

## Great Lakes Center for the Arts appoints new executive director



Marie Klopff

By Staff Writer June 4, 2022

164

PETOSKEY – The Great Lakes Center for the Arts’s board of directors has selected Marie Klopff to serve as its next Executive Director.

Klopff comes to the Center after a decade as President and CEO of the Ann Arbor Art Center, where she recently completed a successful capital campaign and a significant space expansion. Before becoming an arts administrator, she founded iSupplyCon, where she provided strategic advisory and business development services to a variety of businesses throughout Michigan. She has a Masters in Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Engineering.

Upon assuming the role on July 9, Klopff will manage the day-to-day operations of the Center as it celebrates its [fifth anniversary season](#) of performing arts programming. She will also play a significant role in the stewardship of the Center’s donors and provide strategic direction to staff in programming, fundraising, marketing, and community engagement.

Klopff succeeds Jill O’Neill, who retired in May after leading the organization since its founding in 2014 and grand opening in 2018. In collaboration with an active board of directors, she has built an engaged staff, completed the initial capital campaign for the Center’s construction, cultivated a loyal family of supporters, and overseen five seasons of performing arts programming.

*“I’m honored to join the talented team at the GLCFA and look forward to its impressive season of performance,” says Klopff. “My husband John and I are enthusiastic about making Northern Michigan our home.”*

Klopff’s appointment as Executive Director is the culmination of a six-month national search led by Kathy Oswald, the chair of the Center’s board of directors and a veteran human resources executive.



*“We are proud to have received the input of several stakeholders during the search process,” Oswald says. “Many members of the Great Lakes Center for the Arts community have given input to this process. Following a comprehensive evaluation, our search committee unanimously and enthusiastically recommended Marie.”*

The process was co-led by the DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the University of Maryland, which identified and evaluated an initial selection of suitable candidates. Finalists were recently invited to Northern Michigan to meet with staff, board, and other major stakeholders.

*“I was proud to be a part of the search committee where we began with more than 80 applicants from around the country,” remarked David Johnson, Founding Chairman of the Great Lakes Center for the Arts. “Her strong business background and passion for mission-driven leadership will greatly benefit the Center. We’re thrilled to welcome her to Bay Harbor.”*

Michael M Kaiser, Chairman of the DeVos Institute, will continue to serve as the Center’s Artistic Director. *“It will be a great pleasure to collaborate with Marie Klopff. Marie brings a great deal of experience and passion to the Great Lakes Center for the Arts and is certain to help the Center build its audience and its donor base,”* says Kaiser.

Leave a Comment