



News Release
For Immediate Release

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Colorado Chautauqua Association Announces New Executive Director *Shelly Benford takes the CCA helm*

BOULDER, Colo. (November 17, 2017) – The Colorado Chautauqua Association (CCA) Board of Directors, stewards of the Colorado Chautauqua National Historic Landmark, is pleased to announce the appointment of Shelly Benford as executive director, effective immediately.

Benford has served as interim executive director since February 2017. “Shelly has worked tirelessly and with great competence on behalf of Chautauqua for the past eight months as interim executive director. Her devotion to Chautauqua, past CCA Board experience, and wide variety of skills and experiences lend themselves wonderfully to ensuring future success in this challenging leadership role,” said Cindy Schmidt, president of the CCA Board of Directors.

As a CCA Board member and past president, Benford was instrumental in formulating CCA’s strategic and long term financial plan. She brings a variety of important skills to CCA, as well as a broad-based experience in operations, strategic planning, finance, business development and talent management.

Benford is a member of the Board of Education of the Boulder Valley School District, and has served on many other advisory and community boards.

“I am extremely grateful to the CCA Board for this opportunity. Ensuring a vibrant future for the Colorado Chautauqua is important work and I am honored to join the ranks of the many people who have been stewards of this amazing place over the past 120 years,” Benford noted upon her selection.

Benford’s appointment as CCA’s executive director concluded an extensive five-month search process by the CCA Board of Directors, which included input from a wide variety of stakeholders.

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The Colorado Chautauqua Association is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization that preserves, perpetuates and improves the site and spirit of the historic Chautauqua, enhancing its community and values through cultural, educational, social and recreational experiences. The chautauqua experience is based on lifelong learning, love of nature, voluntary simplicity, and music, oration and the arts. Historic significance, traditions, cultural relevance, respite and enrichment are among the community benefits provided by the Colorado Chautauqua. CCA serves as the steward of historic Chautauqua. It leases from the City of Boulder and has full responsibility for preservation and use of 26 acres of Chautauqua Park, home to many public buildings, gardens and 99 cottages, 58 of which are available

for rental through the Association. The Colorado Chautauqua was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2006. The Colorado Chautauqua Association is a Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) Tier II organization. For more information about the Colorado Chautauqua and the CCA visit www.chautauqua.com or www.facebook.com/coloradochautauqua.

For access to historic or event photos, or to arrange interviews with Executive Director, Shelly Benford, please contact Shannon Bock at shannon.bock@chautauqua.com or 303.952.1638.