**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
Feb. 6, 2023
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# Melville Charitable Trust announces new board members

*Outstanding leaders Rolan Joni Young, Kica Matos and Biniam Gebre join board*

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — The Melville Charitable Trust announced the appointment of Rolan Joni Young, Kica Matos and Biniam Gebre to serve on its board of directors. All of the new members are seasoned professionals and committed advocates for equity and justice.

“We welcome these exceptional leaders,” said Karen Dubois-Walton, board chair. “Each brings unique expertise that will enhance the board’s work and further the Trust’s mission to ensure that all people have safe, affordable housing.”

Young is a law partner at McCarter & English and is a longtime advocate for affordable housing and community-based healthcare development efforts. She is chairperson of the board of directors of New Haven Bank and served as the chairperson of the board of directors of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority and the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. Currently, she represents clients engaged in affordable housing, community health care, and economic development projects involving both the private and public sectors.

Matos, most recently at the Vera Institute, has joined the National Immigration Law Center as its executive vice president of strategy and programs. Previously, she served as the director of immigrant rights and racial justice at the Center for Community Change, as deputy mayor of New Haven, and was an assistant federal defender for people on death row. She brings extensive experience in immigrant rights, criminal legal advocacy and community organizing.

Gebre brings over 20 years of experience in public sector housing, financial services and housing reform to the Trust’s board. Having led the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) in the Obama Administration, the mortgage practice for Oliver Wuman, and the Federal Services Practice at Accenture, he brings a unique public and private perspective on housing and housing finance to the board.

“Rolan, Kica, and Biniam bring crucial perspectives to our work to support underserved and underrepresented communities,” said Melville Charitable Trust President Susan Thomas. “We look forward to their energy and expertise, especially now, when the communities we serve face growing obstacles to economic and housing justice.

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*The Melville Charitable Trust is a nonprofit that works to create, find and implement programs that educate & support the children & families in our underserved and underrepresented communities. For more information about the Trust, please visit* [*www.melvilletrust.org*](https://melvilletrust.org).