



## **Baltimore's Promise Taps Julia Baez as New Executive Director**

*Baez to succeed Thomasina Hiers, bringing over a decade of community engagement and education experience*

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BALTIMORE (January 24, 2017) — Baltimore's Promise, a public-private collaborative working to support children's health, safety and education from cradle to career, has selected Julia Baez as its new executive director. Baez, who will step down from her role as chief strategy officer at the Family League of Baltimore, brings over a decade of community engagement and education experience. She succeeds Thomasina "Tomi" Hiers, who left Baltimore's Promise in December to serve as director of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Baltimore Civic Site.

"In our search for a new executive director, we looked for someone who could build on the great work our partners have accomplished over the past few years," said Mark Lerner, co-chair of the Baltimore's Promise Board of Directors. "We found that in Julia. I am confident her experience, creativity and longstanding commitment to Baltimore will continue moving us along a pathway to progress."

Baez has more than a decade of experience working on behalf of Baltimore's children and youth. She began her career as a middle school Spanish teacher in the Baltimore City public school system before serving as a family and community engagement specialist for turnaround schools within the district. Baez brought her passion for education with her to the Family League in 2012, where she helped the organization advance an ambitious set of collective impact strategies to ensure families smoothly transition from early childhood to college and the workforce.

"While all of us at Family League will miss Julia's talented contributions, it is gratifying to know that she is taking the helm of an organization equally committed to meeting the needs of Baltimore's children and families," said Jonathon Rondeau, president and CEO of the Family League. "Julia has a keen ability to identify and forge innovative partnerships, and I am heartened to know she will continue using these skills in her new capacity."

Baez is no stranger to Baltimore's Promise. During her tenure at Family League, she has been deeply engaged with the organization through her involvement with various workgroups and in supporting the implementation of an out-of-school time pilot for pre-kindergarten students across the city.

"I have been incredibly inspired by the diverse coalition of people and organizations, led by Baltimore's Promise, who are committed to working collaboratively to support children, families and neighborhoods throughout the city," said Baez. "My work over the past several years has given me a full picture of the challenges and opportunities in front of us, and I know that together, we can change the odds and ensure kids are born healthy with the opportunity to succeed."

Reporting to the board of directors, Baez will lead the strategic planning, partner engagement, financial management and program operations for Baltimore's Promise. She



will be responsible for aligning the work of the collaborative and advancing positive outcomes for youth and families.

"I am excited to see Julia pick up where Tomi left off," said Patrick McCarthy, who serves as board co-chair for Baltimore's Promise and is the Annie E. Casey Foundation's president and CEO. "It is an honor working alongside both of them, and I look forward to seeing what we can do together for our city in the months and years ahead."

Baltimore's Promise is a city-wide collaborative composed of public, business, higher education, nonprofit and philanthropic leaders that serves as a catalyst for organizing efforts and resources around a shared community vision that all Baltimore City youth will travel a safe, healthy and successful educational path from birth to adulthood.

Baez will assume her new role with Baltimore's Promise on February 21, 2017.

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