



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:

dhughes@universitysettlement.org

University Settlement names Rabiya Akhtar as new Chief Financial and Administrative Officer

New York, NY – University Settlement has hired Rabiya Akhtar as its new Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, the pioneering NYC social justice agency announced today.

Reporting to CEO Melissa Aase, Akhtar will lead the Settlement's Finance, Information Technology, Data, and Facilities teams, and will be responsible for managing the agency's overall budget and physical plant.

The appointment comes as part of an ongoing reorganization at University Settlement, as the agency unwinds its 20-year operational relationship with The Door. Akhtar, who was previously the CFO of Homes for the Homeless, will be responsible for building out teams and strategies that will empower the Settlement to continue creating dynamic impact in its communities.

"University Settlement has been a vital element of the social fabric of New York City for 135 years, and I'm thrilled to have an opportunity to contribute to its important legacy," said **Rabiya Akhtar**. "Creating and improving effective systems is an integral component of social justice work, and I'm excited to partner with the agency's administrative teams, program staff, and Melissa and senior leaders as we continue to expand upon the Settlement's efforts to build community strength."

"Rabiya has a keen understanding of the leadership and collaboration needed to support a complex and growing institution like ours," said **Melissa Aase, CEO of University Settlement**. "I'm looking forward to her contributing the wisdom of her varied experience, her expertise in building and managing diverse and effective teams, and her passion for impactful community engagement to our work."

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About University Settlement

University Settlement partners with 40,000 New Yorkers on the Lower East Side and in Brooklyn every year to build on their strengths as they achieve healthy, stable, and remarkable lives. For over 130 years, we've collaborated with our neighbors to pioneer highly effective programs that fight poverty and systemic inequality. Established in 1886 as the first Settlement House in the United States, we bring the values of that movement into the 21st century by meeting New Yorkers where they live, listening deeply to all perspectives, engaging with every individual holistically, and creating space for people to organize. Joining together with our neighbors to advocate for justice and equality, we help build community strength.

We work with New Yorkers of all ages. We infuse a commitment to civic engagement, equity, and communal action into each of our programs, which include early childhood education, mental health and wellness, benefits assistance and eviction prevention, adult literacy and education, healthy aging, community and recreation centers, performing and visual arts, and youth development.

Learn more at www.universitysettlement.org.