

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

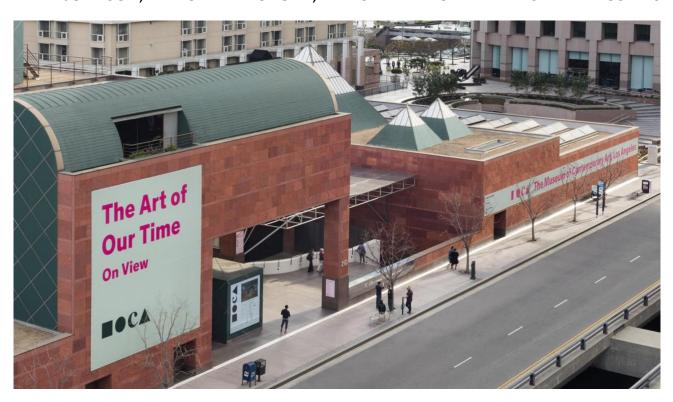
July 16, 2025

### **MOCA ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD LEADERSHIP AND TRUSTEES**

CAROLYN CLARK POWERS NAMED CHAIR OF THE BOARD

TIM DISNEY TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

BLAKE JOHNSON, MARGARET MORGAN, AND STEVEN RICE ADDED AS NEW TRUSTEES



LOS ANGELES—The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) is pleased to announce several key leadership transitions to its Board of Trustees, effective July 1, 2025, reflecting the museum's continued evolution, stewardship, and commitment to championing contemporary art and artists. Carolyn Clark Powers, longtime MOCA Trustee and President of the Board since 2018, has been named Chair of the Board of Trustees. Powers, who has served on the board for sixteen years, is widely recognized for her visionary leadership and transformative generosity in her many and wide-ranging philanthropic endeavors—most notably at MOCA, her landmark \$10 million dollar gift that has enabled the museum to offer free general admission since 2019.

**Tim Disney**, who joined MOCA's Board of Trustees in 2022 and has been a member of the MOCA Environmental Council since 2021, has been appointed **President of the Board**. A filmmaker, entrepreneur, and committed civic

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leader, Disney also served for 29 years as a Trustee of CalArts (1993 - 2022) and brings a deep understanding of the power of storytelling and a long-standing dedication to cultural innovation in Los Angeles and beyond. "We are thrilled to appoint Carolyn Clark Powers and Tim Disney to these new roles," said Johanna Burton, Maurice Marciano Director of MOCA. "Carolyn is a true partner in every sense of the word—bringing vision, boldness, enthusiasm to every conversation. And Tim's remarkable perspective, experience, and generosity of spirit help shape the future of the museum. Together, Carolyn and Tim will lead MOCA into an exciting new chapter."

MOCA also welcomes three new Trustees to its Board: investor and civic leader **Blake Johnson**; artist and arts advocate **Margaret Morgan**; and arts patron and entrepreneur **Steven Rice**. These new members bring vast expertise, energy, and passion for the arts to the museum's governing body.

Additionally, the museum is pleased to announce two new honorary designations: Maria Seferian will serve as Chair Emeritus, and Wonmi Kwon has been named a Life Trustee. Seferian, who has been a Trustee since 2013, served as Chair of the Board from 2018 to 2025, President of the Board from 2017 to 2018, and Vice Chair of the Board from 2014 to 2017. She served as MOCA's Interim Director and CEO from fall 2013 through spring 2014, leading the museum through its transformational endowment campaign to secure its financial footing. Kwon, whose steadfast service, generosity and commitment to MOCA span nearly four decades, including the visionary support to endow MOCA's Wonmi's WAREHOUSE Programs, has had lasting, positive institutional impact.

"Wonmi Kwon has been a guiding force in MOCA's evolution, bringing insight, heart, and a deep belief in the power of the arts to connect and inspire. Her thoughtful leadership and bold generosity have expanded the museum's reach and relevance, laying a foundation that continues to benefit artists and audiences alike. We are proud to honor her enduring influence and steadfast dedication," added Burton. "We owe a profound debt of gratitude to Maria Seferian, whose leadership and passion have shaped MOCA in powerful and enduring ways. Her tenure as Chair has been marked by strategic clarity, deep care, and tireless commitment. Maria's legacy is one of integrity, equity, and vision—and it has been a gift to work alongside her."

To view the full roster of MOCA's Board of Trustees, please visit moca.org/about/board.

# **ABOUT THE TRUSTEES**

Carolyn Clark Powers joined the MOCA Board of Trustees in 2009 and served as President from 2018-2025. In 2019, Carolyn made a transformational gift of \$10 million to allow MOCA to have FREE General Admission. Carolyn has also served on support groups for the Music Center, including the Board of Directors for The Blue Ribbon, the Center Dance Association, and the Board of Overseers for the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Carolyn is a Founder and Board Member of The Painted Turtle, Paul Newman's camp for children with serious illnesses; a Leadership Member of Visionary Women; and a member of The Colleagues. Previously she has served on the boards of the Grammy Museum Foundation and the Kennedy Center National Committee for the Performing Arts; and Chaired the Americans for the Arts' National Arts Awards and is the namesake of its Carolyn Clark Powers Lifetime Achievement Award, bestowed upon luminaries including Tony Bennett, Herbie Hancock, Sophia Loren, Mavis Staples, and Luchita Hurtado. Carolyn has served on the Board of Directors of the Aspen Art Museum, the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet, and Jazz Aspen Snowmass; and as a President Society Fellow at the Aspen Institute. She is also Co-chair of the Dockery Farms Foundation's board; supports the scholarship fund at the Herbie Hancock Institute; and spearheaded "The Blues and Jazz: Two American Classics," a music education program in partnership with the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz.

Tim Disney is an artist and entrepreneur from Los Angeles. He has produced, written, or directed multiple award



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winning feature films and documentaries which have appeared at Sundance, Telluride, SXSW and other festivals. He served as Chairman and CEO of Virtual World Entertainment, an early pioneer of XR-based entertainment systems, which was sold to Microsoft. Tim is an active investor in media and technology, and serves on multiple corporate boards, including Marginal Mediaworks, and Dragonfly Therapeutics. In the not-for-profit sector he is the founder of The Adamma Foundation, co-founder of World Connect, which makes micro grants to business start ups and public health projects in thirty countries in the developing world. He served for twelve years as a Trustee of Southern California Institute of Architecture, and 29 years as a Trustee of CalArts, eight of them as Chairman of the Board. He currently serves as a member of the Global Leadership Council of The World Resources Institute, and Curator of the community art space @2413hyperion. Tim was elected to MOCA's Board of Trustees in October 2022 and has been a member of MOCA's Environmental Council since 2021.

Blake Johnson is a Los Angeles based entrepreneur and philanthropist who has founded and successfully sold a variety of businesses throughout his career. Winner of the 2021 EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award, the current valuations for the 5 businesses he has conceptualized, founded, self-funded and sold exceed \$1.15 billion. His latest venture, Byte was named by Forbes Magazine as the fastest growing company ever from zero to \$1 billion in valuation. Prior to Byte, Blake served as the Chairman and Founder of Currency Capital, IM Capital Access, and CapNet Financial Services. All these companies were named on the Los Angeles Business Journal's Best Places to Work, and several of his ventures have landed him on the Inc 500/5000 list of fastest-growing privately held companies. In 2023, Blake was named the Los Angeles Philanthropist of the Year. He serves on the boards of many companies and institutions including MOCA, Providence St. John's Hospital, Big Brothers, Big Sisters Orange County and The University of Arizona. He is a significant benefactor of Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Boy Scouts of America, NFTE, the Los Angeles Mission, The Webb Schools, The Walker Museum, the Morgan Library and Museum in New York, and LACMA. Through the Blake Johnson Alliance, he provides grants to deserving businesses and non-profits serving the advancement of education, arts, sciences, and social well-being.

Margaret Morgan is an artist and writer. Over the course of more than four decades, she has had forty one-person exhibitions in Los Angeles, Zürich, Cologne, New York, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, including a major survey at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne. She has been invited to exhibit in group exhibitions including in New York, Los Angeles, Amsterdam, Zurich, Stuttgart, Vienna, Dresden, London, Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Adelaide and Perth and in regional galleries in California, the UK and Australia. Her written work is included in anthologies from MIT Press, Princeton Architectural Press, Blackwell Press and Demeter Press. Her most recent solo exhibition was in February 2025 at Luis De Jesus Los Angeles. Margaret has expanded her philanthropy over the past decade to include service as member of the Board of Directors for the LA Phil, Monday Evening Concerts, The Brick, and MOCA, where she is a long-term supporter and serves as Co-Chair of the Drawing and Photography Committee. She is honored most recently to be elected to MOCA's Board of Trustees. This service continues the work she began in the 1980s as Steering Committee Member of the Artworkers' Union, Australia; and Member of the Board of Artspace, Sydney.

Steven Rice was appointed to MOCA's Board of Trustees in January 2025. Over the course of a 45-year career, Steven has held executive roles at Hewlett-Packard and Juniper Networks, contributed to global philanthropy at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and most recently worked in biotech at Vir Biotechnology, where he focused on advancing solutions to infectious diseases. His work has centered on building strong, inclusive cultures and guiding organizations through meaningful growth and transformation. Steven and his spouse are dedicated supporters of the arts and were honored to be included in the ARTnews Top 200 Collectors list. Their collection reflects a deep appreciation for contemporary art and a belief in its power to inspire dialogue and foster human connection. Steven is grateful for the opportunity to join MOCA's Board of Trustees and looks forward to contributing to the museum's mission of supporting bold artistic expression and engaging diverse communities.



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Maria Seferian is a distinguished leader in the arts, business and legal community who has played a transformative role in shaping the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles. Maria served as Board Chair since 2018 and prior to that served as President and Vice-Chair, having been a Trustee since 2013. From Fall 2013 to Spring 2014, she also served as Interim Director and CEO of MOCA, a tenure highlighted by designing and leading a landmark \$100 million endowment campaign that secured the financial stability of the museum, the acquisition of the real property rights at MOCA's Grand Avenue location, the establishment of the Eric and Wendy Schmidt Environment and Art Prize, among other things. Maria is the President of Hillspire, LLC and Executive VC of Relativity Space. Prior to Hillspire, she was a partner at Munger, Tolles & Olson, LLP specializing in corporate mergers and acquisitions. Maria also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of IAC, Inc.

Wonmi Kwon is a devoted philanthropist, business leader, and longtime champion of contemporary art and artists. Her involvement with the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) spans nearly four decades, beginning in 1987 as a MOCA Founding Benefactor. She was elected to the Board of Trustees in 1996 and, in recognition of her extraordinary leadership and commitment, became a MOCA Life Trustee in June 2025. Wonmi has played a transformative role in shaping MOCA's collection and programming. She along with her husband, Dr. Kihong Kwon, a renowned retired heart surgeon, established The Kwon Family Fund for Asian and Asian-American Art at MOCA in 2002, enabling the acquisition of numerous important artworks. Her legacy is perhaps most visibly reflected in Wonmi's WAREHOUSE Programs, MOCA's signature platform for live art at The Geffen Contemporary, launched in 2019 through a landmark gift from the Kwon family. Their family's deep commitment to the arts continues through their daughter, Nancy Kwon Merrihew, who also serves as a MOCA Trustee.

### ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART (MOCA)

Founded in 1979, MOCA is the defining museum of contemporary art. In a relatively short period of time, MOCA has achieved astonishing growth; a world-class collection of nearly 8,000 objects, international in scope with deep holdings in Los Angeles art; hallmark education programs that are widely emulated; award-winning publications that present original scholarship; groundbreaking monographic, touring, and thematic exhibitions of international repute that survey the art of our time; and cutting-edge engagement with modes of new media production. MOCA is a not-for-profit institution that relies on a variety of funding sources for its activities.

Image credit: MOCA Grand Avenue by Elon Schoenholz.

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# **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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