

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Children's Theatre Company Welcomes New Board Leadership and Members**

**Minneapolis, Minn.**— Children's Theatre Company (CTC) is pleased to announce that Mary Loeffelholz has been elected by the Board of Directors to serve as the theatre's Chair of the Board of Directors. Professionally, Loeffelholz currently serves as Co-proprietor, with her husband, of the Dampfwerk Distillery located in St. Louis Park.

"CTC is at a pivotal moment in our journey to achieve our vision of unleashing the power of curiosity, empathy, and imagination," said Mary Loeffelholz, incoming Chair of the Board of Directors. "I couldn't be more honored to be a part of this journey with the new leadership, outstanding staff and talented board of directors as we build on the strong foundations of the past to achieve our vision."

Also elected was Steven J. Thompson as Co-Vice Chair (Community Leader, NorthStar Healthcare Advisors), John W. Geelan as Co-Vice Chair (General Counsel & Secretary, Piper Sandler Companies), Adebisi A. Wilson as Secretary (Partner, Ward & Wilson, P.C.), and Kashi Yoshikawa as Treasurer (Senior Regional Investment Manager, Wells Fargo Private Bank).

Additionally, CTC has announced thirteen accomplished leaders as new board members, including Gulzar Babaeva (APi Group, Vice President, Deputy General Counsel), Ellen Bendel-Stenzel, M.D. (Mayo Clinic | Children's Center Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine Neonatologist), Morgan Burns (Faegre Drinker, Partner), Corey Day (LS2group, Vice President | Blue Ox Strategies, Principal), Amol Dixit (Solhem Companies | Hot Indian Foods, Vice President, New Ventures and Business, Development | Founder and CEO), The Honorable Judge Andrew Gordon (Ramsey County, Second District Judicial, Officer), Katherine Johnson (Storj, Chief People, Legal, & Compliance Officer), Melissa Leick (Cargill, Vice President Human Resources), Anne M. Lockner (Robins Kaplan LLP, Partner), Kunal Mehta (Winnebago, Vice President of Strategy, Business Development, and Marketing), Fatima Moore (Firefly Advocacy, Principal), Harry Overly (Flagstone Foods, President and CEO), and Kara Feemster Smith (Fuel Cycle, Enterprise Sales Director).

"CTC's new board members are talented, diverse and bring a shared passion for a vibrant community and world class multi-generational theater," said Kate Kelly, Chair of the Governance Committee. "They will join an already outstanding board of directors and leaders."

**2024–2025 Children's Theatre Company's Board of Directors**

**Officers**

**Mary Loeffelholz, Chair** | Co-proprietor, Dampfwerk Distillery

**Steven J. Thompson, Vice Chair** | Community Leader, NorthStar Healthcare Advisors

**John W. Geelan, Vice Chair** | General Counsel & Secretary, Piper Sandler Companies

**Adebisi A. Wilson, Secretary** | Partner, Ward & Wilson, P.C.

**Kashi Yoshikawa, Treasurer** | Senior Regional Investment Manager, Wells Fargo Private Bank

## **Members**

**Stef Adams**, Vice Chair | Principal, Director of Client Service and Marketing, Peregrine

**Gulzar Babaeva** | APi Group, Vice President Deputy General Counsel

**Tomme Beevas** | Founder and Chief Strategic Officer, Pimento Jamaican Kitchen

**Ellen Bendel-Stenzel** | Mayo Clinic, Neonatal M.D.

**Michael J. Blum** | VP and General Counsel, Securitas Technology North America

**Kwadwo Boadi-Aboagye** | Director, Eleven Eleven Development

**Morgan Burns** | Partner, Faegre Drinker LLP

**Joe Carroll** | Senior Vice President, Enterprise Process Solutions and Technology & Operations Services Strategy, U.S. Bank

**Scott Cummings** | Market Development Director, Accenture Corey Day | Principal, Blue Ox Strategies

**Tami R. Diehm** | President and Shareholder, Winthrop & Weinstine

**Peter Diessner** | President, Kraus-Anderson Realty & Development Companies

**Amol Dixit** | Vice President, New Ventures & Business Development, Solhem Companies, Founder, Hot Indian Foods, LLC

**Danielle Duzan** | Vice President, Human Resources, Polaris

**Ben Eklo** | Chief Financial Officer, UnitedHealthcare Medicare and Retirement

**Meredith Englund** | Founder and CEO, Camperoni

**Kara Feemster Smith** | Enterprise Sales Director, Fuel Cycle

**Jean Freeman** | Principal and CEO, Zambezi

**Betsy Frost** | CEO, Hoplark Brands

**The Honorable Judge Andrew Gordon** | Ramsey County Courthouse

**Andy Gorski** | Community Leader

**Conor Green** | Partner, TT Capital Partners

**Lili Hall** | President and CEO, KNOCK, Inc.

**Andy Ho** | Principal, Deloitte

**Hoyt Hsiao** | President and CEO, Shaw-Lundquist Assoc. Inc.

**Dominic Iannazzo** | Partner, Ernst & Young LLP

**Bill Johnson** | Community Leader

**Katherine Johnson** | Storj Labs, Chief People and Legal Officer, Head of Compliance

**Ellen Krug** | Founder and President, Human Inspiration Works, LLC

**Chad M. Larsen** | Realtor, Berg Larsen Group of Coldwell Banker Realty

**Melissa Leick** | Vice President, Human Resources, Cargill

**Anne M. Lockner** | Partner, Robins Kaplan LLP

**Trisha London** | Community Leader and Counselor, Crisis Text Line

**Wendy Mahling** | Senior Vice President, Corporate Secretary & Securities and Corporate Law, Ameriprise Financial

**Kunal Mehta** | head of Strategy, Marketing and Business Development, Winnebago

**Kelly Miller** | Executive Director, J.P. Morgan Private Bank

**Sonny Miller** | Partner, Dorsey & Whitney

**Fatima Moore** | Principal, Firefly Advocacy

**Jeb A. Myers** | Interim-President, Cristo Rey Tampa Salesian High School

**Nnamdi Njoku** | President, Sports Medicine, ZimmerBiomet

**Todd Noteboom** | Litigation Attorney & Partner, Stinson LLP

**Melissa Ostrom** | Vice President, Controller, Xcel Energy

**Harry Overly** | President and CEO, Flagstone Foods

**Angela Pennington** | Community Leader

**Silvia M. Perez**, Past Chair | President & General Manager, 3M, Commercial Solutions Division

**Josh Peterson** | Community Leader

**Donald-Stephen Porter** | Managing Director, Sector Portfolio Manager/Analyst, Winslow Capital

**Maria Wagner Reamer** | Community Leader

**Chris Schermer** | President, SCHERMER

**Hillery Shay** | Vice President Marketing & Communications, Children's Minnesota

**Anne E. Stavney** | Head of School, The Blake School

**Tanya M. Taylor** | SVP, General Counsel, Tepper Sports and Entertainment

**Hannah Yankelevich** | Partner, McKinsey & Co.

### **Lifetime Board Members**

**Mary Lou Dasburg**

### **BOARD OFFICER BIOS**

#### **Mary Loeffelholz, Chair**

Mary Loeffelholz began her career at Delta in 1996 as an environmental engineer in the Safety, Health, and Environmental Management group and subsequently moved into other positions in Airport Affairs, International Operations, and Corporate Real Estate. During her time with CRE, Loeffelholz led the Design and Construction team for the \$2 billion terminal redevelopment program at LAX airport, including Terminals 2, 3, and connection to Terminal B.

During her career, Loeffelholz has worked on several strategic projects including the restructuring of several airport business deals during bankruptcy along with leading the multi-million-dollar redevelopment of Delta terminals at New York-LaGuardia and LAX.

Additionally, Loeffelholz also is a co-owner with her husband of the Dampfwerk Distillery located in St. Louis Park. The distillery produces fruit brandies, herbal liqueurs, gins, and whiskey.

Loeffelholz holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of North Dakota and a master's degree in Hazardous Materials Management from Tufts University.

#### **Steven J. Thompson, Vice Chair**

Steven J. Thompson is an independent healthcare consultant and the former Senior Vice President and Chief Business Development Officer at Brigham Health in Boston. He is also the co-founder and CEO of Global HealthCare insights (GHCI), a magazine and advisory service connecting the U.S. healthcare industry to global needs and opportunities. He previously served as the founding CEO of Johns Hopkins Medicine International and senior vice president of Johns Hopkins Medicine. Thompson is a recognized pioneer and leader in the fields of global collaborative healthcare and international patient care, and one of the world's leading experts on developing and strengthening high-quality, better-value healthcare systems around the globe. His articles on healthcare globalization have appeared in the Harvard Business Review, Chicago Tribune, Modern Healthcare, and many other publications. His blog at Global HealthCare Insights covers developments in and perspectives on the U.S. and international healthcare fields, and especially on U.S. healthcare involvement in Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Africa. Thompson is a widely consulted authority on numerous healthcare topics, including:

- How healthcare institutions can partner internationally to improve patient-care quality and safety.
- How best practices can be adapted to local cultures
- What the U.S. can learn from other countries' healthcare systems
- Healthcare leadership challenges in the U.S. and globally
- Public-private support of large healthcare projects around the world
- Creating and upgrading specialty-care programs in different countries
- Preventive medicine's role in reducing global healthcare costs

- Overcoming the unique challenges of improving healthcare in emerging markets

### **John W. Geelan, Vice Chair**

John Geelan is general counsel and secretary of Piper Sandler Companies, a position he has held since 2013. He serves on the firm's executive leadership team and is general counsel and secretary of Piper Jaffray & Co., the firm's primary broker-dealer subsidiary. Geelan joined Piper Sandler in 2005 as assistant general counsel, responsible for managing the corporate secretary function and working with the board of directors and senior management across a number of areas, including governance, public company reporting, corporate development and treasury. Prior to joining Piper Jaffray, Geelan was in private practice at Faegre & Benson LLP, where he worked in the corporate finance group for four years. Geelan serves on the board of directors for the Children's Theater Company, The Fund for Legal Aid and is a member of the board of governors of the University of St. Thomas Law School. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics and music from the University of St. Thomas and a Juris doctorate from the University of Notre Dame Law School.

### **Adebisi A. Wilson, Secretary**

Adebisi Wilson is a partner with Ward & Wilson, a law firm that specializes in litigation, family law, and investigations. Wilson has strived in her professional endeavors to be a voice of the unheard. She began her career in HR consulting, supporting companies in their affirmative action reporting and designing and executing inclusion and diversity training. In her law practice, Wilson continued to train on inclusion and diversity, investigated complaints of harassment and discrimination, and guided her clients through complex litigation. As an executive, Wilson has helped a company more than double in size by growing locally, expanding nationally, and becoming more effective and efficient, both internally and as a service provider. Wilson is a proven strategic and visionary leader, who has a passion for education and her community.

Wilson is currently building a new law firm. Previously, she was Vice President with Innocent Technologies, LLC. A company that aims to end disparities by closing the relationship gap. She also worked as a litigator with Blackwell Burke P.A. Wilson received her undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota and law degree from New York Law School.

### **Kashi Yoshikawa, Treasurer**

"I lead a team of passionate Investment Managers who are committed to crafting and managing portfolios that put our clients' needs first. We take our fiduciary promise seriously and as a discretionary manager act on their behalf in good faith. We strive to look out for their personal financial well-being and help them feel confident about their financial future. We regularly assess risk in portfolios using our proprietary innovative approach that considers more than the usual market volatility and standard deviation risk measurements. Our proven approach includes the best thinking from the Wells Fargo Investment Institute and is rigorously applied and readjusted to meet objectives."

Yoshikawa has been Senior Vice President and Regional Investment Manager at Wells Fargo bank since 2002. He is a member of the CFA society of Minnesota and received his education at the University of Washington – Michael G. Foster School of Business.

## **NEW BOARD MEMBER BIOS**

### **Gulzar Babaeva**

Gulzar Babaeva is VP, Deputy General Counsel at APi Group (NYSE: APG) where she focuses on SEC compliance, corporate governance and M&A. Prior to APi, Babaeva spent 14 years with the Target Corporation holding various roles, including VP, Deputy General Counsel of Shipt, a Target owned technology company where she led a geographically distributed team of lawyers and legal professionals responsible for Shipt's regulatory, product, privacy, cybersecurity, intellectual property, and compliance

programs. Babaeva has also led Target's technology legal practice where she provided business oriented-leadership and strategic counsel, and negotiated high-stakes IT transactions to modernize Target's technology infrastructure. Babaeva started her career at Fredrikson & Byron, the largest law firm in the Twin Cities, where she practiced in the M&A, Corporate & Technology groups. Babaeva is multicultural, multilingual with native-level fluency in Azerbaijani, as well as fluency in Russian and Turkish. Drawing from her immigrant experience, Babaeva is a master creator of spaces for diverse voices and reconciler of different points of view. Babaeva received her BA and JD from University of Minnesota. Outside of work, Babaeva finds joy in mentoring young professionals, focusing on her meditation practice, and traveling with her family.

### **Ellen Bendel-Stenzel, M.D.**

Ellen M. Bendel-Stenzel, M.D., is a Neonatologist at Mayo Clinic and an Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the Department of Pediatrics. Her research interest is in the care of the high risk neonatal after fetal intervention and she has served as the site PI for multiple NIH funded multi- center clinical research trials. She is passionate about the local arts community and is serving her third term on the Board of Directors for the Children's Theatre Company. Dr. Bendel-Stenzel is the first second generation Board member for the CTC, following in the footsteps of her mother, Kay Bendel. Her children are vying for which one will be the first third generation BOD member, a common discussion at opening night performances.

### **Morgan Burns**

Morgan Burns is a trusted adviser to public and private companies, their boards of directors and investment banks on a wide range of strategic matters, including mergers and acquisitions, capital markets transactions, and corporate governance. Burns has deep experience across a number of industries and a variety of transaction structures, having led over 100 M&A transactions and over 100 capital markets transactions during his career. He has also advised numerous public companies on their most sensitive corporate governance and compliance matters. Burns has firsthand business experience as a corporate development executive and as co- founder of a successful software company.

#### **Capital Markets**

Within the capital markets, Burns has led public and private offerings of debt, equity, convertible and hybrid securities. He has acted as primary counsel for numerous IPO and follow-on equity offerings, as well as for high-yield and investment grade debt issuances. These transactions have involved representation of both issuers and investment banks and have been denominated in multiple currencies. Deal size has ranged from \$10 million to over \$2 billion.

#### **Mergers & Acquisitions**

In the M&A space, Burns has led deal teams for buyers and sellers in domestic transactions and cross-border transactions involving over 30 countries. These deals have involved acquisitions and sales of public companies, PE and venture-backed companies, family-owned enterprises and carveouts from large multinationals. Deal size has ranged from less than \$100 million to over \$2 billion.

#### **Public Companies**

Burns also assists public companies in their corporate governance and compliance matters. This work involves advising boards of directors on fiduciary duties and governance processes, and advising companies on their SEC and stock exchange compliance, activism defense and dealings with the public markets.

### **Corey Day**

Corey Day is a Vice President at LS2group and a principal at Blue Ox Strategies. He brings over 20 years of experience managing political, advocacy, and public affairs campaigns. Day has worked coast to coast, helping candidates, organizations, corporations, and advocacy groups at the federal, state, and local levels build affinity with consumers, voters, activists, and donors through strategic engagements.

Prior to starting Blue Ox Strategies and joining the LS2 group, Day worked on multiple presidential campaigns, including the Kerry, Clinton, and Obama campaigns, and most recently as Senior Advisor to President Biden's 2020 Minnesota Campaign. In addition, Day served as an aide to Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Executive Director for the Minnesota Democratic Farmer-Labor Party for eight years.

Day graduated from Illinois State University and lives in Minneapolis, where he manages LS2 Group's St Paul office.

### **Amol Dixit**

Amol Dixit is a real estate developer and restaurant owner. For his day job, Dixit currently works at Solhem Companies, a Minneapolis-based Real Estate Development and Management Company, as the VP of New Business Development. 'On the side', Dixit owns Hot Indian Foods, which he founded in 2013, and Bussin Birria Tacos, which has had a restaurant in the Mall of America since 2022. Both brands have a presence at Target Field. Prior to these ventures, Dixit spent 18+ years at General Mills in Marketing and Corporate Innovation.

Dixit went to Penn for undergrad and to Kellogg for his MBA. He now lives in Minneapolis with his hot Indian wife (Pallavi) his two kids (Raina and Deccan) and their dog (Tiffin). He is a die-hard fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers (he's originally from there) and 80's music.

### **The Honorable Judge Andrew Gordon**

Judge Gordon was appointed to serve the citizens of Ramsey County in 2021. Since then he has presided over a criminal caseload and currently helps coordinate the 2nd District's Equal Justice Committee. Prior to being appointed, he was the Deputy Director of Community Legal Services at the Legal Rights Center (LRC), where his responsibilities include the direct representation of indigent clients in criminal and delinquency courts, the supervision of the LRC's community centered legal work, and advocacy for the empowerment of communities of color, immigrant, and other marginalized communities. Judge Gordon has served as a mentor to newer attorneys and students in a variety of different capacities. He continues to work alongside criminal justice partners and other system stakeholders on issues of racial justice, equity, and access to justice. Born and raised in Jamaica, Judge Gordon is a former Board Member of Green Card Voices, a local non-profit dedicated to empowering and uplifting the voices of immigrants.

### **Katherine Johnson**

Katherine Johnson is Chief People & Legal Officer at Storj Labs, which is tackling data privacy and security with decentralized data storage powered by the STORJ digital token. As head of Compliance, Johnson also oversees token and corporate governance. Johnson's work in blockchain and cryptocurrency started at Coinbase during its hyper-growth period, where she led compliance management and regulation. Johnson's prior work also includes bank regulatory compliance at Ernst and Young, employment law and compliance at Credit Suisse, anti-money laundering and financial crimes compliance at BNY Mellon, and advising clients on corporate, regulatory, and litigation matters at Fried Frank and other international law firms. She previously clerked in the SDNY and served on the New York City Bar professional responsibility committee. Johnson serves on the board of the Institute for Security and Technology and chairs Storj Institute, whose aim is empowering equity in emerging technologies. Her work emphasizes entrepreneurship, governance, security, data privacy, diversity, and ethics. In addition to her legal practice, Johnson serves on the board of New City Charter School in North East Minneapolis and A Gathering of the Tribes, a NYC based non-profit supporting diverse, traditionally under-represented artists. Before law, Johnson was a poverty rights advocate, taught high school Spanish, and worked for Upward Bound. For fun, Johnson writes and is tutored in rock trivia from her 14-year old who just joined a band.

**Melissa Leick**

Melissa A. Leick has extensive work experience in human resources, specifically in leadership roles. Leick started their career at Lawson Software, where they served as a Senior HR Consultant and later as a European Marketing Program Manager. During their time at Lawson Software, they worked on strategic consulting projects and marketing initiatives.

Leick then moved on to Novartis, where they became a Global Human Resource Manager. In this role, they led HR initiatives and implemented uniform HR metrics across various regions. Leick also collaborated with executives and leadership teams to improve employee turnover and job satisfaction.

After Novartis, Leick joined United Health Group as a Senior Director of Global Human Resources. Leick oversaw HR activities in 17 countries and provided HR consulting to management at all levels. Leick also utilized workforce metrics to align business strategy with human capital management and planning.

Most recently, Leick held multiple Vice President positions at Cargill. Leick was responsible for leading HR for different business units, including Cargill Protein, Salt, Animal Nutrition, Animal Protein, and Feed and Nutrition. In these roles, they developed global HR strategies and served as a key strategic partner to the executive team.

Overall, Leick has a wealth of experience in HR leadership, strategy development, and global HR operations. Leick has a proven ability to link business strategy with human capital management and has played a crucial role in driving organizational success.

Leick has pursued Executive Education at INSEAD. Leick holds a Masters of Science degree in Strategic Human Resource Management from Nottingham Trent University. Additionally, Leick has completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from the University of Minnesota. Leick has also obtained a Certificate in Co-Active Coaching.

**Anne M. Lockner**

Anne M. Lockner is a partner in the Robins Kaplan business litigation department and a member of the firm's Executive Board. She has extensive experience in handling - and solving - a broad array of problems for her clients. She also chairs the firm's Privacy and Cybersecurity Practice Group. Originally from Owatonna, she received her bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota and her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. As a trial attorney, Lockner focuses on understanding her clients' business objectives and risk tolerance to determine what constitutes a successful outcome and then implements a strategy to achieve that result. In addition to handling complex commercial disputes and cyber-incident responses, she has also handled high-profile internal investigations. She lives in Minneapolis with her husband, Brian, and their twin daughters, Kate and Bridget.

**Kunal Mehta**

Kunal Mehta is the Vice President of Strategy and Business Development as well as the Head of Marketing of Winnebago (wholly owned subsidiary of Winnebago Industries), the iconic American RV brand defining outdoors experiences since 1958. Since joining in 2021, he has been privileged to redefine the organization and the RV industry by launching the brand's most recent "Go Where You Feel" brand campaign, anchoring the Winnebago brand to the emotional call of the great outdoors, as well as lead key go-to-market efforts of the first all-electric motorhome, the Winnebago eRV2 Prototype, a finalist of Car and Drivers's inaugural EV of the year. Most notably, Mehta is proud to have had the opportunity to be a primary influencer in setting the overall vision and strategic direction for the company, particularly focused on nurturing and strengthening a culture that cares deeply for its employees and customers.

Prior to Winnebago, Mehta spent time focused on growth through emerging technologies. Experiences included leading efforts for Tesla's expansion into South East Asia and customer experience innovation in North America, driving the adoption of 3D printing at Stratasys, and a bulk of his career at Accenture Strategy, supporting his client's growth through digital transformation across numerous industries. Mehta earned a Bachelors of Biomedical Engineering from the University of Minnesota and a Masters of Business Administration from Melbourne Business School.

While focused on science and math in his youth, Mehta had a strong passion for the arts, including show choir and theater. This is where he met his wife, Emmanuelle, 20+ years ago. Currently, they reside in Deephaven, Minnesota, with their rambunctious 5 year old son, Remi, who is also a lover of music, theater and the arts. Aside from this, Mehta spends down time enjoying all things automotive and design, while seeking out new cultures and foods through his family's extensive travels, and finally a passion for the outdoors through skiing and boating with his closest friends.

Mehta is looking forward to making an impact at Children's Theatre Company while also nurturing his personal passion for the arts and exposing Remi to the space early on!

### **Fatima Moore**

Fatima Moore is a dedicated advocate and Principal at Firefly Advocacy, a government affairs boutique based in Minnesota. With a career spanning multiple areas, Moore has become well-versed in working with all layers of government to effect positive change.

Born as a first-generation immigrant, Moore's journey has equipped her with a unique ability to navigate complex systems. Her experiences have sharpened her aptitude for bridging people, systems, and lives and instilled in her a deep commitment to social and racial justice. These core values are integral to her approach, guiding her as she navigates various systems.

Community building is at the heart of Moore's advocacy work. She understands that actual change requires collaboration, support, and empowerment and actively incorporates these principles into her advocacy efforts. Whether rallying support for policy reform or championing grassroots initiatives, Moore is driven by a passion for making justice.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Moore finds joy in her personal life. She resides on the East Side of Saint Paul with her partner, two daughters, and their beloved puppy, Teddy. In her downtime, Moore can often be found teaching fitness classes, enjoying quality time with her family, neighbors, and friends, or indulging in a captivating read.

Moore's unwavering dedication to social justice and her innate ability to foster collaboration and community make her a formidable force for positive change in Minnesota and beyond. Moore continues illuminating the path toward a more just and equitable future for all through her work at Firefly Advocacy and her commitment to advocacy.

### **Harry Overly**

Harry Overly is currently the President & CEO and member of the Board of Directors of Flagstone Foods, a portfolio company of Atlas Holdings, LLC. Flagstone is the nation's premier snack mix, mixed nuts, and dried fruit retailer-brand supplier. In addition to his responsibilities at Flagstone Foods, Overly serves as the Executive Chairman of the Board at Sun-Maid Growers of California and served as President & CEO from 2017 to September 2022, he's an Operating Partner at Atlas Holdings, LLC, and an Independent Board Director on the Board of Directors for Pairwise, a mission-driven start-up company utilizing agriculture, technology, and consumer foods to harness the transformative potential of new genomics technologies to create innovative new products.



Upon joining Sun-Maid in 2017 as President & CEO, he moved rapidly to position the company for future growth by instilling a renewed invigoration of new product innovation and customer service. He also spent considerable time collaborating, learning, and diving deep into industry- wide agricultural issues. His nearly 20-year career, with significant experience in marketing, innovation, sales, strategy, and general management have allowed him to continuously fuel his passions for product innovation and brand connections.

Prior to joining Sun-Maid, he was the CEO of North America for Deoleo, the seller of the largest olive oil brands in the world and best known in the US for Bertolli olive oil. Before leading Deoleo's business, Overly was the Chief Customer Officer of TreeHouse Foods, the largest private label-focused food manufacturer in the US with sales of approximately \$7B. Before TreeHouse, Overly held several positions within marketing, sales, and product innovation within Kraft Foods, The Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co, and BestSweet, Inc.

### **Kara Feemster Smith**

Kara Feemster Smith has a diverse work experience in sales and market research. Feemster Smith is currently working as an Enterprise Sales Director at Fuel Cycle, a market research cloud platform that provides real-time business insights. Prior to this, they served as a Director of Business Development at AYTM and ProdegeMR, where they focused on driving product innovation and marketing excellence. Feemster Smith also has experience in market research companies such as Lab42 and Alterian. Additionally, they have held roles in customer acquisition and sales at ReachMail Media Services, American InterContinental University, and Acquirent.

Feemster Smith graduated from Denison University in 2000 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication. Feemster Smith also received a certification in Professional Research from the Marketing Research Association.

**Children's Theatre Company (CTC)** is the nation's largest and most acclaimed theatre for young people and serves a multigenerational audience. It creates theatre experiences that educate, challenge, and inspire more than 200,000 people annually. CTC is the only theatre focused on young audiences to win the Special Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre and is the only theatre in Minnesota to receive three Tony nominations (for its production of *A Year With Frog and Toad*). CTC is committed to creating world-class productions at the highest level and to developing new works, more than 200 to date, dramatically changing the canon of work for young audiences.

CTC is the most significant provider of theatre education opportunities in the region. Every year, thousands of children experience theatre for the first time at CTC. Our student matinees and education programs demonstrably benefit the community, from the intergenerational conversations sparked by our world premieres, to the sequential skill-building that happens in our Theatre Arts Training, to the pre-K focus of our Early Childhood Initiative. ACT One is CTC's comprehensive platform for access, diversity, and inclusion in our audiences, programs, staff, and board that strives to ensure the theatre is a home for all people, all families, reflective of our community. [childrenstheatre.org](http://childrenstheatre.org)

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