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## **Atlas Performing Arts Center Announces Departure of Douglas E. Yeuell, Executive Director**

Washington, D.C. – The Atlas Performing Arts Center announces the departure of Douglas E. Yeuell, Executive Director, effective August 2024. Yeuell has been an integral part of our organization, making profound contributions to Atlas and the H Street NE community during his tenure. Yeuell is known for his accomplishments as a nonprofit executive in the performing arts industry with a successful record in innovative organizational development, strategic planning, arts program creation, fundraising and development, operations, and theatrical production expertise.

Yeuell has a long history with Atlas beginning in 2005 when his then organization Joy of Motion Dance Center (JOMDC) became one of the first tenants of the newly restored Atlas Performing Arts Center. Yeuell led JOMDC from 1989 – 2014 serving thousands of dancers, faculty, and audience members as Executive Director. During his tenure at JOMDC, the organization experienced unprecedented growth, expanding to multiple locations. It was during this time in his career that Yeuell also taught dance in DC and throughout the world. As a dancer and artist, Yeuell has performed throughout the region as a soloist and choreographer and was the director of his own jazz ensemble Jazzdanz/dc.

Yeuell assumed leadership of Atlas in 2014 and introduced new programming like the Silent Film Series, Arts for Young Audiences, City at Peace, Jazz at the Atlas, and the Atlas Arts Lab. For the past ten years, Yeuell has led the production and implementation of the Atlas's signature event its annual multi-week-long Intersections Festival showcasing thousands of artists and performing arts groups over the past ten years.

Jane Lang, Founder and Chair Emeritus writes, *"Doug's tenure as Executive Director has been transformational for the Atlas. He stabilized financial management; hired and mentored a talented, high-quality staff; enhanced our facilities and technological capabilities; developed an ever-growing base of Atlas donors, colleagues, and patrons; and enabled us to emerge from the pandemic with confidence in an exhilarating future. The Atlas owes Doug infinite gratitude for his creative, innovative, and heartfelt leadership that has earned the Atlas a preeminent role in the performing arts in our region."*

During Yeuell's time at Atlas, he led the way in furthering Atlas's mission as a catalyst for community and economic development on the H Street, NE corridor and District of Columbia at large. During Yeuell's tenure, Atlas offered free and reduced-cost programming and services to the community valued annually on average at 1.2 million dollars.

Actively engaged in the local arts community, Yeuell has served on both the Board of Directors of Culture Capital and Cultural DC and served as the Chair of the Board for Dance MetroDC and was the founder and Chair of Dance Bethesda. Yeuell was awarded the 2008 Alan M. Kriegsman Lifetime Achievement Award for his service to the dance community and in 2015 received the Pola Nirenska Award for Lifetime Achievement in Dance and in 2018 Fidelio Award for Leadership in Arts Advocacy.

Donna Rattley-Washington, Atlas Board Chair writes, *"It is with mixed emotions that we announce the departure of Douglas Yeuell, who has served as the Executive Director of the Atlas Performing Arts Center for the past ten remarkable years.*

*Throughout Doug's tenure, his steadfast leadership has been instrumental in not only stabilizing our organization financially and operationally but also in elevating the Atlas to its current status as the cultural anchor for the vibrant H Street corridor, a beacon of artistic excellence in the heart of Washington, DC, and the place where local talent is nourished and elevated.*

*The Atlas today reflects Doug's vision for the transformative power of the arts, serving as a space where excellent art can help us explore the ideas and issues of our time while inspiring us toward a more just and inclusive society."*

The Board of Directors and staff of the Atlas Performing Arts Center extend our heartfelt thanks to Yeuell for his dedication, passion, and leadership. We wish him every success in his future endeavors.

Douglas E. Yeuell writes, *"As I reflect on my time at the Atlas, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to have served such a vibrant and dynamic organization. Over the years, it has been an honor to work alongside incredibly talented individuals, dedicated supporters, and passionate artists, all united in our shared commitment to the transformative power of the arts.*

*I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished together during my tenure. From expanding programming to strengthening community partnerships, each milestone has been a testament to the collective effort and unwavering dedication of the Atlas family. Together, we have built a legacy that will continue to inspire and enrich lives for years to come.*

*As I prepare to embark on the next chapter of my journey, I am filled with optimism and excitement for what the future holds. While I will miss the daily interactions and shared moments at Atlas, I am confident that the organization is well-positioned for continued success under new leadership.*

*I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, artists, and patrons for their support and collaboration throughout the years. It has been an incredible privilege to be part of this remarkable community, and I look forward to witnessing the continued growth and impact of the Atlas Performing Arts Center."*

The search for a new Executive Director is underway, and we are committed to finding a candidate who will continue to uphold our mission to inspire a passion for the arts, essential to an innovative, diverse, inclusive, and just society.

For more information, please visit [atlasarts.org](http://atlasarts.org).

About Atlas Performing Arts Center:

The Atlas Performing Arts Center is a nonprofit performing arts venue. We're the cultural anchor of the H Street, Northeast community in Washington, DC. The Atlas fosters and presents stellar art in film, dance, music, theater, vocal and choral work, spoken word, and beyond. The Atlas has four performance spaces and we often host free events in our lobby. We produce Atlas Presents performances and rent our spaces to other artists and organizations to create their own productions. We support and partner with DC arts makers – our Resident Arts Partners – including Capital City Symphony, Mosaic Theater Company of DC, Visionaries of the Creative Arts (VOCA), Joy of Motion Dance Center, and Black Leaves Dance Company. The Atlas also leads in its arts education initiatives through our City at Peace youth development program and the creation of new

work through the Atlas Arts Lab. In the winter each year, we produce our popular INTERSECTIONS Festival which hosts close to 500 artists and performing groups who entertain and engage thousands of patrons in a multi-week-long celebration of the arts. Our mission is to provide a creative space for artists and audiences to explore the ideas and issues of our time. We nurture an equitable home for artists representing our diverse community, and we leverage partnerships and programs that reflect the best of the arts and our humanity. The Atlas inspires a passion for the arts in all to create a dynamic community energized by artistic and human diversity.

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