

Laurent House Hires First Full-time Executive Director

New Board Officers Elected for 2016-2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 20, 2016

Rockford, IL – The Laurent House Foundation Board of Directors has named Susan Snell Barnes as executive director. She assumed her duties on Monday, May 9, 2016.

Barnes is the first full-time executive director of the Laurent House Foundation, which formed in 2011 to acquire, preserve and maintain the Kenneth and Phyllis Laurent House, a Frank Lloyd Wright design, as a public museum in Rockford, IL.

Since 2011, Barnes has served as treasurer of the ACHP Alumni Foundation, an affiliate of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), headquartered in Washington, DC. As a Presidential Appointee for both Presidents Bush and Obama, she served as ACHP's vice-chairman and expert member, as well as on numerous ACHP task forces and expert panels. ACHP reports to the President and advises Congress on all federally owned buildings, land, cultural and historic resources and all privately-owned National Register properties and historic districts.

“From acquiring and restoring the Laurent House to the exacting standards of its famous architect to opening and operating the home as a museum, much has been accomplished over the past few years,” said Jerry Heinzeroth, Laurent House Foundation board president. “Now, with Susan Barnes as our first fulltime executive director, we look forward to accelerating the accomplishment of our mission of preserving and sharing one of Frank Lloyd Wright's most significant works with the world.”

Barnes is a graduate of Purdue University, earning a BS in Housing and Environmental Design, and also earned a Master of Architecture Degree from the University of Illinois. She also has completed Certificates from the ABA Stonier Graduate School of Banking, the University of Delaware; the University of Oklahoma; and King's College, University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

Her professional career has included serving as a staff engineer and architect for Caterpillar, planning director for facilities and long-range strategic planning for Aurora University, chairman and CEO of Aurora National Bank, and president and founder of The Landmark Group of Companies, Chicago, which acquired, renovated and managed 19th and 20th Century historic real estate.

Currently, Barnes also serves as Trustee at Rush-Copley Medical Center and the Oregon, Illinois Public Library District, and as a national advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She resides in Oregon, IL.

Additionally, the Board of Directors recently elected officers for its 2016-2017 board term year. “The foundation continues to be served by highly capable and committed community leaders. We are grateful for their ongoing service and dedication,” said Heinzeroth.

- President – Jerry E. Heinzeroth, President (Retired) Creative Design Solutions, Inc.
- Vice President – Mary Beth V. Peterson, Marketing Coordinator, Larson & Darby Group
- Treasurer – David R. Schroepfer, Partner, Wipfli LLP
- Secretary – Michele Petrie, Senior Vice President, BMO Harris Bank N.A.
- Assistant Secretary – Steven Bois, CEO, Rockford Area Realtors

The following dedicated civic leaders also serve on the board:

- Marcia L. Mueller – Partner, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP
- Thomas C. Furst – Founder, FurstSearch
- Richard L. Johnson – CEO, Richard L. Johnson Associates
- Andrew Quintanilla – Zoning Officer, City of Loves Park

The Laurent House is the only building ever designed by famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright for a person with a disability. Wright considered this house one of the 38 most important works of his long and impressive career. In 2012, it was acquired by the Laurent House Foundation and added to the National Register of Historic Places.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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