



## **Wanda J. Willis To Join The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida's Executive Team**

*As VP, Civic Leadership, Willis will lead key strategic initiatives to enhance the Foundation's impact*

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – March 17, 2022 Wanda J. Willis, M.A. has been selected for the newly-created position of Vice President, Civic Leadership for The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. Willis has a long, local career in development and community leadership, most recently as Director of Community Engagement and Inclusion for the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. Prior to that, she held several leadership positions at Edward Waters College (now University) including Assistant Vice President of Institutional Advancement. She was also the Director of Development for Major Gifts for Florida State College at Jacksonville's Foundation. When she joins The Community Foundation on April 19, she will be part of the executive team, with primary responsibilities for the organization's current and prospective civic leadership initiatives.

"Our recently completed strategic plan compels us to be a more visible, active catalyst for solutions, and Wanda's addition to our team will greatly enhance our ability to do that," noted Foundation President Nina Waters. "Her successful track record of community outreach will help us identify important opportunities and build coalitions that can improve the quality of life for all Northeast Florida."

The staff of the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, along with the Board of Trustees and donors, wished Wanda every success in her new position.

"Wanda has been an extraordinary member of the Cummer team, and we are confident she will thrive and help propel philanthropy throughout Jacksonville and beyond to even greater heights as she joins The Community Foundation," said Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, Ph.D., George W. and Kathleen I. Gibbs Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Cummer Museum. "We are sad to see her leave our building, but know she is a phone call away as we all look to advance our community's quality of life."

Willis serves on the steering committee of the Women's Giving Alliance, an initiative of The Community Foundation. She is president of the Bold City Chapter of the Links, Incorporated; serves on the steering committee of Elevate Women; and is a member of the Jacksonville Women's Network Class of 2022. She is currently on the local board of directors for Teach for America and the American Cancer Society. Previous board participation includes Jr. League of Jacksonville, Jacksonville Country Day School, Mal Washington Kids Foundation, WJCT, Association for Fundraising Professionals and The Bridge of Northeast Florida. She is a graduate of the 2002 Leadership Jacksonville class. She has been recognized with the Pam Paul Community Service Award by the Jr. League of Jacksonville (1999-2000), the Distinguished Couple Award by the Women of Color Cultural Foundation, Inc. (2012), and the Minority Professional Woman of the Year by the Jax Chamber (2018).

Willis holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Augusta State University in Augusta, GA and a Master's degree in Management from St. Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota. She and her husband live in Jacksonville.



### **About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida**

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida ([www.jaxcf.org](http://www.jaxcf.org)), Florida's oldest and largest community foundation, works to stimulate philanthropy to build a better community. The Foundation helps donors invest their philanthropic gifts wisely, helps nonprofits serve the region effectively, and helps people come together to make the community a better place. Created in 1964, the Foundation has \$627.5 million in assets and has made approximately \$640 million in grants since inception.

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