

Lincoln Center

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts Appoints Dr. Mariko Silver as President and CEO

New York, NY (August 7, 2024) – Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts has appointed **Dr. Mariko Silver—a leader in the fields of philanthropy, education, government, and the arts—as its next President and Chief Executive Officer**, Board Chair Steven R. Swartz announced today. Silver will join Lincoln Center on September 23, 2024.

The twelfth President and CEO of Lincoln Center, Silver will build upon a number of bold initiatives in recent years that invest in the vibrancy of New York City through the arts—from the reimagining of the Amsterdam Avenue side of Lincoln Center’s campus to the annual *Summer for the City* festival, which welcomes hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers and visitors from around the world to free and Choose-What-You-Pay events across campus.

Silver’s innovative leadership will deepen Lincoln Center’s commitment to advance the arts for all, bringing world-class performers and creative visionaries to New York City and the world. An expert in institutional transformation, organizational change, and intercultural program development, Silver comes to Lincoln Center from her role as **President and CEO of the Henry Luce Foundation**. The Henry Luce Foundation is a private, independent philanthropy that works to deepen knowledge and understanding in pursuit of a more democratic and just world by nurturing knowledge communities and institutions, fostering dialogue across divides, enriching public discourse, amplifying diverse voices, and investing in leadership development.

At the Luce Foundation, Silver oversaw the creation of new initiatives supporting Democracy, Ethics, and Public Trust and Asian American Voices, prioritized funding exhibitions of and by American artists of color in art museums across the country, and more than doubled the foundation’s funding commitment to Indigenous communities. Silver is also **Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA)** and serves on the boards of the Council on Foreign Relations and Philanthropy New York.

She brings extensive experience managing large complex organizations with multiple stakeholders. As **President of Bennington College**, the first liberal arts institution in the United States to advance the arts as a co-equal educational endeavor, Silver secured the largest endowment gift in its history, welcomed its biggest and most diverse classes, and forged lasting partnerships with some of the world’s premier arts and cultural institutions. Additionally, she worked closely with local community members and elected officials on the successful effort to redevelop the town of Bennington’s major commercial crossroads.

“Mariko is an innovative and proven leader with deep experience at complex organizations,” said **Steven R. Swartz, Chair of the Board of Directors of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts**. “Her successful tenures as CEO of a prominent college and foundation, paired with her leadership and love of the arts, position Lincoln Center to thrive with her at the helm as we continue a number of important initiatives to strengthen our service to New York City and beyond.”

“Throughout my career, I have relished opportunities to unleash creativity, bridge cultures, and support communities and individuals to imagine their own best futures. Lincoln Center does all those things at the highest level of excellence and ambition. It is an honor to join Lincoln Center at this moment,” said **Silver, incoming President and CEO of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts**. “I was born and raised in the glow of Lincoln Center and was fortunate to experience early in life the transformative impact of artistic greatness. Lincoln Center is a creative force, giving artists expansive reach and an extraordinary platform to bring forth their very best work. As we embark on this next chapter together, it is my privilege to build upon all that has come before and continue to advance the arts for all.”

“From her tenure as President of Bennington College to her most recent role as President and CEO of the Henry Luce Foundation, Mariko has demonstrated excellence in leadership time and time again,” said **Darren Walker, President of the Ford Foundation and Member of the Board of Directors of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts**. “With experience across a variety of sectors—including philanthropy, education and the arts—Mariko will expand Lincoln Center’s impact in New York, across the nation, and around the world as an international hub for arts and culture.”

“Mariko Silver is both a dynamic leader and a gifted collaborator—a rare combination that is a must for the President of Lincoln Center,” said **Deborah Borda, the New York Philharmonic’s former President and Executive Advisor**. “She brings her experience as President of Bennington College, a virtual ‘hotbed’ of the arts that is phenomenally stronger for her vision and the strategic plan she devised and lead. Mariko is uniquely capable of forging a strong, unified and vibrant future for Lincoln Center and more broadly for the arts in general.”

During the Obama administration, Silver served as Acting Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Policy for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Before that, she was Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano’s Policy Advisor for Economic Development, Innovation, and Higher Education. Prior to her government service, Silver was instrumental in the transformation and expansion of Arizona State University.

Additionally, Silver is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, and sits on the board of the Migration Policy Institute. She holds a BA in History from Yale University, an MSc in Science and Technology Policy from the University of Sussex (U.K.), a Ph.D. in Economic

Geography from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), and an honorary Ph.D. from Hofstra University.

Imagery may be accessed [here](#).

About Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (LCPA) is a cultural and civic cornerstone of New York City. The primary advocate for the entire Lincoln Center campus, our strategic priorities include: fostering collaboration and deepening impact across the Lincoln Center resident organizations; championing inclusion and increasing the accessibility and reach of Lincoln Center's work; and nurturing innovation on stage and off to help ensure the arts are at the center of civic life for all. LCPA presents hundreds of programs each year, offered primarily for free and choose-what-you-pay, including many specially designed for young audiences, families, and those with disabilities.

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