



\*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*\*

**Joni Collins, Board Chair**

Madame Walker Theatre Center

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### **MADAME WALKER THEATRE CENTER CEO IS RETURNING TO MUNCIE**

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**INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 5, 2011** – Madame Walker Theatre Center board chair Joni Collins announced that Terry Whitt Bailey, president and CEO is resigning her position to become the director of community development for the City of Muncie. In announcing her resignation, Whitt Bailey stated "I leave feeling proud of what we have accomplished at the Walker in a relatively short period of time; however, I could not pass up a professional opportunity to be closer to family and working for a new Mayor."

Under Whitt Bailey's tenure, she helped to heighten the Theatre's visibility and instituted a full performance season. The 2011 lineup boasted such iconic artists as contemporary gospel talent Tye Tribbett; soul stirring vocalist Freda Payne; nationally renowned classical singer Angela Brown; and the highly acclaimed Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble. More robust program offerings also included a very successful youth arts camp (Kamp Kumba) this past summer.

As the premier African American cultural institution in Indianapolis, the Walker Theatre promotes Madame C J Walker's values of self-empowerment and community enrichment. The board will soon identify an interim administrator while it searches for a permanent director later in 2012. Collins stated that the Walker Theatre board is engaged in a formal trustee development program, which will make the organization even stronger as it moves through and beyond the transition of executive leadership. "The Walker Theatre's mission remains critical and relevant, and we are committed to ensuring that this historic treasure continues to be a gift to the local, national and international community for many years to come," said Collins.

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#### **About the Madame Walker Theatre Center**

The Madame Walker Theatre Center, an internationally recognized National Historic Landmark, preserves and builds upon the entrepreneurial and philanthropic legacy of its namesake by celebrating the best of African American culture and performance arts, by nurturing youth through arts education and by providing a welcoming venue for arts programming and entrepreneurial activities for all cultures in our community and nation.