



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 5, 2024

Cheekwood Welcomes New Board Trustees

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Cheekwood Estate & Gardens welcomes eight new Board Trustees whose initial three-year term began January 1, 2024. Three standing members of the Board of Trustees have moved into roles as officers for 2024-25, including **Ronald Roberts**, Chair; **Matthew Kisber**, Vice Chair; and **Katherine Crosthwaite**, Secretary. Remaining in his position is returning officer **Josh Trusley** as Treasurer.

Officers:

Ronald Roberts, Chair, is a managing partner for Finn’s Nashville Office and leads its client retention program. He is a member of DVL Seigenthaler’s crisis communications team and is certified in crisis communications management via the Institute for Crisis Management. He also specializes in media training, message development, media relations and strategic planning and has expertise in corporate communication and conflict resolution. He has also provided counsel and direction for clients in the development and implementation of DEI and DEI-related programs. Ronald has been inducted to the Middle Tennessee State University, College of Mass Communication’s Wall of Fame, and was recognized as a 100 Black Men of Middle Tennessee Distinguished Member.

Matthew Kisber, Vice Chair, is a co-founder of Silicon Ranch and served as CEO of the company until becoming Chairman in July 2019. Matt brings a unique background to Silicon Ranch having been a business owner and having served eight years as Tennessee Commissioner of Economic Development. Matt is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and served 10 terms in the Tennessee House of Representatives. In the private sector, Matt grew up in his family’s Jackson, TN department store business. Matt has also served as Chairman of the Tennessee Business Roundtable, the Adventure Science Center’s board, the Nashville Public Library Foundation, Studio Bank and is a founding board member and former Chairman of the Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council.

Josh Trusley, Treasurer, is a partner at Ernst & Young, where he leads audit engagements for public and private companies, assists companies with capital raising activities, M&A, and leads consulting engagements related to the deployment of new technologies. Josh has served on the Cheekwood Finance Committee since 2020. He was recognized as one of Nashville Business Journal's 40 under 40 in 2018.

Katherine Crosthwaite, Secretary studied Theatre at University of Tennessee from 1978 to 1980 and then Columbia College from 1920 – 1982. Katherine worked at Continental American Insurance in Columbia, South Carolina from 1982 until 2009 as a Corporate Secretary and Event Planner. She was involved with the Junior League of Columbia and a community volunteer and Tiffany Circle donor at the American Red Cross.

New Board Trustees include:

Seth P. Bernstein, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alliance Bernstein

Stephanie Biggs, Cheekwood Board Intern, Young Leaders Council

Lucie Wallace Cammack, Retired from a career with Goodwill of Middle Tennessee

Lisa DeBartolo, Chief Executive Officer, DeBartolo Family Foundation

Larry Keele Advisory Partner at Oaktree Capital Management

Ben L. Rechter, Chairman of Rogers Group, Inc.

Bob Rolfe, Co-founder and Managing Partner, West End Holdings and Chairman, EnviroKlean, Inc.

Mimi Vaughn, President, Chief Executive Officer and Board Chair of Genesco Inc.

Sissy Wilson, Civic Volunteer and Philanthropist

"We are excited to welcome to the new trustees who bring their distinct skills and perspectives to our board, as Cheekwood continues to serve our community with a diverse array of public programs, educational classes and outreach initiatives," said Ronald Roberts, Cheekwood Board Chair.

To read more about Cheekwood's leadership and board of trustees, visit cheekwood.org/about/leadership-board-of-trustees/

About Cheekwood

With its intact and picturesque vistas, Cheekwood is distinguished as one of the leading Country Place Era estates in the nation. Formerly the family home of Mabel and Leslie Cheek, the 1930s estate, with its 30,000-square-foot Mansion and 55-acres of gardens, today serves the public as a botanical garden, arboretum, and art museum with furnished period rooms and permanent collection galleries devoted to American art from the 18th to mid-20th centuries. The property includes 13 distinct gardens including the Blevins Japanese Garden and the Bracken Foundation Children's Garden, as well as a 1.5-mile woodland trail featuring outdoor monumental sculpture. Each year, Cheekwood hosts seasonal festivals including Cheekwood in Bloom, Summertime at Cheekwood, Cheekwood Harvest and Holiday LIGHTS. Cheekwood is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and nationally as a Level II Arboretum. It is a three-time voted USA Today Top 10 Botanical Garden and in 2021 was recognized by Fodors as one of the 12 Most Beautiful Gardens in the American South. Cheekwood is located eight miles southwest of downtown Nashville at 1200 Forrest Park Drive. It is open Tuesday through Sunday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., with extended days and hours of operation depending on the season. Visit cheekwood.org for current hours and to purchase advance tickets required for admission.

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