



For Release:
April 10, 2017
EMBARGOED UNTIL 12 P.M.

Contact:
Kimberly A.C. Wilson
503-228-5512
kwilson@mmt.org

**DOUG STAMM, CEO OF MEYER MEMORIAL TRUST,
ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP TRANSITION PLAN FOR 2018**

PORTLAND, OR – Doug Stamm, president and CEO of Meyer Memorial Trust, announced today that he plans to leave the foundation in 2018, after leading it for 15 years.

Stamm, who was appointed in 2002, is only the second chief executive in Meyer's 35 year history. Since its founding in 1982, the foundation has awarded more than 8,640 grants and program related investments totaling \$717 million to more than 3,300 nonprofit organizations in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Last year, Meyer made 448 awards and paid out approximately \$36 million. As of January, Meyer's assets totaled \$750 million.

Stamm has earned a national reputation in the philanthropic sector for his strategic exploration of innovative ways to invest a foundation's endowment, beyond grantmaking, to further both mission and our financial goals. Most recently, he is perhaps best known for his and the trust's work to address and dismantle deep disparities and inequities in Oregon.

During his leadership, Meyer redesigned its programs to ensure a more flourishing and equitable Oregon, became an early adapter and sector leader in mission related investing and undertook initiatives to tackle longstanding problems in education, affordable housing and the Willamette River.

"Doug's vision brought Meyer's mission to life, and his ability to assemble an extremely talented and diverse group of professionals will benefit the Trust — and Oregon — for years to come," said Charles Wilhoite, chair of Meyer's Board of Trustees. "In his passionate commitment to Meyer, Doug has built a firm, equity-focused foundation for the Trust's work. We are grateful to have his valuable leadership while we manage this important transition."

A national search will begin this summer to find Meyer's next steward, Wilhoite said.

Stamm plans to take a short break before pursuing opportunities to advance equity and inclusion in the independent sector.

"It's been an amazing privilege to serve Oregonians and steward Fred Meyer's legacy," said Stamm. "I am proud of how Meyer has explored and pursued ways to make a greater impact in our community and I am honored to have worked alongside Oregon's nonprofit, community and elected leaders to shape programs that respond to the most pressing needs across our state.

Meyer's approach to its program efforts came after a yearlong learning process that involved the input of thousands of Oregonians, including nonprofit, philanthropic and community leaders across the state.

Meyer now works to heighten its impact in Oregon by making investments that close gaps created by inequities in four key areas: housing, education, the environment, and Oregon's diverse communities. Under this approach, Meyer hired staff with expertise in the four fields and reorganized its grantmaking to:

- Eliminate inequities and improve conditions experienced by marginalized populations in public education;
- Advance policy and systems solutions to ensure environmental justice, healthy ecosystems and clean water and air in all our communities;
- Address housing affordability and inequities so every Oregonian has a safe place to call home; and
- Strengthen the community's leadership and voice to ensure that solutions are developed by the people who are impacted.

"Throughout the redesign of Meyer's programmatic strategy and grantmaking, Doug has truly engaged community, staff and trustees as partners in the co-creation of our vision and direction," said Candy Solovjovs, Meyer's Director of Programs. "With the strong leadership he has cultivated throughout our organization, Meyer could not be better poised to continue advancing equity in Oregon with commitment, clarity and stability."

"Doug has been a true champion for equitable opportunities for the rapidly growing and diverse communities of color in Oregon, supporting our collective vision to take significant steps forward in building leadership pipelines and addressing structural and institutional barriers," said Lee Po Cha, executive director of [Portland's Organization Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization](#) (IRCO). "His efforts have strengthened our community's potential to build fair policies and practices that actually move the needle toward real equity for all Oregonians."

Meyer's work on equity, diversity and inclusion has transformed the racial makeup of its staff and board. Today, Meyer is a foundation with 37 employees and three [Philanthropy Northwest Momentum Fellows](#). Half of the staff identify as people of color; more than two-thirds identify

as women. Meyer's board and executive teams are similarly diverse: two-thirds of trustees and nearly half of the executive team members identify as people of color, and women make up two-thirds of trustees and six of seven executive team members.

"This is a team rich in talent and experience, well-suited to carry forward our work and commitment to make Oregon a more equitable place," Stamm said. "I'm excited about Meyer's future."

Along with Stamm, Luz Vega-Marquis, president and CEO of [Marguerite Casey Foundation](#) in Seattle, belongs to a regional cohort of foundation leaders working to bring greater equity into philanthropy.

"It's a true pleasure and honor to work alongside a visionary like Doug," Vega-Marquis said. "When he leaves in 2018, he'll be greatly missed but his bold equity legacy will energize the Northwest philanthropic community for years."

Stamm will continue to serve as CEO until a successor is in place, staying onboard through a good part of 2018 to help Meyer's next leader settle in smoothly. Trustees plan to enlist an executive recruitment firm with a track record of identifying diverse pools of exceptional candidates and pledge to pick Meyer's next leader from a diverse finalist pool — or start fresh.

"Doug's contributions to Meyer Memorial Trust are immeasurable," said Debbie Craig, Meyer's longest serving trustee. "The impact that Doug has made on nonprofit groups in Oregon and Southwest Washington extends far beyond the 4,883 grants that have been made since he was appointed chief executive in 2002. His leadership in equity has encouraged all of us to thoughtfully and carefully examine our approach to philanthropy."

###

About Meyer:

Created by the late Fred G. Meyer, founder of a chain of retail stores bearing his name throughout the Pacific Northwest, Meyer Memorial Trust is one of Oregon's largest private foundations, with current assets of more than \$750 million. Established in 1982, Meyer now invests in change at the systemic level to ease inequities and disparities across Oregon. In all, the trust has awarded 8,643 grants and program related investments totaling \$717 million to more than 3,200 organizations in Oregon and Southwest Washington. Since 2016, Meyer has committed its grantmaking to dismantle barriers to equity in education, housing and the environment and to improve community conditions so that all Oregonians can reach their full potential. Meyer has no connection to the Fred Meyer chain and no longer accepts grant requests for work done outside of Oregon.

To learn more about Meyer's efforts to make Oregon a flourishing and equitable state, visit mmt.org and follow Meyer on Twitter at @meyermt