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## Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Chief Diversity Officer Tammy Belton-Davis receives inaugural Governor's Tourism Award for Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion

Milwaukee, Wis – May 10, 2021 – Milwaukee Rep's new ED&I strategic plan **REP Forward** and **Chief Diversity Officer Tammy Belton-Davis** received the inaugural Governor's Tourism Award for Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion (DEAI). The award recognizes demonstrated leadership in raising awareness, or facilitating change, to build a more inclusive and welcoming environment for visitors to Wisconsin. The award was presented on May 6 during the virtual 2021 Wisconsin Governor's Conference on Tourism (WIGCOT).

Chief Diversity Officer Tammy Belton-Davis joined Milwaukee Rep's leadership team as one of the first DEAI executive leaders at a cultural organization in the country. Belton-Davis created a plan and systems to ensure that as one of the state's leading performing arts organizations Milwaukee Rep is welcoming and inspirational to all, thereby attracting diverse talent and audiences to Wisconsin. To achieve these goals, the theater launched REP Forward, an extensive internal and external strategic action plan for equity, diversity, access and inclusion.

"It is an honor to be recognized by Governor Evers," said Tammy Belton-Davis. "Before being named chief diversity officer there was a strong commitment from the board, leadership and staff to become a more diverse, equitable and inclusive organization. That commitment has allowed us to create and implement REP Forward, already seeing success in our theater's ED&I journey. I look forward to continuing this important work to make our theater representative of the community we serve for our staff, patrons and the greater community."

As part of Milwaukee Rep's commitment to lifting up marginalized communities, for Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month the theater is hosting **Making the Invisible Visible: A Celebration of AAPI Culture, Art & Activism**. The series features several virtual opportunities to hear from AAPI artists and leaders including a welcome video from stage and screen actor Paolo Montalban; a virtual panel with Milwaukee Rep AAPI artists on May 11 at 7pm CT via Facebook and YouTube Live; and a panel discussion with Milwaukee area AAPI leaders later in the month.

For the first time in over 13 months, Milwaukee Rep returned to live in-person performances with the concert event **First Lady of Song: Alexis J Roston Sings Ella Fitzgerald** now through May 23, presented by Artists Lounge Live. Award-winner Roston offers approximately 85 minutes of stories and songs celebrating the sultry swing and playful joy that made Ella an American treasure. Tickets are available now at [www.MilwaukeeRep.com](http://www.MilwaukeeRep.com) or by calling the Ticket Office at 414-224-9490.

Milwaukee Rep recently released "[REPresentation Matters](#)" a short video featuring Belton-Davis sharing the theater's ED&I vision, REP Forward.

For more information on the 2021 Governor's Tourism Awards [click here.](#)

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### **About Milwaukee Repertory Theater**

Milwaukee Rep is the largest performing arts organization in Wisconsin with three unique performance venues in the Patty & Jay Baker Theater Complex— the Quadracci Powerhouse, Stiemke Studio and Stackner Cabaret. For over six decades, Milwaukee Rep has been a centerpiece of Milwaukee's vibrant arts and cultural scene with productions ranging from Broadway musicals to Shakespeare to American Classics and New Works that are entertaining, inclusive and impactful. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Mark Clements and Executive Director Chad Bauman, Milwaukee Repertory Theater ignites positive change in the cultural, social, and economic vitality of its community by creating world-class theater experiences that entertain, provoke, and inspire meaningful dialogue among an audience representative of Milwaukee's rich diversity.