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**SFJAZZ Announces Appointment of Susie Medak as Interim CEO**

**San Francisco, CA – December 16, 2024** – SFJAZZ, the leading nonprofit jazz performing arts organization in the Bay Area and beyond, is pleased to announce the appointment of Susie Medak as Interim CEO. As the Managing Director of Berkeley Repertory Theatre from 1990 to 2022, Susie brings an exceptional wealth of experience in executive leadership, governance, and organizational development to her new role at SFJAZZ, as well as a profound dedication to the arts and cultural community.

Since stepping down from the Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Susie has become a highly regarded executive coach and interim leader. Most recently, she has served as an interim executive for esteemed institutions such as Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, DC, and McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton. In addition to her leadership roles, Susie works closely with boards, teams, and individual clients, specializing in organizational assessments, board retreats, and strategic partnership development.

“I am honored to step into the Interim CEO role at SFJAZZ,” said Susie Medak. “SFJAZZ is a vital and dynamic institution, and I look forward to collaborating with the Executive Artistic Director, Terence Blanchard, the talented team, board, and community to ensure a seamless transition as the organization continues to thrive in its mission of advancing jazz and enriching lives through this extraordinary art form.”

“We are greatly relieved and deeply grateful to have found such a positive and experienced leader to assist us through this period of transition,” said Molly Coye, Chair of the SFJAZZ Board of Trustees. “Susie’s proven expertise in team leadership, financial management, and operational oversight, combined with her local roots and understanding of the arts community, make her an ideal choice to guide SFJAZZ during this critical time.”

Susie served as Managing Director of Berkeley Repertory Theatre from 1990 to 2022. During her tenure, she led numerous transformative projects, including the construction of the Roda

Theatre, the Nevo Education Center, and the Peet's Theatre renovation. Her leadership also saw the acquisition of the Harrison Street campus and the development of the Medak Center, a 45-unit artist housing building named in her honor. Beyond Berkeley Rep, Susie has held national leadership roles as president of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT) and treasurer of Theatre Communications Group (TCG).

Susie's commitment to the arts extends to her involvement in numerous boards and panels, including the Massachusetts Arts Council, Arts Midwest, The Joyce Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Locally, she has championed the arts as founding chair of the Berkeley Arts in Education Steering Committee and the Berkeley Cultural Trust. Her contributions have been widely recognized, earning her prestigious accolades such as the 2012 Benjamin Ide Wheeler Medal and the 2017 Visionary Leadership Award from TCG.

In addition to her leadership work, Susie has served as faculty at the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale University and is currently a lecturer at the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley and is a member of the International Women's Forum. She resides in Berkeley, CA, and continues to be deeply involved in advancing the cultural landscape of her community and beyond.

The board and staff of SFJAZZ are thrilled to welcome Susie Medak to lead the organization during this transitional period. Her experience and dedication to artistic excellence and community engagement will undoubtedly guide SFJAZZ forward as it continues to celebrate and promote the transformative power of jazz.

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### **About SFJAZZ**

SFJAZZ is a nonprofit organization that presents the finest jazz artists from around the world through concerts, educational programs, and community outreach. Its mission is to promote jazz as a living art form and to inspire and engage audiences through dynamic programming and performances. For more information, visit [www.sfjazz.org](http://www.sfjazz.org).

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