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## **TNMOA Director Appointed to Association of Art Museum Directors Board of Trustees**

### *New Appointees Approved at AAMD's First Virtual Annual Meeting*

**Newark, March 22, 2021** – Linda C. Harrison, Director and CEO of The Newark Museum of Art (TNMOA), the largest art institution in New Jersey, has been appointed to the Board of Trustees for the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD), a national professional organization that brings together art museum directors at top institutions in the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

Harrison is one of five new AAMD trustees, which include the directors of the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Art Gallery of Ontario, and Harvard Art Museums. AAMD members approved the new appointees at the organization's first virtual annual meeting.

"I am tremendously honored to be chosen to serve with this esteemed group of art leaders," said Director Harrison. "We are at the precipice of a new era for arts institutions that calls for a fresh, thoughtful approach to leadership that embraces radical change in order to overcome the greatest challenges facing our industry."

The AAMD advances the profession by cultivating leadership, acting as advocates for the field and fostering excellence in art museums. Art museum directors must apply and be accepted to this organization based on a series of eligibility requirements.

Founded in 1916, AAMD's activities include guiding best practices in art museum management and governance and defining ethics for the field, particularly through Professional Practices in Art Museums; providing tools and training necessary to help directors guide their institutions; collecting data for the art museum field, such as an annual Salary Survey; and partnering with other organizations and entities on research for the field.

"Linda brings a wealth of corporate and museum experience to the Board and will be a great strategic thought partner as the field addresses the continued economic and social impacts of the pandemic. We're very pleased to welcome her on board and look forward to her contributions,"

said Lial A. Jones, AAMD's Board President and Mort and Marcy Friedman Director & CEO, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento.

Harrison joined The Newark Museum of Art as Director and CEO of the organization in 2018. She plays a strategic and unifying role for the institution and the city of Newark.

During her first 100 days, she developed a three-year Strategic Vision Plan to transform the Museum, adding a sense of urgency and a bold vision. Her plan expanded the notion of a logo upgrade into a major brand transformation, involving a re-engineering of the mission, brand image, and adding the clarifying words 'of Art' to the museum's name. She established a new senior leadership team and revamped the organization for more engaging community impact.

Since instituting significant changes, the coronavirus has created a new set of challenges. Director Harrison promises that The Newark Museum of Art will emerge from the pandemic as an institution well poised to serve the public in a post-pandemic setting.

Before joining TNMOA, Harrison was director of the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco where she spearheaded and led the museum redesign and construction expansion project with Gensler Architects, while simultaneously repositioning MoAD as a key contemporary art cultural anchor in the City of San Francisco.

Director Harrison joined the AAMD membership in April 2019 and will serve as a trustee for the next two years.

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### **About The Newark Museum of Art**

Founded in 1909, The Newark Museum of Art ("the Museum") is one of the most influential museums in the United States and the largest art and education institution in New Jersey. Its extensive collections, which include art from around the world as well as significant holdings of science, technology and natural history, rank 12th in size nationally. The Museum is dedicated to artistic excellence, education and community engagement with an overarching commitment to broadening and diversifying arts participation.

The Museum's renowned collections and interpretations have the power to educate, inspire and transform individuals of all ages. As our mission statement aptly states, "We welcome everyone with inclusive experiences that spark curiosity and foster community". The Museum responds to the evolving needs and interests of the diverse audiences it serves by providing exhibitions, programming, a research library, partnerships and resources designed to enrich people's lives. The Museum's collections are presented on a seven-acre campus that encompasses the Ballantine House, a Victorian-era mansion—a National Historic Landmark, the Dreyfuss Memorial Garden, and Horizon Plaza. The Museum also features the Alice and Leonard Dreyfuss Planetarium.

Under the leadership of its Director/CEO, Linda C. Harrison, The Newark Museum of Art is poised for a chapter of transformation, exciting growth and development. This position is instrumental to raising awareness and audience engagement while supporting Membership and fundraising drives to support the goals of the institution.