

Oakland's Museum of Children's Arts Announces New Leadership & New Home

Jan 4, 2019

Oakland, CA

The Museum of Children's Arts Board of Directors is thrilled to announce that we are launching "MOCHA 2.0" with a new space, new leadership, and a revitalized artistic program. MOCHA is now open for business in Oakland's City Center, located on the lower level of 1221 Broadway, conveniently located next to the 12th street BART station in the heart of downtown Oakland. This enlarged and customized venue can simultaneously host activities in three separate art-making spaces, including camps, birthday parties and family drop-in sessions. Long known for its mission of providing high quality arts experiences for Bay Area children and families, MOCHA is pairing this move with a fresh new look at programs and leadership.

An expanded and re-imagined leadership launches "MOCHA 2.0", with MOCHA alumna Nina Woodruff-Walker accepting the role as Interim Executive Director and Roxanne Padgett's stepping into a new role as Creative Director.

Nina Woodruff Walker, first came to the organization in 1989 as a "MOCHA kid," describing the art-making space as a welcoming refuge in her teenage years. Nina returned as a Board member in 2006. With her unmatched love for and commitment to MOCHA, she will put her strategic and business acumen to work to implement MOCHA 2.0, with a focus on increasing MOCHA's reach by tapping into the technology community in the Bay Area with enhanced technology and art-based projects and partnerships. MOCHA will be able to play a critical role in contributing the "A" in science, technology, engineering, ART and mathematics. "I believe art is technology and it's imperative that MOCHA is an active participant in STEAM education and advocacy," says Woodruff Walker, who is passionate that supplementing MOCHA's in-school and on-site art programs will open MOCHA's child artists into new worlds of creativity. Nina is a self-proclaimed poetess who understands the value of providing a platform for children to express and create. MOCHA enables children to create, share and claim their own narrative. Nina's three children, Brooke, Brooklyn, and Nia follow in her creative footsteps as the next generation of MOCHA kids.

Roxanne Padgett, who has led MOCHA for the past four years, will work closely with Nina on the new vision. This move allows Roxanne to focus on her first love, arts education, providing a renewed platform for her artistic and teaching talents. Roxanne has been with MOCHA for 23 years, and most recently led the relocation effort, which resulted in finding the perfect space for MOCHA 2.0. Under her leadership, school and

library programs have thrived, as has community regard for this beloved Oakland institution.

Nina's passion and enthusiasm, coupled with Roxanne's artistic vision, will help us reinvent MOCHA for the new year, delivering on our mission to make hands-on art accessible to those who desire to create, explore and play within the world of art while complimenting our traditional services with enhanced programs designed to reach a wider audience, " said Laura Abrams, Chairman of the Board of Directors of MOCHA.