

To our community of artists and supporters:

We, the Board of Directors of World Arts West, are grateful for Julie's dedication, service and commitment to furthering the mission of World Arts West and supporting the artistic community that we serve. Julie has been steadfast and passionate in championing the work of the ethnic dance community during her tenure as Executive Director of World Arts West. Her artistic vision and talent for producing a phenomenal Festival for the past 17 years is quite an achievement and helped elevate the Festival to capture national recognition.

While the announcement of Julie's departure as Executive Director may come as a surprise to many of you, the Board of Directors was informed of her intention to resign in late 2018. Since her decision was accepted, we have worked with Julie to identify her replacement as well as help prepare her transition and groom her successor.

When reviewing candidates for the position, the Board determined that it was in the best interest of the organization, and the dance community we serve, to look within the organization and community. The organization's current situation and needs of our community informed our decision.

The Board received Anne Huang's recommendation from Julie. We were in the enviable position of having a qualified candidate in our midst as well as someone who understands the organization, its challenges, its current financial status, and is capable of taking it on. We concluded that Anne, previously the Development Director and currently Deputy Director, was the optimal candidate for the Executive Director position.

Based on Anne's dedication to the ethnic dance community, previous Executive Director experience, and her vision for World Arts West, the Board voted her in unanimously as the next Executive Director. We have every confidence in Anne's ability to lead World Arts West to the next level. By promoting Anne to Executive Director, we tapped the first Festival artist, person of color, and immigrant artist to lead the organization.

As we begin the next chapter in our organization by welcoming Anne as the new Executive Director, we extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Julie for her 17 years of leadership and wish her much success in her future endeavors.

Chandre Sarkar-Singhal, Board Chair
On Behalf of the Board of Directors of World Arts West