musicopia and DCP's already exceptional Board propel the organizations to new heights as they enter Musicopia's milestone 50th year and begin preparations for the next 50 years.

A full Board Member list can be found at <https://www.musicopia.net/board> or <https://dancingclassroomsphilly.org/board>.

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About Musicopia

Musicopia's mission is to provide equitable access to music education and enrichment, encouraging self-confidence, global awareness, dedication and joy in Pre-K to 12th grade students and their communities. Since its founding in 1974, Musicopia has helped more than 370,000 children experience the benefits of first-hand exposure to the arts, and is a recognized leader in rebuilding and revitalizing school music programs. Musicopia reaches thousands of children each year in the Delaware Valley/Philadelphia area

through in-school music education, an afterschool string orchestra program, an afterschool drumlines program, and its Gift of Music Instrument Donation Program.

For more information, please visit www.musicopia.net.

About Dancing Classroom Philly

Dancing Classrooms Philly's mission is to foster self-esteem, social awareness and joy in children by providing the opportunity to learn and perform social dance through school residencies, a Saturday Academy program, and our Allstars. Through our dance instruction, we help to improve the climate of school communities across the Philadelphia region by building confidence in students, breaking down social barriers, and inspiring respect for all individuals. We envision transformative arts programs in all school communities that nurture creativity, build confidence, and promote a culture of mutual respect and well-being.

For more information, please visit www.dancingclassroomspilly.org.