



## **Roxanne Padgett named as the new Executive Director of MOCHA**

**Oakland, CA – October 2014** - The Board of Directors of the Museum of Children's Arts (MOCHA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Roxanne Padgett as its new Executive Director. Lauded as a creative and collaborative leader, Padgett will head MOCHA's efforts to bring the transformative power of art to the greater East Bay.

Padgett is a visual artist, credentialed teaching artist, and administrator with more than 30 years experience in multiple youth service and nonprofit organizations. She brings a combination of art education practices, management experience, and passion for the arts to her new role. "Throughout my two decades long involvement with MOCHA my commitment to fulfilling the organization's mission—*that the arts are a fundamental part of the lives of all children*—has never wavered. I strongly believe in the power of creativity and how impactful the arts can be in transforming communities."

An Oakland institution, MOCHA is celebrating 25 years of service in 2014. Known for its innovative approach to arts education, the organization is a vibrant center for Bay Area children, youth, and families. MOCHA's school and community programs are models for arts integration with a longstanding presence in Oakland schools and underserved communities. Under Padgett's leadership, MOCHA will expand programming for the museum while also continuing to cultivate alliances with local schools, libraries, and organizations.

A longtime East Bay resident, Padgett feels passionately that art can play a role in healing communities by generating opportunities to create and connect in constructive ways. "I believe that art education prepares students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce by developing the ability to innovate, communicate and collaborate. Arts education has the power to improve student engagement, lower dropout rates, and close the achievement gap regardless of socioeconomic status."

The announcement of Padgett marks a return to the original ideology of the organization; which has, since founder Jill Vialet's departure, looked outside of its doors for leadership. "We are thrilled to support Roxanne as she continues to advance the growth and development of MOCHA programs, inspire staff and teaching artists, and expand our reach in the East Bay community. She has demonstrated tremendous ability on each front, and we look forward to MOCHA's bright future," said Hilmon Sorey, MOCHA's Board of Directors Chair.