"As a native New Yorker, I’ve seen so many neighborhoods change, people displaced, small businesses and organizations erased. But this cultural destination promises to be more than that, to do more than that for Brooklyn, and I look forward to growing MoCADA alongside our partners, 651 Arts, BAM, and Brooklyn Public Library. Through this new venture, we also hope to serve as an example of how distinct artistic communities can uplift one another and co-exist beyond ongoing industry changes for the betterment of the community first. So here’s to our monumental collaboration and imagining our shared future together.

We stand on the shoulders of giants, from Richard Wright and his *Native Son* which was written in Fort Greene Park to the creators of the Bogolan district along Fulton Street, to a younger Laurie Cumbo whose vision it was to create a Black arts institution named MoCADA which would contribute to the viability of the community in so many ways.

So now as prepare to celebrate MoCaDA's 20th anniversary and commitment to Black arts and culture, from a brownstone in Bed Stuy to at 7thousand + sq ft space at 300 Ashland Place, we are ever more focused on honoring this rich legacy of the neighborhood, creating more opportunities to make the arts and arts education more accessible to those who have been systematically left out, and most especially making the world more equitable for Black artists.

With that said, the MoCADA board and I would like to thank New York City Council, EDC, Two Trees, Andrea Steele Architecture, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, DCLA, NYSCA, Con Edison, The Rockefeller Foundation, and the 30+ organizations we have worked with to bring the arts directly to the people. Thank you to our biggest supporters including our founder Laurie Cumbo, Tom Finkelpearl, Marquise Stillwell, Alan Fishman, Jed Marcus, MoCADA board members Randall Sawyer, Mickalene Thomas, Melissa Howell, Sean Meenan, Ken Allen, Rolando Brown, Steve Sallion, Kevin Johnson, Tiffany Raspberry, Mike Cook, Gabrielle Glore, Chairwoman Andrea O’Neal, MoCADA staff past and present including and especially James Bartlett, Anthony Gomez, Cherise Jones, Shante Cozier, among others...

And to the artists, from the ones we have yet to meet, to the 100+ artists from over 24 countries for whom our space served as an incubator, we salute you and invite you to continue with us on this next leg of our journey here at 300 Ashland because our new home is your new home.

Thank you."

- Amy Andrieux, Executive Director & Chief Curator, MoCADA

December 4, 2019