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**The Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) Announces
Lisa Richards Toney as New President and CEO**

May 22, 2020—(Washington, DC) APAP is pleased to announce Lisa Richards Toney as its next President and CEO in an executive search process guided by Arts Consulting Group (ACG). Richards Toney succeeds Mario Garcia Durham, who has served as President and CEO since October 2011 and who steps down on June 30, 2020. Richards Toney will assume the position of President and CEO on July 1, 2020.

“The APAP Board and staff are delighted to welcome Lisa Richards Toney as she takes the helm of APAP at this critical time in our organization, our field and our world. She is a strong and dynamic leader with a deep and passionate commitment to the performing arts. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated her ability to bring people together, respect different perspectives, think creatively, inclusively, and strategically, and act with great warmth and empathy,” stated Board Chair Karen A. Fischer.

“In November 2019 when we announced Mario’s departure from APAP, we envisioned new leadership that would help set the direction for APAP’s future. The COVID-19 crisis gave us an added urgency to identify leadership that can manage us through and out of crisis, as well as help guide us towards a vision for the future. Lisa’s combination of strengths, and her hands-on experience in many sides of the performing arts field, gives the board confidence that she is the right voice for APAP at this time.”

As President and CEO, Richards Toney will work with the APAP board of directors and staff to address both the strategic vision of the organization and the immediate and emerging needs of the performing arts field in response to the COVID-19 crisis. As APAP continues to work side-by-side with national field leadership to sustain the presenting, booking and touring industry, Richards Toney brings more than 20 years of experience leading a range of small and large arts and humanities organizations, managing change and building stability. Starting June 1, Richards Toney is making herself available to work closely with Garcia Durham to ensure a smooth transition in APAP’s leadership and activities.

Richards Toney, who lives in Washington, DC, served most recently as the Executive Director of the Abramson Scholarship Foundation, where she mentored scholars pursuing careers in the arts, and prior to that, as the Interim Executive Director and the Deputy Director of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, an organization she joined in 2006 as an Arts Programming Manager and where she worked tirelessly on behalf of the diverse resident artists and arts organizations of the District of

Columbia. Highlights of her career include serving as the first Executive Director of the Debbie Allen Dance Academy and as Director, Literature to Life, for The American Place Theatre where she presented performances at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and The Library of Congress.

Richards Toney's experience as an executive and as a dynamic and visionary consensus-building team leader will be a great benefit to APAP and its more than 1,700 national and international members, which include performing arts presenting organizations, booking agencies, artist managers, touring companies, producers and artists. Her core competencies of strategic planning, collaborative skills, diversity, equity, and inclusion thought-leadership, advocacy and innovation will serve the organization's vision and direction.

"I am honored to become APAP's next President and CEO during this critical period for performing arts organizations. I look forward to fulfilling APAP's mission by leading the field in its necessary, crucial and essential work," stated Richards Toney.

Among her many accomplishments and contributions to the performing arts, Richards Toney currently serves as the Strategic Planning Chair of the Mosaic Theatre Company of DC, co-chair of the Jack and Jill DC Chapter Jumoke Black History Festival, and a booking and producing consultant for cellist Okorie "OkCello" Johnson. Other highlights include consulting work for the Reel to Reel Filmmaker's Project for the Prince George's County Arts Council, and, earlier in her career, she supported Moving Forward Dance Company/Dana Tai Soon Burgess with tour management strategic planning.

Richards Toney got her start in the performing arts in dance and theater. She earned a master's in educational theater from New York University with coursework in arts administration and a bachelor's degree as a presidential scholar from Spelman College in drama and English. Richards Toney was awarded a Vilar Institute for Arts Management Fellowship with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as well as a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship to study the management structure of Black British dance companies in the United Kingdom.

APAP wishes to thank the Search Committee members for their long hours and serious commitment to finding the next President and CEO to lead APAP at this time; the Search Committee led by APAP Board Chair Karen A. Fischer, included board members Jean Cook, Kendra Whitlock Ingram, Amy Lam, Michael Reed, and Francine Sheffield, and APAP members Steve Levine and Paul King. We express our appreciation to Bruce Thibodeau and his team at Arts Consulting Group for guiding the search process, and to the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation for their important support of APAP's Leadership Transition.

About the Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP)

The Association of Performing Arts Professionals, based in Washington, D.C., is the national service, advocacy and membership organization dedicated to developing and supporting a robust performing arts presenting field and the professionals who work within it. Our more than 1,700 national and international members represent leading performing arts centers, municipal and university performance facilities, nonprofit performing arts centers, culturally specific organizations, foreign governments, as well as artist agencies, managers, touring companies, and national consulting practices that serve the

field, and a growing roster of self-presenting artists. As a leader in the field, APAP works to effect change through advocacy, professional development, resource sharing and civic engagement. APAP is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization governed by a volunteer board of directors. In addition to presenting the annual APAP|NYC conference—the world's leading forum and marketplace for the performing arts (Jan. 8-12, 2021)—APAP continues to be the industry's leading resource, knowledge and networking destination for the advancement of performing arts presenting, booking and touring.

About APAP|NYC

APAP|NYC is the world's premier gathering of more than 3,600 performing arts professionals in New York City. APAP|NYC features more than 1000 world-class artist showcases held around the city, an EXPO Hall boasting nearly 400 booths, dozens of professional development sessions, A-list keynote speakers, and pre-conference forums, many of which are free and open to the public and members. See more conference information at apapnyc.org, and APAP membership information at apap365.org.

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