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## **Charleston Gaillard Center Announces CEO Succession Plan**

September 29, 2020—Charleston, SC—Charles Way, Jr., Chairman of the Gaillard Management Corporation (GMC), a 501(c)3 nonprofit that manages the Charleston Gaillard Center, announced today a 9-month succession plan for the GMC’s President and CEO, Stephen Bedard, who will retire in June 2021 after providing five years of outstanding leadership. The search for Bedard’s successor will be led by GMC board member Ted Legasey.

“Steve Bedard stepped into the role as the Gaillard’s CEO early in the start-up of this organization at a time when the finances were not in good shape at all. He fixed that and put the organization on a path of steady improvement,” said Chairman Way. “Steve has done, and continues to do, a great job and has led the organization to a place where we can think and act

more strategically, and where we can provide for an orderly and celebratory transition to the next CEO,” continued Mr. Way.

“This has been a wonderful job for me—a real honor and privilege to help make the magnificent Charleston Gaillard Center become a place where lives throughout the Charleston region are being enriched through unforgettable experiences,” said Mr. Bedard. “I’m very proud of our team and the work they have done, and I look forward to continuing to work with them and our GMC board, the Gaillard Foundation, the CSO, Spoleto, and our many other partners as we bring the vision of our strategic plan to reality and transition to new leadership,” continued Bedard. Steve became President and CEO in June 2016 and will have served 5 years in this role when the transition is complete. In May 1998, he was named the City of Charleston’s first ever Chief Financial Officer and continued to serve in that position until he joined the GMC. During his tenure with the City, financial rating agencies ranked Charleston the number one city in South Carolina and recognized the City with eight bond rating increases. Joseph P. Riley, Jr., long-serving Mayor of Charleston and a current Gaillard Center board member said, "Steve Bedard has been the consummate public servant during the twenty-five years I have had the pleasure of working with him. His leadership, management, and financial skills have been truly exceptional for this entire time. The results he has achieved have been extraordinary."

Steve is a 1976 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy; holding a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Mathematics. He served 20 years in the U.S. Navy specializing in financial management. Steve is also an honors graduate with an MBA from the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia and has served as an Adjunct Professor at the College of Charleston, teaching both undergraduate and graduate classes in financial management, budgeting and strategic planning.

One of the Holy City’s most notable spaces, the Charleston Gaillard Center’s purpose is to enrich lives through unforgettable experiences. Opened in 2015, the Gaillard Center provides the Lowcountry with the world-class Martha and John M. Rivers Performance Hall; 15,000 square feet of elegant venue space; and vibrant educational opportunities inspiring our community’s children through the power of the performing arts. Since opening, the Gaillard Center has hosted more than 90,000 students, with nearly 61,000 of them attending completely free of charge, including the cost of bus transportation. And Gaillard Center educators, artists-in-residence, and teaching artists have taught more than 1,200 in-school workshops to students throughout the Lowcountry. As a result, students who might never have been exposed to the magic of the performing arts have explored their imagination, stretched their limits, and learned through innovative programs, school-series shows, and in-school programs designed to complement the state curriculum. And their lives have indeed been enriched by unforgettable experiences.

Questions regarding the transition should be directed to [tlegasey@gaillardcenter.org](mailto:tlegasey@gaillardcenter.org).

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## TICKETS

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and two hours prior  
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