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ARTS MIDWEST NAMES TORRIE ALLEN PRESIDENT AND CEO
TORRIE ALLEN, FORMER CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER AT OREGON SHAKESPEARE
FESTIVAL, TO OVERSEE ARTS MIDWEST BEGINNING IN AUGUST 2019

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota—Arts Midwest Board Chair Peter Capell today announced the appointment of Torrie Allen as Arts Midwest President & CEO. He succeeds long-time President & CEO David Fraher, who will step down in September 2019.

Arts Midwest Board Chair Peter Capell said, "Torrie's skills, experience and leadership will propel Arts Midwest and our member states to further success and build upon the strong foundation created by David Fraher over 35+ years. He embodies our core values of creativity and cultural leadership. We welcome Torrie to the Arts Midwest team."

Allen joins Arts Midwest with more than 30 years experience in the performing arts, broadcast media, and arts administration. He brings extensive development, marketing, and leadership experience to this U.S. Regional Arts Organization and a commitment to using creativity and imagination in arts administration.

Arts Midwest Transition Committee Chairperson Rhoda Pierce said, "We are delighted that after an intense process, that included multiple highly-qualified candidates from across the US, we are able to announce that Torrie will be joining our team at Arts Midwest. Torrie impressed the Committee with his strong leadership in the field, fresh perspective, and well thought-out ideas for realizing Arts Midwest's strategic vision over the coming years."

Over the last three years at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, one of the United States' flagship theater presenters, Allen led a development department expansion that has yielded exceptional growth in development-specific contributed income including the successful close out of a multi-million dollar capital campaign. Oregon Shakespeare Festival's development team now delivers results that stand among the best in nonprofit arts fundraising.

Arts Midwest President & CEO David Fraher remarked, "Throughout his career, Torrie has proven himself to be a remarkable leader, who consistently listens, learns, and brings out the best in his teams. He is known for having a deep sense of curiosity and a passion for creativity. I could not think of a better candidate to guide Arts Midwest into the future. I am thrilled to welcome him!"

Allen will build on the organization's long and successful track record of developing and stewarding innovative business practices in order to deliver creative and cultural experiences to communities across its nine member states (IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, ND, OH, SD, WI), in addition to a slate of national and international arts and professional development programs.

“Arts Midwest is one of the most entrepreneurial and respected arts service organizations in the United States. It will be an honor and deep privilege to be their next President & CEO. I look forward to working with the board and staff to build on their outstanding history of accomplishment and the legacy of David Fraher,” said Allen, adding, “Arts Midwest occupies an esteemed place in the nation’s arts service sector, I’m excited to be joining the board and staff in its work to continue making a profound difference in the lives of people in the Midwest, all across the nation and worldwide.”

In his new role, Allen will be overseeing flagship programs for the National Endowment for the Arts throughout the United States and its territories including Shakespeare in American Communities and the NEA Big Read, which combined reach 120 communities annually. He will lead key national professional development opportunities for arts administrators including ArtsLab, Creating Connection, and the Arts Midwest Conference, one of the premiere booking conferences in the United States. And he will engage with international partners to exchange art and culture between the Midwest and the globe through initiatives and programming including Arts Midwest World Fest, Arts Midwest Folkefest, and NEA Performing Arts Discovery.

Video of Torrie Allen at Tessitura Conference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nk7TFFF7J4Q>

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Arts Midwest promotes creativity, nurtures cultural leadership, and engages people in meaningful arts experiences, bringing vitality to Midwest communities and enriching people’s lives. Based in Minneapolis, Arts Midwest connects the arts to audiences throughout the nine-state region of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. One of six nonprofit regional arts organizations in the United States, Arts Midwest’s history spans more than 30 years. For more information, visit artsmidwest.org.

Torrie Allen has more than 30 years wide-ranging experience in the arts including executive and artistic leadership, fundraising, marketing, policy, adjudication, grantmaking and international performance. He has served as the chief director of development at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. He was chief officer of development and marketing at Alaska Public Media from 2012 to 2016 and executive and artistic director of Anchorage Opera from 2006 to 2012. Prior to joining Anchorage Opera, he was the director of the National Patrons Council at Americans for the Arts. Allen has served as a grants panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Wallace Foundation. He currently serves on the board of National Arts Strategies as well as various arts and community advisory committees in New York City and southern Oregon. Prior to his career in nonprofit leadership, Allen spent a decade traveling the world as a professional concert and opera singer.