

RETAIL

Galleries Lafayette preps for global expansion via executive restructuring

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Galleries Lafayette is planning to expand beyond its mostly French footprint. Image credit: Galleries Lafayette

By STAFF REPORTS

French department store chain Galleries Lafayette Group is shuffling its senior management team to simplify the organization and support necessary for a number of strategic projects currently underway.

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Effective Feb. 1, Galleries Lafayette Group will implement several significant changes at the C-suite level. The management restructuring will include positions at Galleries Lafayette, BHV Marais and the integration of online retailer La Redoute, acquired by the group in September for about 750 million euros, or about \$891.6 million ([see story](#)).

New year, new role

The changes at Galleries Lafayette's executive level is spearheaded by CEO Nicolas Houze.

Mr. Houze decided to create a single operations division to house the entire Galleries Lafayette and BHV store network in France, including the flagship Haussmann Boulevard location of Galleries Lafayette in Paris.

The operations division will be led by executive committee member Olivier Bron. Mr. Bron has worked as the head of Galleries Lafayette, BHV Marais and the international store network as well as serving as an executive committee member since 2014.

Alexandre Liot, current director of BHV Marais, appointed in 2013, will become the director of Galleries Lafayette Haussmann on Feb. 1. Over the past 20 years, Mr. Liot has held a number of different positions with the Galleries Lafayette group, including head of Galleries Lafayette Berlin and Marseille, France stores.



Galeries Lafayette Haussmann's interior dome. Image credit: Galeries Lafayette

To better prepare for its global retail push, Galeries Lafayette has also established a dedicated international development division within the executive committee. The international development division will be headed by Philippe Pedone, currently chief financial officer and executive member.

As it stands, Galeries Lafayette has been proactively expanding its footprint in China and the Middle East. This new division would further the retail group's international aspirations outside of France for both the Galeries Lafayette and BHV Marais banners.

Nicolas Retailleau, financial control director since 2015, will replace Mr. Pedone as Galeries Lafayette and BHV Marais' chief financial officer. Mr. Retailleau also joins the executive committee.

Lastly, Agnes Vigneron, will begin a new role overseeing La Redoute's integration within the Galeries Lafayette group. In her new position, Ms. Vigneron will report to Philippe Houze, executive chairman.

Ms. Vigneron is currently the director of Galeries Lafayette Haussmann.

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