

For immediate release

MASS MoCA
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MASS MoCA APPOINTS LISA DENT AS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Dent brings nearly 30 years of experience in arts management and advocacy to new senior leadership role—the first in MASS MoCA’s history

North Adams, MA, January 13, 2023 – MASS MoCA has appointed Lisa Dent as its new Director of Public Programs, the first in MASS MoCA’s nearly 25-year history. Dent comes to MASS MoCA from Artspace New Haven, where she has been Executive Director since 2020. Previously, she led public programs and business development at Powerhouse Arts, led the Artist Services department at Creative Capital, and was Associate Curator of Contemporary Art at Columbus Museum of Art. She also founded Lisa Dent Gallery in San Francisco, mounting exhibitions by artists such as Makoto Aida, Candice Lin, Jason Middlebrook, Kambui Olujimi, Ryan Pierce, Basil Twist, and Hank Willis Thomas. Dent began her new role this month.

“Lisa Dent brings a tremendous working knowledge to MASS MoCA, across multiple fields of creative practice and with a depth of leadership I have long admired,” says Director Kristy Edmunds. “In shaping this new department, she will weave our existing programming areas into whole new fields of possibility for how MASS MoCA’s collaborations with artists can be amplified, shared and exchanged with our communities near and far. I am thrilled she will be joining our team.”

In her new role, Dent will oversee public programming that amplifies and enhances MASS MoCA’s visual and performing arts offerings through programs in creative and cultural practices often found outside of exhibition-making and performance presentations, building upon long-standing partnerships with local, regional, and national organizations in authoring new initiatives.

“MASS MoCA is an incredible institution with a unique position in Berkshire County,” says Dent. “I’m excited to be able to collaborate with Kristy Edmunds, the board of trustees, and the entire staff to create unique experiences with the arts for all.”

About Lisa Dent

Dent has been in the field for close to 30 years, bringing enthusiasm, humor, and heart to her work every day. This includes her creative practice as well as collaborations and management of larger, artistic projects. She has owned and managed departments of small, mid-size, and large organizations through the lens of inclusion, equity, and anti-oppression. Her background includes work in the visual arts, publishing, theater, and film, making her one of the few professionals deeply engaged with artists and colleagues across multiple genres. Dent received her BFA from Howard University and her MFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, and completed the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program in curatorial studies. She has served on several juries and committees and is currently a board member of Black Lunch Table.

About MASS MoCA

MASS MoCA is one of the world's liveliest centers for making and enjoying today's most evocative art. With vast galleries and a stunning collection of indoor and outdoor performing arts venues, MASS MoCA is able to embrace all forms of art: music, sculpture, dance, film, painting, photography, theater, and new, boundary-crossing works of art that defy easy classification. Much of the work we show in our light-filled spaces, on our technically sophisticated stages, and within our lovely network of late 19th-century courtyards is made here during extended fabrication and rehearsal residencies that bring hundreds of the world's most brilliant and innovative artists to North Adams all year round. For more information about MASS MoCA, visit www.massmoca.org.