



**PRESS RELEASE  
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**Leslie A. Gardner named WaterFire Providence Board Chair**

Effective April 1, 2015, Leslie A. Gardner was elected chair of the WaterFire Providence board of directors.

Ms. Gardner has been active in the Rhode Island community for over forty years, most recently having chaired the Capital Center Commission. She is currently a Director of the Providence Mutual Fire Insurance Co. and member of the Miriam Hospital Board of Governors. Ms Gardner was previously Commissioner of the Providence Redevelopment Agency, Past President of the Providence Preservation Society, and Vice Chair of Butler Hospital. Ms. Gardner was a Senior Vice President and Fiduciary Manager with Bank of America and their legacy Rhode Island banks for 25 years.

"It is a very important moment in WaterFire's history, with the development of the WaterFire Arts Center on Valley Street. I am sincerely honored to be Chair and look forward to working with the Board and community to make sure WaterFire continues to be a significant cultural contributor and economic driver for Providence and the State of Rhode Island."

Additionally, the following officers and directors were elected:

- Vice Chair: Gayle Gifford, co-founder/principal, Cause & Effect, nonprofit consultants
- Secretary: Roger Bergenheim, publisher, Providence Business News
- Treasurer: James Prescott, CPA, Partner, Marcom LLP
- Chair Emeritus: Elizabeth Myers, partner, Verrill Dana, LLP

- Directors:
  - Sean Holley, VP, Sponsorships & Business Development, Providence Sky Chiefs
  - John Kent, retired, Verizon
  - William Murphy, attorney and former Rhode Island Speaker of the House
  - John Schenck, publisher, Edible Rhody
  - Martha Sheridan, president/CEO, Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau
  - Fletcher Thompson, Assistant General Counsel, Litigation, Textron Inc.

WaterFire Providence is an independent, non-profit arts organization whose mission is to inspire Providence and its visitors by revitalizing the urban experience, fostering community engagement and creatively transforming the city by presenting WaterFire for all to enjoy.

For more information or to donate, visit: [www.waterfire.org](http://www.waterfire.org)

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