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Starlight

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Starlight Welcomes Two New Executive Team Members to the Historic Theatre



Becky Martin and Danny Knaub join Starlight's executive leadership team.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Starlight, the oldest and largest continually operating performing arts venue in Kansas City, is thrilled to announce the addition of two executive level roles to the historic theatre's leadership team. Becky Martin joins as Chief Guest Experience Officer with a commitment to ensuring every visit feels welcoming, memorable, and exceptional for patrons. Danny Knaub joins as Chief Engagement + Growth Officer, focusing on growing and strengthening patrons connections to Starlight.

The two join a new executive team structure at Starlight including Alex Jones, Starlight's first-ever Chief Programming Officer, and Mandi Wright, Starlight's current Chief Finance Officer. With more than 20 years of experience in multidisciplinary arts programming, Jones most recently served as Vice President of Community Engagement at Starlight before being promoted to his new role. Wright celebrates 27 years at Starlight this year and was nominated for C.F.O. of the year with the Kansas City Business Journal in 2025.

Rebecca (Becky) Martin is an accomplished executive leader with more than 20 years of experience leading teams, producing large-scale live events, and shaping strategy. A lifelong Kansas Citian, she is passionate about the city she calls home, and her work has always centered on creating meaningful connections between audiences, artists, organizations, and communities. Stepping into the position as Chief Guest Experience Officer is especially meaningful for Becky, as an internship at Starlight early in her career sparked a lifelong passion for the arts that continues to guide her work

MORE

today.

Previously, Becky spent 14 years with the Kansas City Symphony as Director of Artistic Operations, executive producing more than 250 live events annually and leading the team through the opening of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. She also guided community engagement strategy and worked as a connector across Kansas City arts organizations.

“Becky brings vast experience in event production, organizational leadership, strategic planning, and building partnerships across sectors,” said Lindsey Rood-Clifford, President + C.E.O. of Starlight. “I’m grateful to have her leadership as we move into an exciting new chapter of growth and possibility.”

Danny Knaub comes to Starlight from Charlotte, NC, where he served as Chief Marketing Officer for Blumenthal Arts and led the brand, vision and marketing strategy behind 125+ events annually. He helped make Charlotte a Top 10 market for touring Broadway, generating nearly \$100M in annual economic impact. Danny's career highlights include overseeing full brand creation, visual identity, and messaging for the Charlotte International Arts Festival (4M+ visitors over three years) and Blume Studios (immersive hub with 150K+ visitors its first year). Danny was also nominated for an Emmy Award® for writing and producing Blumenthal Arts Presents: From Broadway to Charlotte.

Prior to his leadership role at the Blumenthal, Danny worked for six years as the Senior Marketing & Press Manager for Broadway Booking Office, NYC, a theatrical tour booking, marketing, and press company. Danny oversaw marketing initiatives, campaigns and booking for Broadway national tours including *Beautiful – The Carole King Musical*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Love Never Dies*, *The King and I*, *The Sound of Music*, *SUMMER: The Donna Summer Musical*, *Falsettos*, and more.

Before moving to New York City, Danny worked as Director of Communications for BroadwaySF, where he developed and implemented day-to-day publicity initiatives for individual productions that played the Curran, Golden Gate, and Orpheum Theatres in San Francisco.

“Danny is an innovative leader with a true passion for connecting people through the arts,” Rood-Clifford said. “His depth of experience in marketing, branding, and audience engagement—both with major performing arts organizations and Broadway productions—makes him an incredible addition to our team as we continue to expand Starlight’s reach in Kansas City and beyond.”

Headshots for both Martin and Knaub can be found in the media kit section of <https://www.kcstarlight.com/about-starlight/newsroom/>.

How to Purchase Season Tickets:

Season tickets are on sale now and available online at kcstarlight.com, by calling (816) 363-7827, or by visiting the ticket office at 4600 Starlight Road, Kansas City Mo., 64132. For more information, including show content advisories, please visit kcstarlight.com.

Discount prices for groups of 10 or more are available by contacting Starlight’s group sales department at 816-997-1137 or groups@kcstarlight.com. Please note that kcstarlight.com is the only official ticket source for all shows in the 2026 AdventHealth Broadway Series. If you purchase tickets from another website or ticket broker, we cannot guarantee those tickets are legitimate.

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About Starlight:

Opened as a theatre in 1950 and a nonprofit organization in 1951, Starlight is the largest and oldest performing arts organization in Kansas City, Missouri, and connects our community through live arts experiences that entertain, inspire, and engage audiences of all ages. Offering diverse programming year-round, Starlight presents Broadway musicals, concert events, and extensive community engagement programming, including arts access initiatives, scholarships, school partnerships, and one of the most well-regarded high school musical theatre award programs in the nation. Located on 16 acres in Swope Park, the historic, city-owned venue is the second-largest outdoor producing theatre in the country with almost 8,000 seats. Follow Starlight on social media @kcstarlight and visit kcstarlight.com for more information.

Starlight is supported in part by the City of Kansas City, Missouri Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund.