AUSTIN FC CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN FRONT OFFICE WITH ADDITIONAL KEY HIRES

Kaitlin Swarts, prominent Austin philanthropic and community leader named as Austin FC’s Vice President of Community Engagement; Eric Hagen, highly experienced legal specialist appointed Senior Vice President & General Counsel; Ryan Fannin, sports technology expert with vast NFL facility experience, is named Vice President of Information Technology; Keith Winton, seasoned finance professional, is Vice President of Finance; and Alfredo Naim, a bilingual media and marketing expert with strong community relationships in Austin, is now Community Marketing Manager.

Austin, TX (February 6, 2020) – Austin FC, the first major league team in Austin and the 27th Club in Major League Soccer (MLS), continues to bolster its front office team with the recent appointment of five experienced new staff members in the areas of community engagement and grassroots initiatives, legal, finance and technology.

Kaitlin Swarts, Vice President of Community Engagement, is the Founder of Upper Ninety, a nonprofit organization which helps students from low-income Austin communities thrive in high school and beyond through participation in the sport of soccer. An avid soccer player and supporter, Swarts played locally with the Lonestar Soccer Club and St. Stephen’s Soccer Academy before heading to college where she played for Pomona College’s Women’s soccer team. Swarts, who speaks Spanish, has coached and trained players ranging from competitive club athletes to first-time adult players. After years of teaching and working in New York as a consultant for nonprofits, Swarts connected her skills with her passion for soccer and founded Upper Ninety in her hometown of Austin. Swarts holds a Master's in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, is trained in Restorative Justice and is the recipient of the Harvard Leadership in Education Award, as well as the Harvard Faculty Tribute Award, and the 2019 Austin Woman’s Way Rising Star Award.

In connection with Swarts’ new Austin FC role, Upper Ninety and its associated programming will immediately align with 4ATX Foundation, the philanthropic extension of Austin FC. Upper Ninety's mission of positively impacting low-income Austinites will be enhanced with additional resources brought forth by 4ATX Foundation and Austin FC.
Eric Hagen joins the Club as Austin FC’s Senior Vice President and General Counsel. Prior to joining the Club, Hagen was a partner at DLA Piper in the firm’s Austin and Los Angeles offices, where he worked closely with the Club as outside counsel. He was also previously a partner at Kirkland & Ellis and McDermott Will & Emery. He has a distinguished track record representing clients across sports, entertainment, and technology sectors with a particular expertise in intellectual property. Hagen received his Bachelor’s and law degrees from Pepperdine University and a Master’s Degree from Dartmouth College.

Ryan Fannin, Vice President of Information Technology, is a highly experienced IT specialist who joins Austin FC after most recently serving as Director of Information Services for the Indianapolis Colts (NFL) where he helped create the IT infrastructure for the Colts’ 70,000 seat indoor stadium and separate training facility. Fannin will help establish Austin FC’s stadium, training facility, and front office IT platforms, including the implementation of critical IT infrastructure designed to enhance supporter experience. Among his many achievements, Fannin worked closely with the Colts’ Coaching staff to increase the players’ learning rate by 25% after becoming the first NFL team to implement virtual reality technology. In addition, Fannin helped innovate and deploy critical IT programs including the introduction of the first digital playbook in the NFL, the first NFL team to deploy in-game replays for fans in the stadium, and the first stadium venue to provide wireless internet across all sections. Fannin is a graduate of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis from where he graduated with a B.A. in Computer Science. He is certified in Microsoft Professional Plus Internet, has earned his Microsoft Systems Engineer certification and has obtained Comp TIA A+ certification.

Keith Winton, Vice President of Finance, is a graduate of Texas Tech University and has an M.B.A from the University of Texas, Arlington, bringing many years of experience in the finance, to Austin FC. Before joining Austin FC, Winton spent 10 years working in the post-acute healthcare industry for various companies and, over his career, has held several senior roles including CFO, COO, VP Finance, & VP of Operations. Winton is a soccer aficionado and spends much of his spare time coaching soccer, holding numerous coaching licenses from USSF to UEFA. Originally from Dublin, Ireland, where he grew up playing soccer, Winton was an NCAA D1 Letterman at Texas Tech University in track & field.

Alfredo Naim, Community Marketing Manager, will play a vital role in helping Austin FC connect to the Austin community. A graduate in Business Administration / Economics from St. Edward’s University in Austin, and fluent in both English and Spanish, Naim brings deep experience of working with all sectors of the City of Austin, and the Austin media market, after eight years working with Waterloo Media, the largest radio group in Austin and previously known as Emmis Austin Radio.

“Austin FC presently has 40 full-time staff members, and we will continue to expand our business and soccer staff at a high rate of growth as we move closer to our inaugural season in 2021,” said Andy Loughnane, Austin FC President and 4ATX Foundation board member. “Kaitlin, Eric, Ryan, Keith and Alfredo strongly represent the incredibly talented and diverse staff which
we continue to attract and assemble, and we are honored to welcome each of them to Austin FC’s growing family.”

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**About Austin FC**

Austin FC joined Major League Soccer (MLS) as the 27th club in January 2019 and is the City of Austin’s first major league team. Austin FC will officially begin play in 2021 in a new, state-of-the-art soccer stadium and public park at McKalla Place, Austin.

Austin FC also runs Austin FC Academy, the fully funded boys United States Soccer Development Academy, which aims to represent the highest level of competition for elite players in Central Texas and serve as the pathway to MLS for the region’s most talented young players.

Austin FC’s parent company and ownership group is Two Oak Ventures, the entity which operates Austin FC and affiliated assets, including the 100% privately-financed MLS soccer park and stadium being constructed at 10414 McKalla Place in Austin, Texas, and St. David’s Performance Center, the $45 million training facility of the Club and Austin FC Academy, scheduled to open in Spring 2021 and located at Parmer Innovation Center in Northeast Austin.

**About 4ATX Foundation**

Since its launch, the 4ATX Foundation has a stated commitment to be active in the areas of health and wellness for youth, as well as the cultural and lifestyle vibrancy of Austin. Particular focus will be given to soccer-specific initiatives and those issues affecting participation and access. Stay tuned to austinfc.com for more information on the 4ATX Foundation.