

NYWIFT || New York Women in Film & Television

For Immediate Release:

New York Women in Film & Television Executive Director Terry Lawler to Conclude Tenure after 21 Years of Service

Organization Announces Executive Director Search as Lawler's Departure is Set
for December 31, 2018

NEW YORK, NY (June 26, 2018) – Terry Lawler, along with the Board of Directors of New York Women in Film & Television (NYWIFT) have announced that Lawler will conclude her tenure as Executive Director on December 31, 2018—after 21 years of service at the organization.

Lawler joined the staff in June 1997 at the start of NYWIFT's 20th anniversary year. During her successful tenure, Lawler guided the organization through extensive growth and an elaborate platform of initiatives and events. In her role as Executive Director, Lawler moved NYWIFT through a pivotal period of modernization including online communications, social media, and the inclusion of the “digital media” industry, via à vis film and television. She revitalized NYWIFT's advocacy efforts and strengthened relationships with the Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment, sister Women in Film and Television International (WIFTI) chapters and the media.

Lawler's innovative spirit also led to a number of NYWIFT's groundbreaking flagship initiatives, including:

- The Writers Lab, funded by Meryl Streep
- Women Calling the Shots Showcase at the Hamptons International Film Festival
- Film Financing Day
- Women Filmmakers: Immigrant Stories Series

Additionally, Lawler led the creation of NYWIFT's now-legendary Designing Women Awards and she established two new Muse Awards categories: the Loreen Arbus Changemaker Award in 2006 and the Nancy Malone Directing Award in 2017. Under Lawler's leadership, NYWIFT's membership has more than doubled. She also oversaw

the creation of the fiscal sponsorship program for members and brought unprecedented financial stability to the organization, tripling its revenue.

Always passionate about education, Lawler created the Next Wave NYWIFT membership category with an eye toward the inclusion and mentorship of tomorrow's industry leaders at the start of their careers. She strengthened the intern/mentor program, now endowed by the Nancy Malone Fund, and worked with the Ha Phuong Foundation to devise a new job-shadowing program for young female crew members slated to start later this year. NYWIFT scholarships also expanded to include several more schools under Lawler's leadership. Further, Lawler established the Fund for Women Filmmakers, which provides cash and in-kind grants for finishing, marketing and promoting films.

"I feel extraordinarily fortunate to have worked at NYWIFT for the last 21 years," said Terry Lawler. "I am grateful to have spent much of my professional career advocating for equality for women in film, video and digital media--as well as providing education and information to women and men in the field. I have met thousands of talented and committed women during my time here and will always value those relationships. Though it is a bittersweet moment for me, I look forward to be moving on to new adventures. I will always deeply cherish my time at NYWIFT and the members, donors, board and staff who have been such great partners in success.

"In the history of the organization, NYWIFT is the most robust it's ever been, a testament to the unparalleled contributions of our Executive Director and friend, Terry Lawler. In her two decades as Executive Director, Terry has not only grown and sustained the organization, but she has steered the organization to exceptional heights, firmly establishing NYWIFT as the preeminent professional association for women in our industry," said Simone Pero, Board President. "At a time when the importance of supporting women and equality is more critical than ever, we are deeply indebted to Terry's leadership, vision, and enormous talents in serving our members and setting us up for an exciting and prosperous future. We will miss her dedication, wisdom, tenacity, humor and grit greatly. But, in the spirit of NYWIFT supporting women's dreams and talents, we wish her much success in her next act."

Strategic planning is well underway for an Executive Director transition; toward that end, the Board has hired Transition Consultant Ellen Gurzinsky from WindowBox Coaching and Consulting to manage the process externally. Terry Lawler will assist with the transition, as will the current staff - all of whom will continue in their roles.

[The job description is available here.](#)

Applications are due August 27, 2018. Please direct any and all questions about the position to Ellen Gurzinsky at NYWIFTED@gmail.com. Kindly do not contact the NYWIFT staff or the board directly regarding the position.

About New York Women in Film & Television:

New York Women in Film & Television (NYWIFT) advocates for equality in the moving image industry and supports women in every stage of their careers. As the preeminent entertainment industry association for women in New York, NYWIFT energizes women by illuminating their achievements, presenting training and professional development programs, awarding scholarships and grants, and providing access to a supportive community of peers. NYWIFT brings together nearly 2,500 women and men working both above and below the line. NYWIFT is part of a network of 50 women in film chapters worldwide, representing more than 15,000 members. NYWIFT is a nonprofit 501c3 public charity.

More information can be found online at: www.NYWIFT.org

Press Inquiries:

Katie Chambers
Community Engagement Director
New York Women in Film & Television
kchambers@nywift.org