



950 West Fingerboard Rd
Staten Island, NY 10305
(718) 889-3010
www.sinfpa.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Meg Ventrudo, Board Chair
mventrudo@tibetanmuseum.org

Staten Island Not For Profit Association Announces New Executive Director

[Staten Island, NY -- January 23, 2020] The Staten Island Not For Profit Association Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Sharmila Rao Thakkar, MPA, MPH will assume the role of Executive Director for the Staten Island Not For Profit Association, as of January 17, 2020 succeeding interim executive director Gary Bernstein. In this role, she will lead the organization in developing programs and activities to strengthen the nonprofit sector on Staten Island and continue the successful SI Nonprofit Annual Conference now in its 10th year. For more than a year, Sharmila has provided programmatic and membership support, and led the Island Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) coalition, for which she will continue to provide management and oversight.

“We welcome Sharmila, the first woman executive director to lead the SI Not For Profit Association,” said Meg Ventrudo, President of the SINFPA Board. “We know that her qualifications and professionalism will expand the work of the organization, while continuing to support the COAD. We look forward to working with her to improve and expand the offerings of the Association.”

As a philanthropy and nonprofit professional working and volunteering in the nonprofit sector for 20+ years, Sharmila has a keen awareness and passion for nonprofit/philanthropy work. Utilizing expertise in leadership development, program implementation, resource development, and communications, she has advised donors, families, and organizations on operations, strategy, board governance/development, multigenerational engagement, grantmaking, and community outreach activities. She serves as an affiliate consultant with the Support Center, associate instructor in the nonprofit management master’s program at Columbia University, a 21/64 certified trainer in multigenerational philanthropy, and mentor for philanthropy/nonprofit leadership development programs. Prior, Sharmila was appointed the first non-family executive director of The Siragusa Family Foundation in Chicago, where she directed the operational, programmatic and administrative functions of the organization, participating in all roles key to running a charitable endeavor. She guided board funding decisions and evaluated programs in health, social services, education and the arts for youth/families; provided capacity building and technical assistance to nonprofit grantee partners; built the board’s professionalism including recruitment and assessment; engaged the next generations in their leadership development; and provided strategic direction on grantmaking, grantee outreach and community partnership initiatives. Sharmila has held leadership roles on several boards and committees involving issues of women and children, immigrant communities, education, public health, and building philanthropic leadership and the capacity of the sector.

A native New Yorker, Sharmila relocated back to her hometown of Staten Island in 2016 after spending nearly 17 years in Chicago. She holds a Master of Public Health from the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health; a Master of Public Administration from the Columbia University School of International & Public Affairs; a BA in International Relations from Brown University; and is a graduate of St. Joseph Hill Academy elementary school and high school.

"It's an honor to be back 'home,' working with our board, nonprofit members and communities to enhance the impact of our nonprofit sector and I look forward to continue collaborating with our local supporters, partners and businesses to further deepen our reach and value."

Since 2005, the Staten Island Not For Profit Association has provided resources, support and advocacy for the borough’s not for profit sector. The Association was created to provide a single “voice” for the sector’s members, regardless of size or mission, and enhance the economic impact to Staten Island that nonprofits provide. Learn more at www.sinfpa.org or www.facebook.com/StatenIslandNFP.

###