

NEWS RELEASE

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Westbeth Board of Directors Elects Four New Board Members

George Cominskie, Anisha Steephen, Judd Levy and Samantha Vincent confirmed as members of the Westbeth Board of Directors, committed to strengthening Westbeth as resilient and affordable live-work space for artists

NEW YORK – Westbeth, the Greenwich Village “home to the arts,” elected four new board members at its annual meeting on June 14. Westbeth provides artists of all disciplines affordable live and work space at its historic site on the former Bell Laboratories campus between West and Washington Streets from Bank to Bethune in the West Village. The campus contains 384 residences, as well as large and small commercial spaces ranging from small art studios to large cultural institutions, including the Martha Graham Dance Company and the School of Drama at the New School.

The following individuals are newly elected to the Board of Directors:

- **George Cominskie** is the VP of John Turner Photo, working in the photography field for the past two decades. George previously served on the Westbeth Board from 1989 to 1994 and 2002 to 2004. He was Vice-Chair of the Board from 1990 to 1994. Mr Cominskie served on the Westbeth Artists Residents Council for 21 years, 17 of them as President. He is a longtime Westbeth resident.
- **Judd Levy** is the former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the State of New York Mortgage Agency and the New York Housing Finance Agency. Prior to that position he founded the Community Development Trust, the country’s first Real Estate Investment Trust devoted solely to providing debt and equity capital for community development projects. For the past 15 years he has also served as the pro-bono advisor to Habitat for Humanity.
- **Anisha Steephen** is a Community Development Officer at Local Initiatives Support Corporation one of the nation’s largest Community Development Financial Institutions. Anisha leads originations and underwriting of economic development real estate projects driven by mission-driven organizations in New York City.
- **Samantha Vincent** is President of One Race Films, a film, television, and video game company. She also serves as Executive Producer of The Fast and the Furious franchise. Samantha grew up at Westbeth and her parents are still residents.

“We are proud to announce the election of these new board members,” said Patricia Jones, Chair and Interim Executive Director, Westbeth Board of Directors. “As we approach our 50th anniversary in 2020, Westbeth continues to be a vibrant arts community that enriches the cultural life of our city. These individuals bring a range of talents to the Board and will help us continue our mission of supporting artists with affordable housing and stable work space for decades to come.”

The full 2018/2019 Board of Directors comprises the following individuals:

- Patricia Jones, Chair
- Donald Sutton, Vice Chair

- Michael Lappin, Vice Chair
- Joe Versace, Treasurer
- Sue Binet, Secretary
- Roger Braimon
- George Cominskie
- Adam Davidson
- Glenn Erikson
- Judd Levy
- Christina Maile
- Barbara Prete
- Matthew Rutenberg
- Esther Robinson
- Anisha Steephen
- Samantha Vincent

About Westbeth

Westbeth, founded in 1968, provides affordable live-work space for artists and affordable space for nonprofit arts groups in New York City at its historic site at the former Bell Laboratories campus in the Far West Village. One of the world's first examples of large-scale adaptive re-use of an industrial building, Westbeth is one of the largest artist's housing facilities in the world. It is also the home of the Martha Graham Center of Contemporary Dance, The New School for Drama graduate program, an art gallery, and numerous large and small spaces rented to painters, sculptors, musicians and other artists.