



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MOCA BOARD ELECTS MARIA ARENA BELL AND DAVID G. JOHNSON
AS LIFE TRUSTEES**



LOS ANGELES — The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (MOCA), announced today that its Board of Trustees has designated Maria Arena Bell and David G. Johnson as Life Trustees, acknowledging their significant commitment and service to the institution. Life Trustees are current or previous trustees elected by MOCA’s Board of Directors in recognition of especially meritorious service rendered to the museum. MOCA Life Trustees include Eli Broad, Betye Monell Burton, Blake Byrne, Lenore S. Greenberg, Audrey Irmes, Frederick M. Nicholas, and Thomas E. Unterman.

Bell joined the MOCA Board in 2008 and served as co-chair with Johnson from 2009 until her departure from the board in 2014. Johnson joined MOCA’s Board in 2005. He served as co-chair from 2008 to 2013, first with Unterman, then with Bell, and continues to serve as chair emeritus. As co-chairs, Bell and Johnson revitalized MOCA, initiating and leading a campaign that raised over \$120 million for MOCA’s endowment.

“Maria and David have been strong and significant members of the Board, and they were at the helm during a very challenging moment. They led MOCA through the storm and into a healthier, more prosperous time. The Museum and the entire Board are very grateful for their dedication, leadership, and hard work. I am happy that the Board acknowledged Maria and David by making them Life Trustees of MOCA,” remarks MOCA co-chair Maurice Marciano.

Maria Arena Bell

Maria Arena Bell is a television writer and producer who founded Vitameatavegamin Productions to develop projects for film, television, and new media. She is the Emmy Award-winning former head writer and executive producer of *The Young and the Restless*, the number-one daytime drama, where she had unprecedented success and led her team to two Writers Guild of America Awards. She has also written essays for *T: The New York Times Style Magazine*, *C Magazine*, *Aspen Magazine*, and many others.

Bell chaired five artist galas for MOCA, working closely with artists Takashi Murakami, Francesco Vezzoli, Doug Aitken, Marina Abramovic, and Rob Pruitt on events that were both financial successes and complete, immersive artworks. She co-chaired the endowment campaign and two director searches at MOCA. She chaired the Americans for the Arts National Arts Awards for over a decade, as vice chair of the board, and received the Legacy Award in 2015 for her extensive work in arts education. Bell also chaired P.S. Arts, an organization that provides art in Title 1 public elementary schools in the Los Angeles area, for five years, then served as president (then president at large) and chaired their signature fundraisers for over a decade.

Bell was appointed to the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Commission in 2013 by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and is a former California State Commissioner on the Commission for the Status of Women and Girls. She recently received

the 25th Annual Montblanc de la Culture Arts Patronage Award for her work in education and was inducted into the Newport Harbor High School Hall of Fame in 2015. She is also the recipient of a Women's Image Network Award for Women in Entertainment and Philanthropy. Bell currently serves on the board of MoMA PS 1 and is on the board of advisors for the Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University.

David G. Johnson

David G. Johnson is the founder of Act 4 Entertainment, a Los Angeles-based filmed entertainment and new media content company created to motivate and inspire audiences towards social action. Johnson most recently produced the live stage musical *American Psycho* in London and New York. He executive produced *The People Speak*, a feature-length documentary based on Howard Zinn's book *A People's History of the United States*, and *Angels in Exile*, a feature-length documentary about street kids of Durban, South Africa. Johnson also produced *The Man Nobody Knew: In Search of My Father*, *CIA Spymaster William Colby*, a feature-length documentary about the career and family life of controversial CIA director Colby, and *Company Town*, the upcoming feature-length documentary about environmental injustice in Crossett, Arkansas.

Johnson was a cofounder of Agility Capital, LLC, a venture fund for early-stage companies. He was formerly a senior executive at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. (MGM) and a partner of the international law firm White & Case.

Johnson co-chaired (with Bell) two director searches at MOCA and led the endowment campaign. He also led a 2008 initiative to raise nearly \$57 million and stabilize MOCA's finances.

Johnson is a board member and former chair of Public Counsel Law Center, the nation's largest public interest pro bono law firm. He founded the Center's Opportunity Under Law Project to address economic injustice through large-scale impact litigation. In 2012, Congressional Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) presented Johnson with Public Counsel Law Center Founders Award for his commitment to the organization.

Prior to his Life Trustee designation, Johnson served as chair emeritus on the MOCA Board of Trustees. Johnson is also a trustee of California Institute of the Arts, a member of the board of directors of Children Now and KCETLink, and a member of the board of advisors of the Yale School of Drama.

THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, LOS ANGELES (MOCA)

About MOCA: Founded in 1979, MOCA's vision is to be the defining museum of contemporary art. In a relatively short period of time, MOCA has achieved astonishing growth with three Los Angeles locations of architectural renown; a world-class permanent collection of more than 6,800 objects, international in scope and among the finest in the world; 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.

Hours: MOCA Grand Avenue (located at 250 South Grand Avenue in Downtown Los Angeles) is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11am to 6pm; Thursday from 11am to 8pm; Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 5pm; and closed on Tuesday. The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA (located at 152 North Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012) has the same hours as MOCA Grand Avenue during exhibitions. Please call ahead or go to moca.org for the exhibition schedule for The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA. MOCA Pacific Design Center (located at 8687 Melrose Avenue, West Hollywood, CA 90069) is open Tuesday through Friday from 11am to 5pm; Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 6pm; and closed on Monday. The MOCA Store at MOCA Grand Avenue (located at 250 South Grand Avenue) is open Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 10:30am to 5:30pm; Thursday from 10:30am to 8:30pm; and Saturday and Sunday from 10:30am to 6:30pm.

Museum Admission: General admission is free for all MOCA members. General admission is also free for everyone at MOCA Grand Avenue and The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA on Thursdays from 5pm to 8pm, courtesy of Wells Fargo. General admission is always free at MOCA Pacific Design Center. General admission at MOCA Grand Avenue and The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA is \$15 for adults; \$8 for students with I.D.; \$10 for seniors (65+); and free for children under 12.

More Information: For 24-hour information on current exhibitions, education programs, and special events, call 213/626-6222 or access MOCA online at moca.org.

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