



THE UNIVERSITY CLUB
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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For Immediate Release

**The University Club of Washington, D.C. Names Vijayakumar “Vijay” Raj
As New General Manager and Chief Operating Officer**

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 1, 2024 -- The University Club of Washington, D.C., today welcomes Vijayakumar “Vijay” Raj as the new General Manager and Chief Operating Officer.

Mr. Raj’s hospitality career spans over 20 years in private club and hospitality management, and years more in the hotel industry. He joins The University Club from Varisan Group in Singapore, an international turnkey design and supply company providing interior solutions for premium hotels and commercial brands, where he worked for the past two years, most recently as Vice President of Global Strategy, Projects, and Operations.

Mr. Raj has an extensive foundation in all aspects of the hospitality industry, beginning in the hotel industry in Boston and Washington, and over the past 20 years, holding senior management positions for leading international private member clubs in Washington, Chicago, and Singapore. He was Co-Assistant General Manager at The American Club in Singapore from 2017- 19, and General Manager of the Metropolitan Club in Chicago from 2019-22.

Earlier, he spent 15 years at The University Club, starting as a Front Office Manager and Director of Room Operations from 2002-08, then Assistant General Manager and Director of Food & Beverage from 2008-17.

Douglas G. Bonner, president of The University Club of Washington, D.C., said, “We are excited about Vijay’s demonstrated leadership and achievements across a wide range of private clubs, including ours. He has a proven ability to work closely with and forge relationships with members and staff alike.

“Vijay has a passion for all aspects of club operations, whether food and beverage, room operations, or member engagement or retention. He is approachable and accessible to Club members and Staff alike while setting clear expectations of his team.”

Mr. Raj commented, “I am extremely grateful and honored to again be part of The University Club of Washington, D.C. family. I am excited to return with a wealth of knowledge to lead the prestigious University Club.

“I look forward to working with our Board of Governors, Committees, and Staff to implement the Strategic Vision approved by the Board.”

Mr. Raj holds a Master of Science in Hospitality Administration from Johnson and Wales University and has earned hospitality industry certifications from the School of Hotel Administration at Cornell University. He was designated a Certified Club Manager by the CMAA in 2019. He earned a Distinguished Achievement in Leadership award by The BoardRoom magazine for his work running club operations, F&B service, and lodging operations.

The appointment of Mr. Raj culminates a rigorous and targeted search conducted for The University Club's next General Manager by the top executive search firm for the Club Industry, Kopplin Kuebler & Wallace (KKW), and the Club's Search Committee.

About The University Club of Washington, DC:

Established in 1904, The University Club of Washington, D.C. is one of the nation's most historic membership organizations. It has the honor of consistently being recognized as a Distinguished Club of the World and was most recently ranked #14 among the nation's Top 50 Best City Clubs in America by Platinum Clubs of America. The University Club attracts members and guests from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors and also includes clergy and diplomats.

In addition to excellent dining, fitness, squash, a day spa, and fellowship within a superbly maintained and historic clubhouse, The University Club offers members and their families a full schedule of social events, intellectual presentations, and diverse cultural programs. Members also have access to recently renovated overnight rooms and a reciprocal network of more than 200 of the finest clubs in the world.

More information on The University Club of Washington, D.C. may be found on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X, and YouTube.

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