

Organization: Memphis Music Initiative
Memphis, TN, 11-5-2019
Contact: Kathy Lindenmayer
Office: (901) 410-4109
Email: kathy@memphisismusic.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Amber Hamilton Appointed Executive Director of Memphis Music Initiative. MMI Welcomes New Director of Development, Kathy Lindenmayer.

The Memphis Music Initiative (MMI), a leading music engagement and youth development organization focused on creating opportunities for black and brown youth, announces the appointment of Amber Hamilton as their new Executive Director.

Hamilton has been with the organization first as a consultant, then in the role of Chief Operating Officer since 2015. She led the organization's initial funding cohort, oversaw the transition to an independent 501c(3) organization, and managed strategy and programming.

When MMI was founded in 2014, inaugural Executive Director Darren Isom engaged a range of young people, local leaders, and community groups in Memphis with the goal of identifying youth development needs in communities of color. The initiative sought to align the city's cultural legacy (Memphis music) with its most important asset (Memphis youth). Under Isom's leadership, MMI flourished, creating a successful teaching artist program in schools, an internship and professional development program, and a grantmaking and capacity building arm.

As the organization transitions to Hamilton's leadership, they welcome a seasoned leader, coach, and trainer with extensive experience in leadership strategies and nonprofit management. Her experience includes positions with Fannie Mae in its Office of Community and Charitable Giving, and Rebuilding Together, where she served as a vice president overseeing 165 local affiliates. She also founded and led her own nonprofit consulting firm.

Hamilton has a B. A. in political science from Howard University, a master's degree in executive leadership from Georgetown University, and a certification in executive coaching from Georgetown.

Hamilton had this to share about how she plans to chart a path for MMI:

MMI has made a deep impact in schools and in out-of-school time music and arts programs across Memphis, and we will drive our reach even further in the future. Memphis has a tremendous musical legacy, and young people in Memphis deserve world class music engagement to keep that legacy alive. I'm proud to work with our amazing team at MMI, and I can't wait to share the new strategies our youth have inspired us to take on in 2020.

As Hamilton steps into her new role, MMI is also preparing to take on a new fundraising direction with the addition of Kathy Lindenmayer as Director of Development.

With a career spanning over two decades of fundraising in service of arts organizations across disciplines, Kathy Lindenmayer comes to Memphis Music Initiative from SMU DataArts, the national clearinghouse for arts and culture data collection and research. Her previous positions include Director of Development and Membership at Grantmakers in the Arts.

Deeply committed to developing equitable and sustainable arts and cultural organizations of all types and sizes, Lindenmayer is excited for the opportunity to live out these values in service of MMI's unique and high impact work.

MMI leverages targeted philanthropic investments, programmatic offerings, and strategic capacity building to strengthen youth, community arts, and music engagement activities for primarily black and Latino youth in communities across Memphis and the Mid-South. MMI invests in two ways: through direct programs that connect youth to high-quality in-school, after-school and summertime opportunities, and by providing funding and resources to advance organizations working with young people.

In addition to operating direct programs that expand access to music engagement opportunities for black and brown youth, MMI also supports the ecosystem of community organizations that work to extend music and arts engagement opportunities for black and brown youth. Their supports enhance the capability of nonprofit organizations to deliver programs and to secure funding/resources beyond those provided by MMI, so that youth always have access to high-quality music programming.

*For more information on how we are impacting youth, through transformative music engagement, visit our website at <http://memphismusicinitiative.org/> or find us Social Media: **Facebook**, **Instagram**, and **Twitter @mmusinitiative**.*

###