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LEADERSHIP AUSTIN SELECTS ITS NEXT LEADER

Jill Goodman to Serve as CEO at the Start of 2023 to Usher in New Era for Regional Nonprofit

AUSTIN – Nov. 28, 2022 – [Leadership Austin](#), the nonprofit organization known for helping established and emerging leaders further develop leadership skills, learn about regional issues and build relationships, has selected Jill Goodman as its next CEO. Goodman will become Leadership Austin’s fifth CEO in its 44-year history when she starts in January 2023, replacing Christopher Kennedy, who is stepping down to focus on new entrepreneurial opportunities.

“I want to thank our committed board of directors, talented staff, generous sponsors, energetic partners, and dedicated selection committee for their commitment to selecting the right candidate to help us reimagine our future and level-up our strategy so we can achieve exponential progress in a post-pandemic world,” said Dr. Harold Hardaway, board chair of Leadership Austin. “We received 126 resumes from incredible local, regional and national professionals for this high-profile position, but it was ultimately Jill’s solid strategic planning skills, her focus on innovation, her knowledge of our region’s most pressing and complex issues, and her broad and deep leadership skills in areas of inclusion, partnerships, customer experience design and more, that propelled her to the top of the competitive list.”

Goodman has led strategy and innovation for Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) since 2019, where she managed a team who helped facilitate the airport’s pandemic recovery strategy and helped establish the airport’s new mission, vision, and values. Prior to her role at AUS, Goodman served as the Organizational Impact & Strategy Lead for the City of Austin Office of Performance Management where she led development of the City of Austin’s strategic direction. She was also a founder of a small business focusing on organizational assessments and business strategies for technology and media companies. Jill worked in corporate marketing communications for the City of Austin’s Public Information Office and served in the City Manager’s Office in Round Rock supporting the Mayor and City Council.

She earned a Master of Business Administration in Organizational Leadership & Management from Concordia University Texas. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in

Communications with a Journalism emphasis from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, where she also served as the Editor-in-Chief before her role as Assistant Managing Editor for a regional newspaper. She is an alumna of the 2015 Essential class of Leadership Austin and a 2012 graduate of Leadership Round Rock.

“I am thrilled to be part of an organization that has meant so much to me personally, and continues to have a lasting impact across the region,” Goodman said. “I have large shoes to fill stepping into Christopher Kennedy’s amazingly successful nine-year role, however I have met the Leadership Austin board and staff, and, together, we will continue to cultivate courageous leaders and civic impact in Greater Austin because we have the drive, shared values, and strength in our diversity. I look forward to partnering with our alumni, future alumni, community, and partners to shape this next exciting chapter of Leadership Austin.”

Christopher Kennedy has served as Leadership Austin’s CEO since 2014, where he, staff and the board continue to convene the Courageous Conversations: Beyond Diversity™ program that has now reached more than 5,000 community members. In addition, Christopher navigated all programming to a virtual format during the pandemic, doubled the size of the operational budget, and served as the national Board Chair of the Association Leadership Programs in 2021. Kennedy, who served as Leadership Austin’s board chair in 2013 and graduated from the 16th Leadership Austin class, announced in July he would depart the position, but not the organization. He will be joining Julius Capital as a consultant focused on real estate assets to support community mission needs and initiatives.

The selection committee included current and past board members involved in many facets and industries throughout our region.

[Photo of Jill Goodman](#)

About Leadership Austin: In 1979 Leadership Austin was founded—by the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce (GACC)—with the mission of providing leadership training to those with a passion for Greater Austin. In 2002, they became a stand-alone 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, while sustaining close ties to the GACC. Today they deliver eight programs to engage in collaborative, inclusive, and sustainable leadership for our region. Leadership Austin offers established and emerging business and community leaders a unique opportunity to be part of a group that has come together to: (1) Develop their personal and professional leadership skills; (2) Learn about the issues affecting Greater Austin through open and balanced civic discussion; and, (3) Build relationships with others who seek to find solutions to the issues facing our region.