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THE KENTUCKY ENQUIRER

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Rams game a must-win for Bengals

SPORTS, 1B

Revival planned for ‘forgotten’ city park



A view of the sign for Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park in Cincinnati on Aug. 29. The park looks much like it did when dedicated in 2003, with some signs of aging. ALBERT CESARE/THE ENQUIRER

Fundraiser, festival just first steps in advisory council’s goal to showcase merits of Berry International Friendship Park

Patricia Gallagher Newberry
Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

This article is part of *The Enquirer’s Future of Downtown series*.
When International Friendship Park was dedicated 20 years ago, it was envisioned as a place to celebrate Cincinnati’s internationalism.
The pieces were put in place: flags for Cincinnati’s sister cities; sculptures and ceramic works by international artists; a layout and landscaping that, a park brochure promised, told the “story of global friendship.”
The hoped-for celebrations did not follow.

Instead, the Downtown site, running along Riverside Drive at the eastern end of Cincinnati Parks’ riverfront properties, has become a haven for walkers, runners and dog walkers – but not initiatives with a global flavor.
That could soon change, as a new advisory council stages a first-ever fundraiser with plans for programs inspired by the park’s origins.
The future of Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park “is open to the imagination,” said Janet Huston, chair of the advisory group.

Go to lunch, end up in charge

Friendship Park’s looming anniversary

first came up at a spring lunch event. Cincinnati Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney was there. So was Jennifer Spieser, executive director of the Cincinnati Parks Foundation. In a conversation with Huston, all three assumed Friendship Park had an advisory group – like 34 others that promote, raise money and otherwise advocate for a city park system with many needs.
It did not.
As vice president of Cincinnati USA Sister Cities, Huston put up her hand to help and found herself in charge. Since then, she said, she’s been

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Judge blocks education overhaul

State board claims GOP plan is unconstitutional

Anna Staver
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio’s plan to change who gets to write statewide education standards is on hold after a Franklin County Court judge issued a temporary restraining order Thursday to block the law from going into effect.
“This is really about the voice of the people and that there are checks and balances and that they are able to come to us when they have issues,” Ohio State School Board Member Antoinette Miranda said. “This case is really important to make sure we still have a voice for the parents, the teachers, the school districts and everybody else that benefits from education.”
Miranda and six other members of the state board filed a lawsuit Tuesday saying that a plan to move control over statewide standards, textbook recommendations and strategic planning away from the partially elected board and give those duties to the governor’s office was unconstitutional.
Judge Karen Held Phipps, a Democrat, didn’t decide on the merits of Miranda’s case.
But she did issue a written decision blocking the Ohio Department of Education from moving forward with its plans to rename itself as the Department of Workforce and Education, appoint a director who would serve in Gov. Mike DeWine’s cabinet, and transfer powers over education policy from the State Board of Education to that new director.
The order will last until Oct. 2, when another hearing will be held to decide whether to postpone the law indefinitely while this case works through the courts.
At the heart of their lawsuit is how much state lawmakers have the authority to change the responsibilities of the board.
Article IV, Section 4 of the Ohio

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Ballet’s artistic director departs after only 14 months

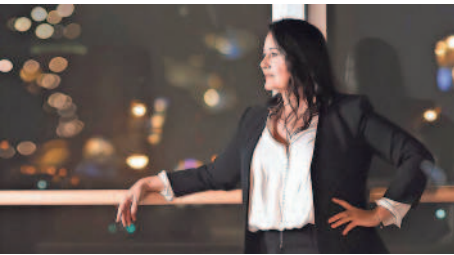
Gates’ length of tenure, timing of exit unusual

David Lyman
Special to Cincinnati Enquirer

Jodie Gates, who joined Cincinnati Ballet as artistic director just 14 months ago, “has departed the organization to pursue other opportunities,” according to a short statement issued by the company early Friday afternoon.
The “mutual decision” was both un-

expected and unusual. It is extremely rare for an artistic director to leave a company after such a short tenure. And to leave at the beginning of a season is almost unheard of. In comparison, Gates’ predecessor, Victoria Morgan, was artistic director for 25 years. When Gates was hired, the hope was that she would be here several years – long enough to raise the company’s national stature even higher than Morgan had.
There were few public hints of dissatisfaction. Gates was reportedly popular with the dancers, many of whom had

come to Cincinnati expressly to work with her. But three weeks ago, Gates went on PTO – personal time off – and rehearsal director and former company principal dancer Cervilio Miguel Amador became acting artistic director.
No public announcement was made of Amador’s appointment. But when the company opened its “More Room to Play, Kaplan New Works” series on Sept. 15, Amador stepped in front of the curtain to give a preshow speech,
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Noted choreographer, dancer and educator Jodie Gates was named the new artistic director of Cincinnati Ballet on Jan. 18, 2022. PROVIDED BY HIROMI PLATT PHOTOGRAPHY

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