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HARLEM STAGE NAMES ERIC OBERSTEIN AS NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR

Oberstein assumed the senior leadership role on January 4, 2021.

Executive Director Patricia Cruz will assume the new role of Artistic Director and CEO.

www.HarlemStage.org

NEW YORK (Tuesday, January 19, 2021) - **Harlem Stage** today announced that **Eric Oberstein** has been named as the performing arts center's new **managing director**, effective January 4, 2021. In this capacity, Oberstein will have oversight of institutional operations and Harlem Stage staff. **Patricia Cruz** will assume the new role of artistic director and CEO, having led the organization as executive director for 23 years.

"I'm deeply honored to be joining Harlem Stage, a forward-thinking cultural organization I've long admired for its commitment to artists of color through transformative presenting, commissioning, producing, and educational work," said **Oberstein**. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to collaborate alongside Pat, the staff, board, and Harlem Stage's community of artists and partners, to help the organization realize its goals, continue its mission of celebrating the diverse artistic legacy of Harlem, and to nurture the leading artistic voices of our time, well into the future."

Said **Cruz**: "Harlem Stage has grown and changed dramatically throughout my tenure, from the restoration of our century-old Gatehouse to the creation of our signature Waterworks commissioning program. Harlem Stage will become a *true* home for creative artists of color, who will partner with us by shaping and curating programs and engaging with their fellow artists, scholars, historians, and activists to expand the dialogue around the significance of art, and the role it plays in our society. We will become an authentically artist-centered organization by expanding our programming reach beyond the intimate capacity of the Gatehouse; touring works both nationally and internationally; extending the reach of our collaborations with other organizations that share our values; and above all, we will become a renewed organization, ready to confront the challenges of the 21st century."

Cruz continued, "Bringing on Eric Oberstein as our new managing director allows us to restructure the organization to accommodate these changes; he not only possesses the critical leadership skills but he shares a deep belief in Harlem Stage's values to enable us to confidently look to the future."

Most recently, Oberstein served as interim director of Duke Performances, the professional performing arts presenting organization at his alma mater, Duke University, where he also served as an adjunct faculty member in Arts Management. Prior to that, Oberstein served as executive director of the Afro Latin Jazz Alliance, the New York-based non-profit dedicated to Afro Latin Jazz performance, education, and preservation. A New York-born and raised musician of Cuban American heritage, he is also a GRAMMY and Latin GRAMMY-winning producer, collaborating with artists including Dafnis Prieto and Arturo O’Farrill.

EDITOR NOTE: click [HERE](#) for the Harlem Stage logo and headshots of Eric Oberstein and Patricia Cruz.

ABOUT ERIC OBERSTEIN

Eric Oberstein is a multiple GRAMMY and Latin GRAMMY-winning producer, senior-level arts administrator, and educator. He has over a decade of executive and senior-level experience managing arts organizations in the non-profit and higher education spheres. Oberstein most recently served as interim director of Duke Performances, the professional performing arts presenting organization at his alma mater, Duke University. At Duke Performances, he worked with a team committed to presenting world-class, forward-thinking performing arts. Prior to returning to Duke, Oberstein served as executive director of the Afro Latin Jazz Alliance, the New York-based non-profit dedicated to Afro Latin Jazz performance, education, and preservation, and the home of the GRAMMY-winning Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra, directed by pianist, composer, and educator Arturo O’Farrill. A New York-born and raised saxophonist and drummer of Cuban American heritage, Oberstein is an accomplished music producer with an appetite and ear for music across genres and styles. He has won two GRAMMY Awards and two Latin GRAMMY Awards. Oberstein produced six albums with O’Farrill, ranging from solo piano to big bands. He currently collaborates with Cuban drummer, composer, educator and MacArthur Fellow, Dafnis Prieto, serving as producer on the Dafnis Prieto Big Band’s 2018 GRAMMY-winning album, *Back to the Sunset*, and the Dafnis Prieto Sextet’s 2020 album, *Transparency*. Invested in mentoring young arts administrators, Oberstein served as an adjunct faculty member in Arts Management at Duke. He has conducted research and written on the Creative Campus movement and the role of the arts in higher education, authoring a chapter that appears in the critically acclaimed anthology, *20UNDER40: Re-inventing the Arts and Arts Education for the 21st Century*. Oberstein holds master’s degrees in Arts Administration and Arts in Education from Columbia University and Harvard University, respectively. He earned his undergraduate degree with distinction from Duke University.

ABOUT HARLEM STAGE

Harlem Stage is the performing arts center that bridges Harlem’s cultural legacy to contemporary artists of color and dares to provide the artistic freedom that gives birth to new ideas. For nearly 40 years, Harlem Stage has stood at the intersection of art and social justice with a singular mission to perpetuate and celebrate the unique and diverse artistic legacy of Harlem and the indelible impression it has made on American culture. We provide opportunity, commissioning and support for artists of color, make performances easily accessible to all audiences and introduce children to the rich diversity, excitement, and inspiration of the performing arts. For more information, visit: www.harlemstage.org

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