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Stephanie Ybarra has ended her tenure as artistic director of Baltimore Center Stage to join the Mellon Foundation. KIM HAIRSTON/BALTIMORE SUN PHOTOS

'A journey in progress'

Center Stage's Latina artistic director faced a racial reckoning, a pandemic and a boardroom revolt in tumultuous tenure; nationwide search ongoing for replacement



Ybarra said she built on a tradition of diversity at Center Stage that dates back at least a quarter century.

By Mary Carole McCauley

Stephanie Ybarra stepped down as artistic director of Baltimore Center Stage on March 17 after an eventful and at times tumultuous five years during which much of the drama took place offstage.

Sixteen months into Ybarra's tenure, a pandemic struck, forcing Center Stage to hold off on live performances for a year and a half. The theater might have been dark, but a lot was going on behind the scenes. There was a mass resignation of six longtime trustees on the 44-member volunteer board. Some board members rescinded promised donations. Emotions ran high and fighting words were spoken by people on both sides of the divide.

On the surface, the controversy

centered on Ybarra's programming choices. But at its core, it appears to be a disagreement about whom the official state theater of Maryland is supposed to serve.

"The last five years have been incredibly challenging," said Ybarra, who became the first Latina to lead a major U.S. regional theater when she was appointed Center Stage's artistic director in 2018.

"First there was the pandemic and then the nationwide racial reckoning in the summer of 2020," she said. "Those events accelerated our rate of change to a degree that was just not comfortable for some folks. The work of anti-racism and inclusion and belonging isn't for everyone."

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The Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent of the Diocese of Central New York has been elected bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland.

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

First woman elected bishop

New York priest known for collaboration chosen for position

By Jonathan M. Pitts

A New York priest known for her collaborative leadership style and for building the strength of congregations has been chosen as the next bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland.

The Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, 48, a longtime deputy to the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York, was elected Saturday to succeed the Right Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton as the 15th bishop of the diocese.

She is the first woman to be elected to the position.

Schofield-Broadbent looked on via livestream with family and friends from her home in Syracuse, New York, as the voting unfolded during a daylong electing convention at St. John's Episcopal Church and Parish School in Ellicott City. She was elected over three other finalists.

"I am overjoyed and amazingly happy, and I'm ready. I feel deeply honored and in awe of the trust you have shown," she said in a phone call to the church that officials amplified through the packed sanctuary just after the voting ended. "I can't wait to be among you to be with you in your joys and your challenges."

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Lawmakers to propose legislation on wastewater

Officials discuss emergency measure to stop release of treated water into Baltimore sewer system

By Lilly Price

Maryland legislators are scrambling to halt the release of treated wastewater from the East Palestine, Ohio, train derailment site into the Baltimore sewer system.

State and local officials were notified Friday that the Norfolk Southern railroad hired Clean Harbors Environmental Services to remove toxic chemicals from water from the derailment site at its Southwest Baltimore facility. Clean Harbors plans to put the treated wastewater into Baltimore's sewer system, where it would go to the problematic Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant in Dundalk.

Republican Dels. Kathy Szeliga and Ryan Nawrocki of Baltimore County said they have fielded phone calls from fellow lawmakers and consulted with lawyers over the weekend in preparation for filing emergency legislation

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Recovery in focus after fatal storms

Miss. emergency declaration clears way for federal aid

By Michael Goldberg and Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

ROLLING FORK, Miss. — Help began pouring into one of the poorest regions of the U.S. after a deadly tornado tore a path of destruction for more than an hour across a long swath of Mississippi, even as furious new storms Sunday struck across the Deep South.

At least 25 people were killed and dozens of others were injured in Mississippi as the massive storm

ripped through more than a half-dozen towns late Friday. A man was also killed in Alabama after his trailer home flipped over several times.

Search and recovery crews resumed the daunting task of digging through flattened and battered homes, commercial buildings and municipal offices after hundreds of people were displaced.

The storm hit so quickly that the sheriff's department in Rolling Forks barely had time to set off sirens to warn the community of 2,000 residents, said Mayor Eldridge Walker.

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Kimberly Patton sifts through the remains of a family member's home Sunday in Rolling Fork, Mississippi. JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Terps women play No. 1 South Carolina next

Edward Lee offers three takeaways from Maryland's 76-59 win over Notre Dame on Saturday in the NCAA Tournament. The Terps will face the undefeated Gamecocks in the Elite Eight tonight at 7. **Sports**

Miami, San Diego State in men's Final Four

The fifth-seeded Hurricanes upset Texas and the No. 5 Aztecs topped Creighton on Sunday. They'll join No. 4 Connecticut and No. 9 Florida Atlantic in the first national semifinals without a team seeded third or higher. **Sports**

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