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PRESS RELEASE

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TOWN HALL SEATTLE APPOINTS DAVID SONG AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Seattle, WA – **Following an extensive search, Town Hall Seattle announced today that David Song has been selected as Town Hall’s new Executive Director and will step into the role on April 24, 2023.** In his role at Town Hall, Song will lead the organization through a dynamic and changing cultural landscape and celebrate an impressive milestone for the organization in 2024: its 25th anniversary!

Song joins Town Hall with a broad set of experiences and skills including nearly 10 years in leadership with Chicago Debates, where he helped build the nation’s most impactful urban debate league in the Chicago Public Schools. In 2020, David joined Kandelia as Executive Director, navigating the early stages of the pandemic while providing critical community and education services to Seattle Public Schools immigrant and refugee students and their families. His most recent role has been as Executive Director of The Stability Network, a global mental health storytelling and workplace advocacy non-profit. “It is an honor to be Town Hall’s next leader,” said Song. “Now, more than ever, the arts and culture landscape needs places like Town Hall where we prioritize accessibility to our programming and to our stages. Town Hall is the kind of organization every city and community should have, a mission that adds so much value through the intellectual, cultural, and artistic connections that form a community. I look forward to supporting a thriving arts and cultural sector in post-pandemic Seattle, and I’m looking forward to leading the remarkable staff and board at Town Hall Seattle.”

Song was selected from a national pool by an eleven-member search committee chaired by Town Hall board members Yazmin Mehdi and Anita Mires, and composed of Town Hall Seattle board and staff, and external community members including Michael Greer (CEO, ArtsFund), Anita Shah (Managing Director, A Contemporary Theatre), and Linda Brown (longtime patron).

“As a candidate, Song stood out because of his deep excitement and appreciation for community, his strength in equity and social justice work, and his commitment to developing and implementing a vision for Town Hall that will carry us into the future: where new audiences are

reached, current audiences feel even more connected to our programs and who we are, and Seattle and the region see Town Hall as the place to find enjoyment, edification, and each other. He embodies integrity, curiosity and empathy, all of which we believe are imperative qualities for Town Hall's next leader. I so look forward to working with David," said co-chair Mehdi.

Michael Greer, President and CEO at ArtsFund, noted, "In my opinion, Song's lived experience, combined with his successful track record of managing cross-cultural teams, position both him and Town Hall Seattle for success. The Seattle arts sector is fortunate to add his leadership to an already impressive group of stewards in the community."

Song is Town Hall's third Executive Director, serving after Wier Harman's 17-year tenure, and David Brewster's seven-year tenure as founding Executive Director. Song is a lifelong learner and advocate for equity and inclusion and will lead Town Hall with inspiration in building its one-of-a-kind community around ideas, arts, and culture.

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About Town Hall Seattle:

Town Hall Seattle A vibrant gathering place in the heart of Seattle, Town Hall fosters an engaged community through civic, arts, and educational programs that reflect—and inspire—our region's best impulses: creativity, empathy, and the belief that we all deserve a voice. Founded in 1999, 110,000+ people come together at Town Hall for 425+ events spanning civics, the arts, and sciences. But we're far more than just a venue. Town Hall Seattle is a nonprofit organization that maintains a landmark historic building—as well as marketing and production infrastructure—for shared community use.