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BERKELEY REP ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD LEADERSHIP TO GUIDE THEATRE**Former advertising executive Stewart Owen appointed board president for 2015-16 season**

October 7, 2015 – Today [Berkeley Repertory Theatre](#) announces its 2015-16 board of trustees, a team of exemplary leaders and arts enthusiasts from the Bay Area's leading organizations and companies who will steer the Theatre through the coming year. Stewart Owen, retired co-founder of award-winning advertising agency mcgarrybowen, was voted in as board president, and the board elected two new members at its first meeting of the season this week.

"This is an exciting season for Berkeley Rep, and we're fortunate to have assembled a board of trustees who are among the Bay Area's biggest advocates of the arts," says **Susan Medak**, managing director. "We're thrilled to have Stewart take the helm as president for the upcoming term. His expertise in communicating and supporting key institutional values, and his demonstrated commitment to the Theatre, will be of tremendous asset at this important time for Berkeley Rep. We also welcome Karen M. Galatz and Jane Marvin, two new members who embody the spirit of community service."

The new members join the board as the Theatre prepares to unveil major renovations to the interior and exterior of its beloved Thrust Stage. The renovations focus on technical upgrades while carefully retaining the hallmark intimacy for which the Thrust is celebrated. The improvements include the addition of Meyer Sound's state-of-the-art Constellation system, new energy-efficient lighting and plumbing, refurbished seats, and enhanced accessibility, including additional handrails and wheelchair seating. The renovated Thrust will re-open January 2016, closing the first phase of the Theatre's Create Campaign — a \$50 million comprehensive capital campaign that deepens Berkeley Rep's commitment to make transformative and bold theatre.

The officers of Berkeley Rep's board, elected to one-year terms, are as follows:

- **President: Stewart Owen**, retired co-founder, mcgarrybowen
- **Vice President: Roger A. Strauch**, chairman, The Roda Group
- **Vice President: Jean Z. Strunsky**, vice president of administration, Ira and Leonore Gershwin Trust
- **Secretary: Leonard X Rosenberg**, attorney/partner, Mayer Brown LLP
- **Treasurer: Emily Shanks**, small business regional executive, Bank of America
- **Chair of the Trustees Committee: Jill Fugaro**, retired founder, Murlin Apparel Group Inc.
- **Chair of the Audit Committee: Kerry L. Francis**, partner, Deloitte FAS LLP
- **President Emeritus: Thalia Dorwick**, retired editor in chief, McGraw-Hill Education

The Theatre extends a hearty welcome to two new trustees who have been elected for the upcoming season:

- **Karen M. Galatz**, writer, award-winning journalist, and human rights advocate
- **Jane Marvin**, senior vice president of people and culture, Peet's Coffee

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Those individuals are part of a team that totals 27 trustees, including the following eminent local citizens:

- **Carrie Avery**, president, Durfee Foundation
- **Edward D. Barker**, executive chairman, The Cambridge Strategy
- **Martha Ehmann Conte**, consultant
- **David Cox**, retired president and CEO, Cowles Media Company
- **Robin Edwards**, retired partner, Dentons US LLP
- **Lisa Finer**, executive vice president, Wells Fargo
- **David Fleishhacker**, president, Fleishhacker Foundation
- **Paul T. Friedman**, partner, Morrison & Foerster LLP
- **Bruce Golden**, partner Accel Partners
- **David Hoffman**, Ph.D., associate director for external collaboration, Mathematical Sciences Research Institute
- **Sandra R. McCandless**, partner, Dentons US LLP
- **Susan Medak**, managing director, Berkeley Repertory Theatre
- **Pamela Nichter**, CFO, COO, and vice president, Osterweis Capital Management
- **Richard M. Shapiro**, partner, Farella Braun + Martel LLP
- **Tony Taccone**, artistic director, Berkeley Repertory Theatre
- **Gail Wagner**, MD, the Permanente Medical Group
- **Felicia Woytak**, owner, Palisades Vineyard

Berkeley Repertory Theatre has grown from a storefront stage to an international leader in innovative theatre. Known for its core values of imagination and excellence, as well as its educated and adventurous audience, the nonprofit has provided a welcoming home for emerging and established artists since 1968. In four decades, four million people have enjoyed more than 300 shows at Berkeley Rep. These shows have gone on to win five Tony Awards, seven Obie Awards, nine Drama Desk Awards, one Grammy Award, and many other honors. **For more information**, call (510) 647-2949 or click berkeleyrep.org.

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