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Environmental Grantmakers Association
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**TAMARA TOLES O'LAUGHLIN
NAMED NEW PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
OF ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTMAKERS ASSOCIATION**

National climate strategist and lifelong environmental advocate joins high-impact non-profit membership organization representing over 200 foundations from North America and around the world



Tuesday, May 25, 2021 (New York, NY/Oakland, CA) - Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA) is pleased to announce the selection of Tamara Toles O'Laughlin as its new President & Chief Executive Officer. Tamara is an internationally-recognized climate strategist and environmental advocate focused on people and planet. An inspiring, equity-driven visionary, Tamara has worked for 20 years to dismantle privilege and increase opportunities for vulnerable populations to access healthy air, clean energy, and a toxic-free economy at the local, regional, and national level. She comes to EGA with an aligned vision for collective

environmental philanthropic action rooted in racial equity. Tamara begins her new role in June and, as a New York native, will work from EGA's Main Office in New York, NY.

"The Board of Directors is absolutely thrilled to appoint Tamara as our new President & CEO," said EGA Board Chair Mariella Puerto. "Tamara's leadership, expertise, and passion for change will undoubtedly sharpen EGA's strategies and advance our continuing work to center racial equity as an organization and in our field."

EGA is a non-profit membership organization representing over 200 foundations from North America and around the world which collectively hold approximately \$200 billion in assets and give more than \$1.8 billion dollars annually to environmental causes. The ultimate goal of EGA and its members is a world with healthy, equitable, and sustainable ecosystems, communities, and economies. EGA works with members and partners to promote effective environmental philanthropy by sharing knowledge, fostering debate, cultivating leadership, facilitating collaboration, and catalyzing action.

"I am excited to join EGA. It is another evolution of my life's work in the field and provides an extraordinary opportunity to deepen the prioritization of racial equity in the mobilization of environmental philanthropy to meet the compound crises of our time," said Tamara. "The history of philanthropy is rife with missed opportunities to connect money with the movement. As we experience the full force of climate crises, the end of fossil fuels, and species extinction, we need new models of collaboration and innovation in the sector, and EGA is well-positioned to support truly effective environmental philanthropy."

In the last decade, EGA has worked to advance racial equity with an increasing focus on staff and Board. It has also promoted tools, gatherings, and learning engagements centered on inclusion, belonging and championing racial and social equity. EGA has also become a stronger network by growing its membership and staff and increasing member engagement. It has more than doubled its budget. Initially founded in 1987, EGA is motivated by the compounding scale and scope of environmental stresses and related injustices around the globe. EGA continues to evolve to support its members in forging alliances beyond our traditional issue silos – partnering with aligned democracy, health, arts, justice, and other funders who share our vision of a sustainable future.

“Both the environmental movement and the world have changed much since EGA was formed in 1987. While EGA has accomplished much in the past decades, the moment we're in calls for something more. You know the saying ‘What got you here, won't get you there?’” said Annie Leonard, Executive Director of Greenpeace USA. “Tamara's leadership of EGA represents an opportunity to set an ambitious, intersectional agenda for EGA, an agenda that combats the climate crisis, advances justice, and transforms community outcomes. I am beyond excited to work with EGA and Tamara in her new role.”

Tamara comes to EGA having most recently served as a strategist to some of the most visionary campaigns of our time, including the Global Campaign for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Red, Black and Green New Deal's Black Climate Agenda, among others. Previously, she served as the North America Director at 350.org and 350 Action, where she drove regional strategy in the United States and Canada. As the leader of 350's programming, she led mission-critical work and organizational investments to build a multiracial, multi-generational climate movement capable of holding leaders accountable to the demands of science and justice.

Tamara's service to community is embodied by her many leadership roles in the movement. She is a co-chair of the Green Leadership Trust, which builds a more powerful environmental movement by expanding the impact and leadership of people of color and indigenous people serving on US environmental nonprofit boards. She is a member of the World Economic Forum, National Cities executive working group. She is the outgoing chairwoman of the Board of Directors of Women's Voices for the Earth, which disrupts industry standards by forcing ingredient disclosure and the elimination of toxic chemicals from personal care products. Tamara also previously served as Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee.

“Tamara is the leader we need to help the EGA community meet the moment, and bring racial and environmental justice into our work more effectively,” said Arturo Garcia-Costas, Program Officer, Local, National, and International Environment at The New York Community Trust. “Serving alongside Tamara as a co-chair of the Green Leadership Trust has been a privilege, and I can't wait to see her trademark passion, vision, and discipline shine in this new role.”

Tamara's thought leadership and work across sectors supporting inclusive climate change action is evident by her frequent national and international media appearances. She serves on the Advisory Board of Climate Power 2020 and is a member of Politico's sustainability

forum, The Long Game, where she provides insight on issues of climate change and social responsibility.

Among the other roles in her distinguished career, Tamara was executive director of the Maryland Environmental Health Network in Baltimore, Maryland. There she championed its mission to promote the elimination of environmental threats to human health. Similarly, over the course of her career she has held full-time, fellowship, and intern positions with esteemed organizations including the District Department of Energy and Environment in Washington DC, the Maryland Energy Administration, The Advisory Council of Historic Preservation, The Environmental Protection Agency, The Center on Race, Poverty and Environment, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, among others.

Tamara graduated from the Vermont Law School in 2009, with a Juris Doctor and Master of Environmental Law and Policy with a concentration in energy generation and carbon constraint.

“We set out to find a visionary, courageous bridge-builder capable of working collaboratively with our members, staff, and Board,” said EGA Search Committee Chair Jessica Boehland. “Not only does Tamara have relevant organizational and cross-sector leadership experience, she also brings fresh, dynamic energy to EGA, which the Board welcomes.”

More About EGA

Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA) is a non-profit membership organization representing over 200 foundations from North America and around the world. EGA works with members and partners to promote effective environmental philanthropy by sharing knowledge, fostering debate, cultivating leadership, facilitating collaboration, and catalyzing action. EGA envisions a high-impact network of environmental funders working to achieve a sustainable world. Recognizing the importance of diverse perspectives, the organization values ecological integrity, justice, environmental stewardship, inclusivity, transparency, accountability, respect, and balancing pragmatism with idealism. EGA strives to “walk the talk” with all of its resources and focus, noting that the ultimate goal of EGA and its members is a world with healthy, equitable, and sustainable ecosystems, communities, and economies. For more information, please visit <https://ega.org/>.

EGA partnered with Walker and Associates Consulting - a woman of color owned and led, DEI-centric national strategic management consulting and search firm - to ensure a values-aligned approach to the search. For more information, please visit <http://www.walkeraac.com/>.

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