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THE CONTEMPORARY DAYTON ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD LEADERSHIP, TRUSTEES, AND EXPANDED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

New leadership builds on organizational renewal and strengthens support for TCD's next chapter

DAYTON, OH — October 7, 2026 — The Contemporary Dayton (TCD) has announced a new Board Executive Committee, five new Trustees, and an expanded network of community leaders serving through three Strategic Working Groups—all part of a strengthened leadership model designed to support the organization's long-term sustainability and impact.

The newly elected Executive Committee is **John Fabelo, President; Ira Thomsen, Vice President; Dr. Tristyn Ball, Secretary; and Kevin McCurdy, Treasurer.** Together, the Executive Committee will work closely with staff and the full Board to provide strategic leadership, financial oversight, governance, and philanthropic support as TCD enters its next chapter.

Joining the Board of Trustees are **Gretchen Durst Jacobs, Tim Kambitsch, Jennifer McCormick, Kevin McCurdy, Edd McGatha**, and **Matt Wendel**, bringing experience across the visual arts, human resources, architecture and design, facilities and organizational management, and community leadership.

"This is an especially important moment for The Contemporary Dayton," said **John Fabelo, Board President**. "Over the past year, the Board has been deeply engaged in strengthening the organization and establishing a sustainable path forward. This new leadership structure allows us to build on that work, bringing together Trustees and community leaders who believe strongly in TCD and in the importance of contemporary art to our region."

The appointments follow a period of significant organizational renewal. **Led by outgoing Executive Director Eva Buttacavoli, working in close partnership with the Board,** TCD has substantially reduced operating expenses, restructured staffing and operations, created a two-year Strategic Action Plan, and established and received the first gift to its new Endowment Fund.

With this stronger foundation in place, the Board is supporting TCD's next phase of fundraising and community investment, including its **35th Anniversary Freedom of Expression campaign**, which supports exhibitions and artists, free admission and public programs, and the organization's future.

"Our recent progress means we can turn our attention from immediate challenges toward long-term sustainability and impact," said **Buttacavoli**. "What is particularly exciting is the way our Board and community are stepping forward—not simply to advise, but to actively participate in building TCD's future."

New Trustees

Gretchen Durst Jacobs is a visual artist whose abstract paintings and prints emerge through gesture and attentive listening to the inner landscape. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, including at the Dayton Art Institute, Manifest Gallery, Bristol Art Museum, Lambton Heritage Museum in Ontario, and the Dayton/Kyoto Print Exchange in Kyoto, Japan. She has been awarded residencies at Jentel Artist Residency and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, with additional residencies in Dresden, Germany. Her work is held in private collections and permanently installed at the Dayton Metro Library and Kettering Government Center. She lives in the McPherson Town Historic District and maintains a studio in Ontario, Canada.

Tim Kambitsch is the retired Executive Director of Dayton Metro Library, where he served for 20 years, leading a period of remarkable growth and transformation. During his tenure, he oversaw a $187 million capital improvement initiative that modernized the library system, including the construction and renovation of 14 facilities, while expanding public access to technology, education, and community resources. Recognized as Leadership Dayton's 2020 Leader of the Year, Kambitsch brings extensive experience in nonprofit leadership, strategic planning, financial stewardship, and community partnerships to The Contemporary Dayton's Board of Trustees. Tim is a Dayton native.

Jennifer McCormick is an accomplished human resources leader currently serving as HR Director, City of Centerville; and formerly in similar positions with HORAN, Learning Care Group, Lion Apparel, and Battelle & Battelle. She is certified in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace by USF Corporate Training and Professional Education. Her previous Board service has included Board Chair, The Human Race Theatre Company, Artemis Center, and The Foodbank; and Associate Board at The Dayton Art Institute. She lives in Miamisburg.

Kevin McCurdy has been highly involved with TCD over the years, including being part of the team that designed and built its current and AiA-award-winning home at the Dayton Arcade. He is current partner at LWC Architects and Indiana Market Leader, as well as a commercial interior designer. He has served in leadership positions on the Boards of CultureWorks, The Richmond Art Museum (IN), and Jameson Camp for Youth (IN). He lives in Richmond, IN. McCurdy will also serve as **Treasurer** of The Co's Board.

Edd McGatha brings more than 30 years of leadership experience from Dayton Children's Hospital, where he served as Director of Facilities**,** overseeing the complex facilities and operational needs of one of the region's major institutions. Now retired, he brings extensive experience in planning, operations, facilities management, and organizational stewardship, along with a longstanding

commitment to Dayton's cultural community. McGatha is also an accomplished photographer and previously served on the Board of the Dayton Visual Arts Center, now The Contemporary Dayton. He lives in Tipp City.

Matt Wendel brings extensive experience in construction, project leadership, and community engagement, including a long tenure with Shook Construction and his current work with Katz 1899**.** His career has centered on complex projects, collaborative leadership, and building strong relationships across the Dayton community. Wendel has also been active in civic and nonprofit leadership, bringing valuable business, development, and community perspectives to TCD's Board.

A Broader Leadership Model

The expanded Board is complemented by TCD's **Three-Pillar Sustainability Pathway**, engaging more than 30 community leaders alongside Trustees and staff through three hands-on Strategic Working Groups. Rather than traditional committees, the groups are designed to generate ideas, build relationships and partnerships, solve challenges, and help move organizational strategy into action.

The **Creative Enterprise & Earned Revenue Growth Working Group** focuses on new revenue opportunities, partnerships, and creative business models that can contribute to TCD's long-term sustainability.

The **Artist Engagement & Community Activation Working Group** brings together artists, educators, cultural leaders, and creative professionals to strengthen opportunities for artists while expanding community participation and engagement.

The **Community Investment & Philanthropic Partnerships Working Group** focuses on philanthropy, corporate and community partnerships, membership, and expanding the network of individuals and organizations invested in TCD's mission and future.

Together, the Board and Working Groups represent a broader approach to leadership—**bringing more people, expertise, relationships, and ideas directly into the work of The Contemporary Dayton at a pivotal point in its history.**

As TCD celebrates its **35th Anniversary Season**, the organization continues its mission to **provide art for the community and a community for artists**, presenting exhibitions and programs from local, regional, national, and internationally recognized artists while keeping admission free and contemporary art accessible to all.

The Contemporary Dayton is supported in part by The Charles D. Berry Foundation, Culture Works, The Dayton Foundation, The Charles F. Kettering Foundation, The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation, The Mathile Family Foundation, The Montgomery County Arts & Cultural District, The National Endowment for the Arts, The Ohio Arts Council, the PNC Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and our Members.

About The Contemporary Dayton
Advancing art for the community and a community for artists since 1991.

The Contemporary Dayton is the region's contemporary art center. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, The Contemporary Dayton produces and presents ART EXHIBITIONS, ARTIST TALKS, and PUBLIC ART by local, national, and global creatives and makers, and is ALWAYS FREE & OPEN TO ALL. As a non-collecting art center, The Contemporary Dayton is one of 45 non-collecting art centers and museums across North America that specialize in presenting modern and contemporary art. **Admission is always free.**

GALLERY & CoSHOP HOURS
Wednesday–Saturday 11 am–6 pm
Closed Sunday-Tuesday
ALWAYS FREE & OPEN TO ALL

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