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Wells Fargo Foundation Exec Brings Decades of Giving Back to Newest Role as Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles' Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

(LOS ANGELES) – FEB. 7, 2017 – An ardent supporter of the arts and of LGBT equal rights advocacy, esteemed longtime Wells Fargo Foundation Senior Vice President Jonathan Weedman, will lead the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles (GMCLA) to even greater heights as its new Executive Director, it has been announced.

The beloved native Angeleno and award-winning business leader and philanthropist, will bring his cherished zeal for stewarding a vast spectrum of Southern California-based community arts organizations and service engagement programs to the internationally acclaimed choral ensemble and arts organization.

Serving in his newest role as GMCLA's Executive Director, Weedman will shepherd the organization's considerable 270-plus choral membership, as well as work in unison with its extraordinary team of committed board and staff members, including its Board Chair John Duran.

"Jonathan Weedman is admired across greater Los Angeles for his LGBT and fine arts advocacy," said Duran. "He will lead GMCLA through our next chapters advancing LGBT equality, protecting our youth and teaching about our culture and history."

Founded in 1979, the chorus recently kicked off its impressive 38th season, once again continuing with its mission to change hearts and minds through musical performance. The organization has proven an inspiring track record of pioneering robust educational youth outreach programs, including with the launch of its national "It Gets Better" tour; its Alive Music Project, an anti-bullying program that has reached nearly 50,000 middle and high school students in the last 10 years; as well as through its annual Voice Awards, honoring those who speak out against bigotry, homophobia and injustice by using their powerful public platforms.

A classically trained pianist, Weedman was hand-selected by GMCLA's Board of Directors to lead the organization based upon his incomparable resume, as well as his unprecedented devotion to community and diversity outreach programs for more than two decades, including managing and directing an annual charitable contributions budget of over \$25 million as the Senior Vice President of the Wells Fargo Foundation; and prior to that, overseeing a portfolio of more than 500 local non-profit charitable institutions as a banker.

"After an incredible 27 year career at Wells Fargo, I'd like to personally thank Jonathan Weedman for his great work and endless dedication to the stagecoach family," said David DiCristofaro, Wells

Fargo's Greater Los Angeles lead region president. "Jonathan has been a strong champion for the non-profit community and has been a tireless advocate on behalf of Greater Los Angeles. We will miss him and wish him much success on his new endeavor as the Executive Director for the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles."

Says legendary actor and philanthropist William Shatner, "I have been working with Jonathan Weedman for more than fifteen years as he, through Wells Fargo, has helped the Hollywood Charity Horse Show so generously. This wonderful partnership has aided an extraordinary number of charities in the Los Angeles area. Now Jonathan has moved on to another exceptional organization. We went to see the holiday performance of the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles and it was totally entertaining. Under Jonathan's leadership, I'm sure it will grow and prosper and he will have the same impact as he had with the Hollywood Charity Horse Show."

Weedman has served as a Commissioner for the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs; Founding Chairman of the Board of LA County Grand Park Foundation; Vice Chairman of the Board of Project Angel Food; and Advisor for the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts, as well as currently serves on the Boards of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Colburn School and Inner City Youth Orchestra. This past year, he acted as Co-Chair of the Los Angeles Philharmonic 2016 Hollywood Bowl Opening to raise funds for music education, and Co-Chair of the Huntington Library 2016 "Evening Among the Roses" fundraising event.

For more information on the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles and its upcoming 2017 programming schedule, visit www.gmcla.org.

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About Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles (GMCLA)

GMCLA has garnered international acclaim for artistic excellence while remaining deeply rooted in service to the Los Angeles community and beyond by promoting civil rights, tolerance and acceptance through music. Founded in 1979 during the emergence of the gay civil rights movement, critics have proclaimed the chorus "inspired," "expressive, innovative, and utterly moving," and hailed it for presenting "meaningful entertainment."