



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday June 22, 2021

Saida Agostini-Bostic Named Next President of National Philanthropic Network Dedicated to Increasing Support for LGBTQ Communities

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NEW YORK, NY – The board of directors of Funders for LGBTQ Issues unanimously voted to appoint Saida Agostini-Bostic as the next president to lead the network of more than 85 foundations, corporations, and funding institutions working to increase the scale and impact of philanthropic resources aimed at enhancing the well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities. This announcement closely follows news of a historic \$3 million gift to the organization from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott.

“Saida’s deep commitment to advancing justice, alignment with our values, and her inspiring vision resulted in a unanimous decision from our board,” said Rickke Mananzala, Board Chair of Funders for LGBTQ Issues. “In Saida, our board and staff saw the qualities of a leader needed at this moment,” Mananzala continued.

Saida comes to Funders for LGBTQ Issues from YWCA USA, where she served as Vice President of Member Services, directing a team responsible for stewarding a national network of over two hundred local associations serving 2.3 million women and girls annually. “Saida inspired the search committee with her articulation of the deep interconnectedness of our movements and her vision of the role of philanthropy in supporting a vibrant movement ecosystem,” said Kelli King-Jackson, Vice President of Programs and Community Engagement at The Simmons Foundation and member of the board. “I am excited to see how she builds on the successes of Funders for LGBTQ Issues in the years to come.”

“I have dedicated my career to movements centering the leadership and vision of Black LGBTQ communities,” said Agostini-Bostic. “It will be an honor to lead Funders for LGBTQ Issues and partner with our members in our work to galvanize transformative philanthropic change,” she continued.

In addition to welcoming a new president, the organization is also making plans to determine how to spend a historic \$3 million gift from Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott announced last week. “This past year has deepened my appreciation for the power of our community and our team. I could not be more excited to welcome Saida to Funders in this incredible moment and partner with her to chart our next chapter,” said Kristina Wertz, Interim President of Funders for LGBTQ Issues. Under Saida’s leadership, the organization will engage staff, board, and members in a collaborative planning process coinciding with its 40th anniversary in 2022.

Saida will begin her new role on August 2, 2021. Kristina Wertz, who has been serving as the Interim President since Ben Francisco Maulbeck stepped down from his role in August 2020, will become the Senior Vice President of Engagement and Philanthropic Outreach beginning in August.

Funders for LGBTQ Issues is a network of more than 85 foundations, corporations, and funding institutions working to increase the scale and impact of philanthropic resources aimed at enhancing the well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities, promoting equity, and advancing racial, economic and gender justice. Learn more about our work [here](#).

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