



**For Immediate Release**

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**CHELSEA'S HUDSON GUILD NAMES  
BRIAN SABER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

New York City, May 4, 2006 – Hudson Guild, a Chelsea-based settlement house that serves more than 11,000 people each year, has announced the appointment of Brian Saber as its new Executive Director. Saber will replace Janice McGuire who retires in June after 19 years in that position.

Saber came to the Guild in 2000 and for the past five years has served as Deputy Executive Director. During this time, he has led the Guild's external relations, communications, and fundraising efforts, including a successful capital campaign. He has been deeply involved in strategic planning, board and program development, and a \$12 million renovation of the Guild's central facility, the John Lovejoy Elliott Center on West 26<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Board of Trustees hails continuity of leadership**

"This is a great day for Hudson Guild," said Arthur Aufses, President of the Guild's Board of Trustees. "Building on Janice McGuire's extraordinary leadership, we look forward to Brian taking the agency to even greater prominence in the settlement house movement. Our Search Committee interviewed a strong slate of candidates with very impressive experience," said Aufses. "In the end, it was clear that Brian was absolutely the best person to lead a new era for Hudson Guild. We have been impressed with his commitment to the mission of combining our core services – such as day care,

after-school programs, counseling, and meals for seniors – with the effort to build a stronger community through advocacy and organization around common issues.”

McGuire reiterated that now is the right time for her to retire. “To turn over the reins of leadership to a colleague with whom I have worked closely for the past six years is especially satisfying,” she said.

Saber said that following in McGuire’s footsteps is daunting. “But having partnered with Janice on so many endeavors,” he says, “especially the recent capital campaign and renovation of the Elliott Center, I feel more than ready for the challenge.”

Saber came to the Guild after almost 15 years in the nonprofit world, including nine years at Northwestern University Settlement House in Chicago. When he returned to New York in 1999, he focused specifically on seeking a settlement house position. “I am deeply passionate about settlement houses and their place in building communities,” he said. “When I first met Janice, I knew that the Guild was special and that I had found a home.”

### **Saber to focus on broad community partnerships**

Saber’s passion for the people who make up the Guild and for the Chelsea neighborhood is palpable, and his success in development and external relations bodes well for the agency’s future.

“I am an institution builder, and I envision Hudson Guild creating an even broader community than the one we have now,” he said. “We have wonderful resources in this community, and I am excited about developing them even further by creating new partnerships and sources of support.”

He referred specifically to the Guild’s May 31<sup>st</sup> symposium, “Chelsea 2025: The Future of Urban Communities,” a public dialog with political, business, and neighborhood leaders. “Chelsea is an ideal urban community in so many ways,” said

Saber, “with a solid mix of residential, commercial, and manufacturing uses. But the scale of change now on the horizon could tip the balance toward homogenization. That would completely change the organic features that attracted people to Chelsea in the first place,” he says.

Saber grew up in Woodmere, NY. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Brandeis University in Massachusetts, and holds an MBA from the University of Chicago, a degree he earned while working full-time directing communications for various non-profit arts organizations. Saber is the recipient of several awards, including the Kappa Eta Sigma Award for Social Service from Brandeis, and the President’s Staff Award from Northwestern University Settlement House. He has served on many boards over the years.

### **About Hudson Guild**

Hudson Guild is the only comprehensive community-service organization in the Chelsea area of Manhattan. The Guild brings people together in ways that contribute to strong and vital neighborhoods. Guild programs include adult and senior services, arts and culture, children and youth services, community action groups, a mental health program, and a community food co-op. Hudson Guild was founded in 1895 by social reformer, Dr. John Lovejoy Elliott as part of the urban settlement house movement that served early immigrants.

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**Editors:** To arrange an interview with Brian Saber, and to discuss his views on urban communities, including the Guild’s May 31<sup>th</sup> public symposium, “Chelsea 2025,” please contact Norma Vavolizza, NV Communications, 212-687-0607, [normav@nvcommunications.com](mailto:normav@nvcommunications.com).