

PRINCE

CHARITABLE TRUSTS

For Immediate Release: January 1, 2026

The Trustees of the Prince Charitable Trusts are pleased to announce that Carolynn Brunette has been appointed Executive Director, succeeding Co-Executive Director Charles Twichell, who retired in December 2025.

Carolynn's work with the Trusts began a decade ago, when she took on the role of Managing Director for the Washington, DC and Newport, RI programs. Over time, she played a pivotal role in shaping a \$6.5 million annual grantmaking portfolio and in nurturing partnerships across the Trusts' priority geographies. When she stepped into the Co-Executive Director role in 2023, she and Charles worked side by side to strengthen internal operations and cultivate a culture grounded in Trust-Based Philanthropy, equity, and deep respect for community wisdom.

Carolynn's commitment to social change stretches back more than 30 years. In Washington, DC, she has long been a trusted colleague in the philanthropic and nonprofit community—first as a Program Officer at the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, and later as Vice President of the Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers, where she helped convene and align leaders around complex social issues facing the region. Her understanding of community empowerment was sharpened by her mid-career experience working in southern Africa as a Peace Corps Volunteer and consultant, experiences that continue to inform her approach today. Carolynn's volunteer leadership has included roles with the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network, Friends of Anacostia Park, and the 11th Street Bridge Park's "Kitchen Cabinet."

A graduate of the University of Maryland with a master's degree in music, Carolynn began her career in the arts before moving into philanthropy—an unexpected path that allowed her wide-ranging interests in public health, the environment, and community capacity building to converge.

Statement from the Trustees:

"The Trustees are delighted to appoint Carolynn Brunette as Executive Director. Her steady leadership, deep commitment to community partners, and long record of advancing equity make her exceptionally well suited to guide the Trusts into the future. We could not be more pleased to have her at the helm."



Statement from Carolynn Brunette:

“I am so grateful for the Trustees’ confidence in me and humbled by the opportunity to continue serving our partners and the broader communities we care about so deeply.”

About Prince Charitable Trusts

Prince Charitable Trusts supports people and organizations working to enrich and strengthen the quality of life in communities through grantmaking that is collaborative, equitable, and deeply rooted in place. More information about Prince Charitable Trusts can be found at www.princetrusts.org.

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