



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Joe Gfaller, Board President

[pres@gmcstl.org](mailto:pres@gmcstl.org), (404) 373-3968

**Julie George-Carlson Named Gateway Men's Chorus Executive Director**

*Experienced Non-Profit Leader Assumes Role November 1, 2016*

St. Louis (October 31, 2016) – St. Louis's Gateway Men's Chorus announces today that Julie George-Carlson will succeed Tori Gale as the organization's next Executive Director, effective November 1, 2016, as GMC begins its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary season. Ms. George-Carlson brings a 15-year track record of non-profit leadership to the Gateway Men's Chorus. She joins the chorus after the close of one its strongest fiscal years, which ended with the organization's first operational surplus in close to a decade and its successful appearance at the quadrennial international GALA Festival, which was held in Denver in July, 2016. Alongside Artistic Director Robert Stumpf, Ms. George-Carlson will serve as GMC's professional leadership, responsible for oversight of the organization's business operations, finances, marketing, fundraising, and development.

Prior to joining the Gateway Men's Chorus, Julie George-Carlson was the founder and executive director of Theatre 101, a St. Louis organization that worked to identify and fulfill the performance space needs of small and mid-sized theatre and dance companies. She recently returned to St. Louis after ten years in Maine, where she was the founder and artistic director of the Freeport Shakespeare Festival and the Freeport Factory Stage. She is a graduate of Webster University and brings over 15 years of experience in leadership and development for arts and cultural organizations. A long-time lover of choral singing, Julie's other interests include political advocacy and social justice issues. She and her husband Bud Carlson live in Ladue with their daughter Phoebe and their pets Gigi, Millie, and Earl.

"I am thrilled to be taking on this exciting role for the Gateway Men's Chorus," said Ms. George-Carlson. "This is a fantastic opportunity for me to help promote the chorus as a St. Louis cultural treasure. I especially look forward to getting to know the members and volunteers who make the Chorus a success."

Julie George-Carlson was selected through a national search. "We are delighted that GMC's search led us to a non-profit leader of Julie's experience, enthusiasm, and charisma," commented board president Joe Gfaller. "As GMC begins its 30<sup>th</sup> year, we are excited for Julie to help us usher the organization into our next decade – which we hope will be one of continued growth, community engagement, and artistic excellence."

Ms. George-Carlson's first major public appearance in her new role will be GMC's *Wine + Art* fundraiser, which features some of St. Louis's most exciting visual artists as part of a two-hour cocktail party on Friday, November 11 in the Rialto Ballroom at the Centene Center for the Arts in Grand Center. Then,

December 9 and 10, GMC presents *Glow: A Celebration of the Season* at Union Avenue Christian church in the Central West End. Tickets for both events are available at [www.gmcstl.org](http://www.gmcstl.org). Further opportunities to welcome Ms. George-Carlson to GMC will be hosted at the homes of GMC donors at the start of the new year.

### About the Gateway Men's Chorus

Founded in 1987, the Gateway Men's Chorus has been performing to the delight of thousands throughout the St. Louis region. In 2012, Gateway Men's Chorus won the Focus St. Louis "What's Right with the Region" award for improving racial equality and social justice. Since its inception, the Chorus has grown to approximately 100 members annually and has become one of the most successful male choral arts organizations in St. Louis, both in its varied musical repertoire and longevity.

The mission of Gateway Men's Chorus is to affirm and promote gay culture and acceptance through excellence in musical performance and education. The organization furthers this mission by producing beautiful male choral music and presenting a positive image of gay men. The Gateway Men's Chorus annually produces a three-concert season, highlighting a diverse blend of musical styles and entertaining performances. The organization also participates in a wide range of special events and community outreach activities throughout the year. The group is open to singers of all backgrounds who sing within male vocal registers.

GMC is a legal 501(c) (3) non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors. Recognizing the impact the Chorus has on the local arts community, the Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis accepted the group as a member in 1994. Over its history, the Chorus has benefited financially from the Missouri Arts Council, the Regional Arts Commission, the William A. Kerr Foundation, the Gateway Foundation, Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation, and the Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis. Corporate funders have included American Airlines, Anheuser-Busch, AT&T Foundation, Boeing Company, the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation, G. Ink. Incorporated, General American Insurance, Hartford Coffee, IBM Corporation, MetLife, Monsanto Foundation, Tripp Co Creative, The Vital Voice, USA Mortgage, and Wells Fargo Advisors.