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The Newark Museum of Art Reopens on June 3;

***Museum Launches Summer Arts in the Garden Series in Partnership
with New Jersey Symphony Orchestra***

NEWARK, NJ – May 14, 2021 – The Newark Museum of Art will reopen to the public on June 3 following an extended closure as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Museum members are invited to enjoy early access every morning from 10 until 11 a.m.

Admission to the Museum will be on a discounted basis through the end of 2021. As always, members and Newark residents are admitted free.

Gallery hours will be from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., Thursday through Sunday. Timed admission tickets are required for all visitors. Tickets will cost \$10 and \$8 for children over 2-years-old years of age. People must reserve their tickets online. **Reservation information can be found at newarkmuseumart.org.**

Numerous safety measures will be in place for the reopening, including mandatory capacity limits and strict social distancing measures that adhere to local, state, and federal guidelines.

Due to their limited size, certain galleries of the museum will remain closed, at least through the end of the year. This will include the Ballantine House, the 1885 mansion which is part of the museum's complex, as well as The MakerSpace and Planetarium.

“If there was ever a time for art to help our world heal, this is it,” said Linda C. Harrison, director and CEO of The Newark Museum of Art. “After more than a year of our society facing elements such as illness, tragedy, racial unrest, and isolation, we are finally able to safely gather in small numbers to appreciate art and the creativity and imagination behind it.”

Harrison also offers thanks to New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka for their input on reopening guidelines while offering praise for managing the pandemic in Newark, New Jersey's largest city. She also credited these elected leaders for their efforts in ensuring that all Newark residents have access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

In May 2020, Harrison was appointed by Mayor Baraka to serve as lead of the Arts, Recreation, and Culture Committee for the Newark Reopening and Recovery Strikeforce, an unprecedented and

multi-disciplinary effort between government, the private sector, and organizations that have worked collectively to create policies and strategies on how to continue to move Newark forward as the COVID-19 threat slowly decreases.

Harrison also credits a group of employees at The Newark Museum of Art, the “Change Agents”, for developing the reopening plan and helping establish new museum policies. “We would not have been able to reopen without them,” she said. “Our staff really is the heart and soul of the institution. Incorporating them in the process was one of our highest priorities.”

New Jersey Arts Annual Debuts June 17

Shortly after the Museum reopens, visitors will be able to see the work of 45 outstanding New Jersey artists in the upcoming exhibition, ***2021 New Jersey Arts Annual: ReVision and Respond***. The Newark Museum of Art will host this year’s edition of the long-standing series that highlights the state’s artists. The exhibition will open on Thursday, June 17 and run through Sunday, August 22. The annual juried exhibition is sponsored by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts.

New Outdoor Series in Partnership with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

Throughout the summer, The Newark Museum of Art will host a special outdoor series, entitled ***Arts in the Garden***. The series includes 18 different programs – including nine live chamber concerts presented in partnership with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO), films and cultural celebrations, held in the Museum’s Alice Ransom Dreyfuss Memorial Garden. Capacity will be limited to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

The series debuts on Friday, June 9 at 7 p.m. as NJSO Resident Artistic Catalyst Daniel Bernard Roumain curates a series of groundbreaking programs in collaboration with NJSO musicians. Guests can enjoy a live concert experience, complete with impactful new works, underrepresented music voices from the past, and well-loved classics of the chamber music repertoire. The concerts include three programs curated by NJSO Concertmaster Eric Wyrick and a three-concert family series.

Arts in the Garden will have a separate admission fee from The Newark Museum of Art.

Live concerts will cost \$20 for general admission and \$17 for members of The Newark Museum of Art and the NJSO. Films will have a \$10 general admission fee, with \$7 for members of The Newark Museum of Art and the NJSO. Major support for *Arts in the Garden* is provided by the PSEG Foundation. Additional support is provided by the TD Charitable Foundation.

“We are delighted to partner with another Newark-based cultural leader in the NJSO,” Harrison says. “(NJSO President and CEO) Gabriel van Aalst and I thought the time was right to team up and create a unique series to help open up the downtown arts district. Together, we hope to introduce the arts to new audiences while we continue to entertain our loyal supporters.”

The public can also expect the Museum’s virtual programming – which grew a steady following during the pandemic – to continue. Program offerings go beyond offering art talks and online

guided tours of galleries. Happy hours, dance parties and murder mystery nights will remain as part of the Museum's programming.

Major Acquisition by Bisa Butler Makes Its Debut

With new exhibitions, installations, and partnerships, The Newark Museum of Art will further focus on expanding its role as a leading cultural institution at the center of an urban community that is 50% Black and 36% Latinx.

Making its debut this spring is the eagerly anticipated quilted portrait by renowned textile artist, Bisa Butler. Titled *The Warmth of Other Sons*, the Museum recently acquired this monumental textile by Butler, a resident of West Orange, New Jersey, who taught in the Newark Public School system for 10 years. Her textured approach with *The Warmth of Other Sons* will add an essential expansive chapter to the story of the Great Migration in the Museum's American galleries.

"We are determined to reopen as an art museum that goes far beyond the typical definition," Harrison said. "We want to lean more fully into our role as a cultural and civic leader in our city as we continue to increase our impact and relevance. I am looking forward to welcoming all our communities back into the Museum."

For more information on the reopening of The Newark Museum of Art, visit us on the web at www.newarkmuseumart.org.

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About the Newark Museum of Art

Founded in 1909, The Newark Museum of Art is the largest art and education institution in New Jersey and one of the most influential museums in the United States. Its renowned global art collections, supported by significant holdings of science, technology and natural history, rank 12th among North America's art museums. The Museum is dedicated to artistic excellence, education and community engagement with an overarching commitment to broadening and diversifying arts participation. As it has for over a century, the Museum responds to the evolving needs and interests of the diverse audiences it serves by providing exhibitions, programming and resources designed to improve and enrich people's lives.

The Museum also encompasses the Victoria Hall of Science, the Alice and Leonard Dreyfuss Planetarium, the 1885 Ballantine House, the MakerSPACE, the Billy Johnson Auditorium, the Alice Ransom Dreyfuss Memorial Garden, an authentic 1784 Schoolhouse, and the Newark Fire Museum.

The Newark Museum of Art, a not-for-profit museum of art and science, receives operating support from the City of Newark, the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State (a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts), the New Jersey Cultural Trust, the Prudential Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Victoria Foundation, the Estate of Phyllis and Sanford Bolton, the Wallace Foundation, and other corporations, foundations, and individuals. Funds for acquisitions and activities other than operations are provided by members and other contributors.

About the New Jersey State Council on the Arts

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, created in 1966, is a division of the NJ Department of State. The Council was established to encourage and foster public interest in the arts; enlarge public and private resources devoted to the arts; promote freedom of expression in the arts; and facilitate the inclusion of art in every public building in New Jersey. The Council receives direct appropriations from the State of New Jersey through a dedicated, renewable Hotel/Motel Occupancy fee, as well as competitive grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information, visit www.artscouncil.nj.gov.