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For Immediate Release

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### **Lifetime Achievement Award Presented to Arlington Heights Park District Leader**

La Grange IL– On January 26, 2024, the Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA) honored Carrie Fullerton, Executive Director of the Arlington Heights Park District with the IPRA Robert Artz Lifetime Achievement Award, for her commitment and lifetime of service to parks, recreation, and conservation in Illinois. Ms. Fullerton was recognized during the IPRA Awards Program at the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference held at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

The IPRA Robert Artz Lifetime Achievement Award was established to honor Robert Artz's legacy of service to the park and recreation profession. The recipient's efforts will have had lasting impact and created awareness of the importance of parks and recreation among peers and in the community they serve.

Carrie is a distinguished leader in parks and recreation, showcasing unwavering commitment to both the industry and the communities she serves, with high moral and ethical values. Her exceptional abilities are underscored by numerous Awards and Recognitions, including being named the IAPD Honored Professional of the Year in 2019, and her involvement in Women in Leisure, where she has successfully mentored individuals who went on to achieve notable careers in parks and recreation.

Her accomplishments extend to strategic achievements such as leading the passage of a \$9.9 million referendum for critical park improvements, orchestrating the Legislative Breakfasts for the IAPD/IPRA Joint Legislative Committee, and effectively managing the Arlington Heights Park District through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognized as the Georgene Geils "Woman of the Year" by the Bloomingdale Chamber of Commerce, Carrie's leadership has garnered honors like the University of Illinois Department of Recreation, Sport & Tourism Joseph J. Bannon Practitioner Award and the NRPA Great Lakes Region Professional of the Year. Her extensive professional certifications and memberships, including being a Certified Park and

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Recreation Executive (CPRE) and a member of organizations like NRPA and IPRA, further underscore her dedication and impact in the field.

‘Congratulations to Carrie for being recognized by her peers with this prestigious and meaningful award. Robert Artz has been noted for his impeccable integrity and positive attitude. IPRA is proud to honor Carrie for her similar qualities and energy – as evidenced not only by this award but her lengthy list of accolades,’ Suzi Wirtz, IOM, Executive Director of IPRA. “Thank you, Carrie, for your outstanding dedication to and example within your profession!’

A complete list of IPRA award winners is available on the IPRA website, [ILipra.org](http://ILipra.org).

Established in 1944, the Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA) serves nearly 3,000 park, recreation, and conservation professionals throughout the state, and is a national leader in providing premier education, networking, and resources. For more information about IPRA, its board and mission, please visit the IPRA website: [www.Ilipra.org](http://www.Ilipra.org).

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