



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 15, 2023

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jennifer Foster / 586-212-3122

Joseph Howse / 248-431-6716

Catalyst Media Factory

jennifer@catalystmediafactory.com

joseph@catalystmediafactory.com

HUDSON-WEBBER FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NAMES DONALD RENCHER PRESIDENT AND CEO

Known for his work in innovative and equitable neighborhood revitalization through collaboration, Rencher assumes new role in early 2024

DETROIT – The Board of Trustees of the Hudson-Webber Foundation (HWF) today announced that Donald Rencher has been named president and CEO of the Foundation. Following a comprehensive national search that drew a breadth of local and national candidates, he will assume his new role in January 2024.

Rencher joins the Foundation from the City of Detroit, where he currently serves as the group executive of Housing, Planning and Development. In this role, he has been at the forefront of innovative and equitable neighborhood revitalization initiatives, driving economic mobility for Detroiters.

“The Trustees conducted a deliberate and thorough search to identify a candidate capable, committed, and invested in our community to lead the Foundation forward into its next chapter,” said Jennifer Hudson Parke, board chair. “Donald’s deep-rooted understanding of Detroit’s built environment and commitment to safe and just communities, his strong experience in neighborhood revitalization, and his humble yet effective collaborative approach helped to set him apart.”

Past responsibilities for Rencher have included expanding, coordinating, and increasing collaboration among key City of Detroit departments and agencies, including Planning and Development, Housing and Revitalization, the Detroit Land Bank Authority and Arts and Culture.

His commitment and tremendous passion to improve the quality of life in Detroit for all Detroiters aligns with our mission and values,” Hudson Parke said. The four pillars of the Foundation’s mission include Arts and Culture, Built Environment, Community and Economic Development and Safe and Just Communities.

Rencher also worked to develop inclusive housing and neighborhood redevelopment strategies and led key programs such as eviction defense, homelessness response, and more. He also developed strategy and guided investment of funding from HUD for community investment and housing and economic development. He has overseen more than \$2 billion in investments in mixed-income housing projects in the city of Detroit. Before becoming Housing and Revitalization Director in 2018, Rencher served as the department’s deputy director.

His implementation of the Strategic Neighborhood Fund (SNF), a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy and economic development initiative, is one of his significant achievements as the group executive of Housing, Planning and Development for the city of Detroit. SNF leverages \$260 million in public and private resources to invest in the built environment of 10 key neighborhoods throughout Detroit—with the Hudson-Webber Foundation being a key contributor to the initiative. The investments were executed through the Foundation's pillars with goals of eradicating blight; creating housing stability through affordable housing creation and preservation; activating the corridor through arts, culture, and streetscapes; and providing community-oriented neighborhood amenities such as parks.

"My career has been devoted to creating equitable and sustainable urban environments, and I see this role as a natural continuation of that work," Rencher said. "The Foundation's commitment to equitable economic prosperity resonates deeply with my own values and personal mission. I am honored to lead the Hudson-Webber Foundation, an organization that has played a crucial role in Detroit's growth and prosperity, and I am excited to leverage my experience in urban development and my passion for Detroit to further the Foundation's mission of building vibrant, inclusive communities."

Prior to serving with the city of Detroit, Rencher worked as a senior attorney for the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), where he served as lead counsel over the agency's single-family housing portfolio. He was also responsible for housing discrimination-related cases and oversaw more than 50 large-scale multifamily real estate finance transactions.

He earned his law degree from Western Michigan University Law School and his undergraduate degree in English from the University of Michigan. He currently serves on the boards of Eastern Market Corporation, Downtown Development Authority, and Detroit Future City.

Rencher resides in Detroit with his wife, Amy, and son, Patrick.

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About Hudson-Webber Foundation

The Hudson-Webber Foundation's origins date back to 1939 with major contributions from Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Webber, other members of the Webber family and The J.L. Hudson Company. The foundation is governed by a 13-member board of trustees, with assets of approximately \$190 million, and has contributed over \$200 million to improve the quality of life in Detroit. The mission areas of the foundation include arts and culture, built environment, community and economic development and safe and just communities. To learn more about the Hudson-Webber Foundation, visit www.hudson-webber.org.