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HCCC NAMES LEILA CARTIER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cartier to Join Houston Center for Contemporary Craft This Summer

(HOUSTON, TX) April 26, 2023 — The Board of Directors of Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) is pleased to announce that Leila Cartier will be the Center’s executive director beginning July 17th. Her appointment follows her role as executive director of CraftNOW Philadelphia, an organization uniting institutions, scholars, and artists to promote the role of the city in the fields of craft and making.

Cartier brings a wealth of strategic and administrative leadership experience to HCCC, as well as a deep understanding of and connections in the world of contemporary craft. During her tenure at CraftNOW, she directed an annual portfolio of activities, featuring Philadelphia’s most renowned arts institutions; formed key partnerships; and developed a series of programs focused on economic opportunity through craft. Her work fortified the organization’s original mission, substantially expanded its range, and positioned it prominently within the city’s and nation’s cultural landscapes. Previously, she served as the director of exhibitions at the William King Museum of Art, located in her hometown of Abingdon, Virginia.

As executive director of Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Cartier will work closely with the board and staff to begin a new strategic planning process that will emphasize expanding the local and national presence of the organization, enhancing educational offerings, and further advancing its highly regarded artist residency program. She is also profoundly committed to strengthening community partnerships. Judy Nyquist, Board President, commented, “We are thrilled to have Leila as our new executive director. She brings an entrepreneurial spirit, a deep connection to the field of contemporary craft, and an eagerness to expand our reach. We are confident that she has the experience, expertise, and vision to lead HCCC in realizing its full potential in the years to come.”

Cartier is also excited to join the organization in her new role: “The HCCC Board and staff are full of talent and radiate enthusiasm for the organization. I am motivated by their desire to implement new, community-informed projects right away, while simultaneously working on ambitious, transformative goals to attain in the near future. With HCCC’s existing networks and excellent programming, I look forward to broadening our reach as a welcoming, imaginative, civic-minded destination and setting a standard for exceptionalism in contemporary craft.”

Cartier holds an MFA in painting and drawing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and studied Arabic language at Depaul University with a Jacob K. Javits Fellowship. Her BFA in art and art history, from Moore

College of Art & Design in Philadelphia, included a year spent with Temple University in Rome, Italy. She also maintains a personal studio practice.

Cartier will receive an enthusiastic welcome to Houston on Thursday, May 4th, when she joins the HCCC team for their annual fundraiser, the Crafting a Legacy Spring Luncheon. Tickets for the event are on sale now at <https://crafthouston.org/events/luncheon-2023/>.

About Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) is a nonprofit visual arts center dedicated to advancing education about the process, product, and history of craft. HCCC has served as a treasured resource in the Houston arts community and the region for more than 20 years. The Center showcases emerging and acclaimed artists in exhibitions, introduces visitors of all ages to contemporary craft through innovative educational programming, and supports the development of working artists through its artist residency program.

HCCC is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM. HCCC is closed on major holidays and will be closed on May 4, 2023, for the Crafting a Legacy Spring Luncheon. Admission is free. Before visiting, the public should visit www.crafthouston.org to view the latest information. HCCC is located in the Museum District at 4848 Main Street, three blocks south of the Wheeler Ave. MetroRail station. Free parking is available directly behind the facility, off Rosedale and Travis Street.

HCCC is supported by individual donors and members and funded in part by The Brown Foundation; Houston Endowment, Inc.; the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance; Texas Commission on the Arts; the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kinder Foundation; the Morgan Foundation; Windgate Charitable Foundation; and the Wortham Foundation. HCCC is a member of the Houston Museum District and the Midtown Arts District.

For more information, call 713-529-4848 or visit www.crafthouston.org. Find HCCC on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram @CraftHouston.

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