The Women’s Prison Association Welcomes Cleo Wade and Whitney McGuire to Board of Directors

New York, NY – The Women’s Prison Association (WPA), a nonprofit that empowers women to redefine their lives in the face of injustice and incarceration, has welcomed Cleo Wade and Whitney McGuire to its Board of Directors.

Longtime neighbors in New York’s East Village, Ms. Wade began working with WPA in 2017 by facilitating storytelling workshops and “peaceful and loving conversation” with justice-involved women in WPA’s programs. Ms. Wade then spearheaded “Women & Prison 101;” a public discussion series to showcase WPA’s unique work within the context of feminism, racism, and restorative justice.

Ms. Wade is author of the best-selling book, “Heart Talk: Poetic Wisdom for a Better Life” and “Where To Begin: A Small Book About Your Power To Create Big Change In Our Crazy World.” Her poetry, artwork, and prose speak to our collective power to create change through an individual commitment to self-care, beloved community building, and social justice.

Ms. Wade lives between California and New York City where she also sits on the board of The Lower East Side Girls Club, The National Black Theatre in Harlem, and The E Pluribus Unum Fund. She sits on the advisory board of Gucci’s Chime for Change and Changemakers. She has been honored by Fast Company on their 2017 list of Most Creative People in Business and deemed “the Millennial Oprah” by New York Magazine.

“Cleo fell naturally into the WPA community in 2017 and we are thrilled to welcome her to this formal leadership position. With compassion and generosity, she has grown to be a trusted and well-loved member of the WPA family. Her grace and positive determination will undoubtedly advance our commitment to women and justice.”

--Georgia Lerner, Executive Director, Women's Prison Association

Ms. McGuire is an attorney for creative entrepreneurs and co-founder of Sustainable Brooklyn, which bridges the gap between sustainability movements and targeted communities through education and events. She is a recognized leader in the field of Fashion Law, a chairwoman of Fashion Law Week, and a member of the Greater Washington Fashion Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. McGuire is also a writer and an active public figure speaking to the nuances and truths of environmental, social, and racial justice not often highlighted in mainstream discourse.

Ms. McGuire co-founded the record label swiMMMers ear; a Brooklyn-based creative consulting/multimedia production company with her husband, multiple-discipline artist, Nelson Nance. Ms. McGuire is dedicated to criminal justice reform, and is keen to join the Board in its advocacy for women.

“We are thrilled to welcome Whitney to WPA’s Board of Directors. Her invaluable expertise and unique perspective, not to mention great passion for this work, will lead WPA in more action and advocacy toward our vision of justice for women.”

-- Celine DeCarlo, Board Member, Women’s Prison Association

ABOUT WPA
The Women's Prison Association (WPA) empowers women to redefine their lives in the face of injustice and incarceration. Together, we forge pathways to freedom, safety, and independence. Founded in 1845 and celebrating our 175th anniversary this year, WPA is the nation’s first organization dedicated solely to women affected by incarceration. Women come to WPA to obtain work, housing, and health care; to rebuild their families; and to participate in law-abiding lives within the community. Each year, WPA provides services to 1,500 women and 500 children across three locations in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Learn more at www.wpaonline.org or on Instagram at @WPA_NYC.