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**OPERA PARALLÈLE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DEBBIE CHINN
DEPARTS TO SERVE AS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ANNA
DEAVERE SMITH'S *THE PIPELINE PROJECT: GIRLS***

San Francisco, CA, October 13, 2020 – Opera Parallèle Executive Director **Debbie Chinn** will leave her role with the San Francisco-based contemporary opera company at the end of October to begin a two-year project as Managing Director of **Anna Deavere Smith's *The Pipeline Project: Girls***. Chinn leaves Opera Parallèle after nearly four years having led the organization to significant institutional growth and progressive financial stability.

A transition team of OP board of directors will assess the organization's administrative needs and will undertake a search for the right professional to succeed Chinn.

Opera Parallèle Board President **Nancy E. Petrisko** said, "We are grateful to Debbie, whose leadership these past four seasons has enabled OP to thrive. Thanks to her leadership and excellent work, we will be able to build on successes and move into a future with a solid administrative foundation."

Chinn said, "My passion for building authentic community partnerships and fostering opportunities for immersive shared learning has been a connective tissue throughout my career. I am filled with a great sense of pride and satisfaction having helped Opera Parallèle reach new heights in a variety of areas. I am now eager to begin a thrilling new partnership with Anna Deavere Smith, which will allow me to bring those passions to an entirely new level."

The Pipeline Project: Girls focuses on the stories of young women (ages 14-20) of all races who live in poverty and how these circumstances sometimes lead them into the criminal justice system. A play and film will result, and art making will dominate the process.

Anna Deavere Smith commented, "I am excited about working with Debbie. She brings years of arts management, as well as deep personal commitment to the issues the Pipeline Project seeks to address through art."

Over the past 30 years, Debbie Chinn has held executive leadership positions as Managing Director at CENTERSTAGE (the State Theater of Maryland), California

Shakespeare Theater and Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey. Prior to Opera Parallèle, she was Executive Director of the Carmel Bach Festival.

She is the Board President of Theater Bay Area, the largest regional theater service organization in North America. She is also a Board Member of San Francisco Community Music Center, a 99-year old organization that provides free and affordable music classes and programs to students of all ages.

Chinn was recently appointed to the National Small Business Association's Leadership Council comprised of a select group of small business activists who work to strengthen America's small-business community by advocating on behalf of NSBA's small-business members with Congress, the White House administration and the media.

Chinn's transformative community engagement work at the Carmel Bach Festival is featured as one of thirteen case studies in "Creative Social Change: Leadership for a Healthy World", a volume (spring, 2016) in the International Leadership Association Series which assembles thought leaders to reimagine leadership in building a healthy, sustainable and equitable world.

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