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The Texas Lyceum Instates First Woman of Color President Sarah Jackson and 2022 Class of Directors

AUSTIN, TEXAS – The Texas Lyceum will make history during its annual investiture ceremony on Friday, January 14. For the first time since its establishment in 1980, the organization will swear in a woman of color to lead the statewide nonprofit organization as its new president: Dallas Citizens Council’s Vice President of Strategy and Public Affairs, Sarah Jackson. This week’s annual ceremony will also welcome 16 new directors from across Texas.

Outgoing president Castlen Kennedy, Vice President of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs at Apache Corporation, will move into the role of chair of the Lyceum’s 96-member board of directors. Reda Hicks, Vice President of Business Development at Burford Capital LLC and founder of GotSpot, Inc., will serve as president-elect and lead the organization in 2023.

“I am proud to lead The Texas Lyceum in a celebration of our legacy and the state’s increasing diversity that will allow for various forums to promote discussions on the most significant issues impacting Texas and civil discourse,” said Jackson. “Together with our directors and alumni, I’m confident we will ensure our organization has the right infrastructure in place to serve today’s Texas, especially in such a transformative election year.”

Jackson’s programmatic focus for this year will be discussions on a variety of topics, including commerce and cultural richness in the El Paso border region; the state of the travel and tourism industry in Orlando, one of the nation’s top tourist destinations; the future of West Texas in Amarillo, one of The Panhandle’s most unique cities; and the future of East Texas in Longview, one of the most flourishing “Pine Curtain” cities. Read more [here](#) from Jackson about her 2022 priorities.

Public service and public affairs have always been two mainstays in Jackson’s life, and are evident in her service to the Dallas community and career. She served as a communications professional in Washington, D.C., prior to her move back to Texas in 2009. She has a Bachelor of Journalism in Broadcast News from the University of Missouri and a Master of Public Service and Administration in State and Local Government Policy Analysis from The Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University.

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The 96-member Texas Lyceum board acts as a catalyst to bring together diverse opinions and expertise to focus on national and state issues and seeks to emphasize constructive private sector, public sector and individual responses.

The Lyceum selects new directors to fill the seats of outgoing directors annually through a rigorous application process that ensures the 96 directors represent the breadth of the diversity in Texas. The selection process ensures Lyceum directors are active and involved in their communities, have demonstrated leadership abilities, and are eager to contribute their talents and time to the betterment of Texas. The Texans selected to serve as Directors in the Class of 2022 are:

AUSTIN

- **Frank P. Ward III** - Director of Media Relations, Texas Education Agency (Denison University, B.A., English Major; Johns Hopkins University, M.A., Government)
- **Corrie MacLaggan** - Statewide Managing Editor, The Texas Newsroom (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, BA with highest honors, journalism and Spanish)

BRENHAM

- **Brad S. Tegeler** - General Counsel, Tegeler Family Dealerships (University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK LL.M; South Texas College of Law, Houston, Texas J.D; Saint Edward's University, Austin, Texas B.A)

CANADIAN

- **Wendie Cook** - Executive Director, The Citadelle Art Foundation (Texas Tech University, Bachelor of Arts, Major: Interior Design, Double minor: Art and Architecture)

DALLAS

- **Matthew Garcia** - Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy, Dallas Regional Chamber (The University of Texas at Austin, Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance)

EL PASO

- **Andrea S. Tawney** - Vice President, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso (Northern Arizona University, BAS, Justice Systems, Policy and Planning; Northern Arizona University, MEd, Human relations and counseling; Texas Tech University, PhD, Higher Education)

HARLINGEN

- **Christian Corrales** - Assistant Vice President for Community Engagement, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (The University of Texas at El Paso, Doctor of Education, The University of Texas at San Antonio, Masters in Educational Leadership and Policy, The University of Texas at El Paso, Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science)

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HOUSTON

- **Michael J. Barton** - Detective, Houston Police Department (University of Houston - Downtown, Accounting, BA; Naval War College, National Security, MA)
- **Laolu Davies-Yemitan** - Principal, Five Woods Realty (University of Houston-Downtown, Undergraduate, Bachelor of Science)
- **Chris Hollins** - Founder and CEO, Stacked Pickle Texas (Morehouse College, B.A., magna cum laude)

KERRVILLE

- **Clint Morris** - Principal and Founder, Morris Strategic Communications, LLC (Southwestern University, Bachelor of Arts, Sociology / Political Science; Schreiner University, Masters of Business Administration in Ethical Leadership)

McALLEN

- **JoAnne Garcia** - Judge, Statutory Probate Court of Hidalgo County (University of Texas - Pan American; University of Texas School of Law)

SAN ANTONIO

- **Laura Cabanilla** - Director, USAA (University of Texas at San Antonio, Masters of Public Administration; St. Mary's University, Bachelor of Arts, Political Science; Washington Semester Program - Foreign Policy, American University)
- **Adriana R. Garcia** - City Councilwoman, District 4, City of San Antonio (University of the Incarnate Word, Bachelor of Arts in Communication Arts; University of the Incarnate Word, Master of Arts in Public Relations; University of Texas at Austin, Ph.D. in Advertising)
- **Lyssa N. Ochoa** - Doctor, The San Antonio Vascular and Endovascular Clinic (University of Texas Pan American, BS Chemistry; Baylor College of Medicine, MD; Baylor College of Medicine, General Surgery Residency)

VICTORIA

- **Jesus A. Garza** - City Manager, City of Victoria (St. Mary's University, BA, Political Science; St. Mary's University, MPA, Urban Management; University of Texas San Antonio, Graduate Certificate, Urban & Regional Planning)

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About The Texas Lyceum

The Texas Lyceum is the only nonprofit, nonpartisan, statewide leadership organization focused on identifying the state's next generation of leaders and providing a forum for civil discourse. The organization hosts meetings and conferences, publishes a nationally-acclaimed annual poll, and partners with higher education institutions to offer a statewide fellowship program that promotes research-driven solutions at the highest levels of state government. For more than 40 years, The Texas Lyceum has focused on bringing together diverse opinions and expertise to emphasize constructive private-sector, public-sector and individual responses to the issues facing the state and the nation.

Every year The Texas Lyceum conducts a nationally-recognized poll measuring Texans' opinions on a number of public policy issues and key political statewide races. Results for 2022 are set to be announced on Friday, April 1, 2022. The poll results announcement will be at The Texas Lyceum's 36th Public Conference - Texas in the 2020's: Prospects, Pathways, and Power - which will be held March 31-April 2, 2022 for the first time in Frisco, TX.

More information, including conference registration is available at [TexasLyceum.org](https://www.texaslyceum.org).

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