



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 27, 2016

A new adventure for Executive Director Kurt Wehner

SAN ANTONIO - (October 27, 2016) Kurt Wehner, owner and co-founder of the Woodlawn Theatre announced his retirement as executive director today in order to pursue new opportunities abroad. He will remain at Woodlawn Theatre until the end of November to support the organization through this transition.

"The Woodlawn Theatre has been such a significant part of my life and I have loved watching it evolve and improve over the years," Wehner said. "It has been a rewarding experience to work with such a creative staff and remarkable group of volunteers, and I know that they will continue to produce excellent theatre at the Woodlawn."

Wehner started his tenure at the Woodlawn Theatre in 2009 before it was a non-profit. He then co-founded Woodlawn Theatre, Inc. in 2012 and has served as the executive director since its inception. He has also worked on the scenic design and set building for the productions at the Woodlawn, alongside Technical Director, Benjamin Grabill. Wehner leaves this art form in the capable hands of Grabill, who's talented direction and incomparable passion will continue to produce brilliant high-quality sets for the theatre.

"Our team at the Woodlawn is top notch, and I am excited to see where the new leadership takes the theatre," Wehner said.

Woodlawn Theatre's Board of Directors, under President Melissa Gonzalez, has appointed Artistic Director/Youth Program Director, Christopher Rodriguez as the new executive director.

"The Board and I will miss Kurt and all he has brought to the organization, and we wish him well in his new endeavors," Gonzalez said. "Chris possesses the leadership qualities and enormous talent to continue providing the community with high quality and affordable live entertainment."

Rodriguez will remain as the theatre's artistic director, accordingly a new youth program director is being sought. This new job opportunity has been posted on www.woodlawntheatre.org and qualified candidates are encouraged to apply.

Since taking on the role of Youth Program Director, Rodriguez has seen the growth and expansion of the kids academy. Alongside Wehner, he's brought in new teachers and staff that have played a pivotal role in the educational development of the program.

"Kurt will definitely be missed by our staff and community," Rodriguez said. "Over the past four and a half years that I have worked under his leadership, seeing his commitment and passion to this theatre has been an inspiration. I look forward to leading our staff and Woodlawn team of artists to a new level of professionalism and artistic merit in the theatre community. I will continue to oversee aspects of the youth program and teach classes to ensure program quality and a seamless transition."

-more-

Wehner will maintain co-ownership of the theatre and leaves the organization in a strong financial position with exciting programs, productions, and an effective staff in place. In this next chapter of his life, Wehner will move to Panama to pursue his love of sailing and the ocean.

"I am very thankful for the opportunity I have had at the Woodlawn Theatre, to be able to create, design and build so many different environments," Wehner said. "My next adventure is to design and build my own jungle home on a Caribbean Island in the country of Panama, where I will charter my sailboat around the archipelago of Bocas Del Toro. I will miss the Woodlawn and the theater community dearly, but I will be back with a nice tan to catch a show now and then."

About Woodlawn Theatre

The Woodlawn Theatre is San Antonio's historic theatre located at 1920 Fredericksburg Road in the heart of the Deco District. Since forming as a non-profit in 2012, Woodlawn Theatre has continued to grow and challenge itself to provide high quality local arts opportunities and affordable, excellent entertainment and education, for all ages.

#

MEDIA CONTACT: Priscilla Correa, Marketing Director | priscilla@woodlawntheatre.org