

LACMA Appoints Colleen Bell, Mellody Hobson, and Robbie Robinson to its Board of Trustees

(Los Angeles, June 17, 2019)—The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) is pleased to announce the election of Colleen Bell, Mellody Hobson, and Robbie Robinson to its board of trustees. The appointment brings the total number of voting trustees to 51, in addition to 13 individuals honored as life trustees.

“We are thrilled to welcome Colleen, Mellody, and Robbie to LACMA’s Board of Trustees,” said LACMA board co-chairs Tony Ressler and Elaine Wynn. “Their strength in leadership and varied philanthropic experience will be incredible assets to the board as we build the museum of the future.”

“The arrival of our new trustees comes at a pivotal time for the museum, as our building campaign and our community outreach gain momentum,” said Michael Govan, CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director. “LACMA’s board members are deeply invested in developing artistic and cultural resources for L.A. County and beyond.”

Colleen Bell

Media executive and former ambassador Colleen Bell previously served on LACMA’s board (2011–14). During her tenure as U.S. Ambassador to Hungary (2014–17), she supported initiatives related to treaty negotiations, foreign policy, and international relations, and in 2017 received the Order of Merit Middle Cross, the second highest State Order of Hungary.

Prior to her diplomatic service, Bell was a leading business executive at an award-winning production company responsible for some of the most watched television programming in the world. Her work as a producer at Bell-Phillip Television Productions frequently earned the field’s most prestigious recognition for creative content, social awareness, and public health education, including three Emmy Award nominations.

Bell is a dedicated philanthropist and advocate. Her public service work has led to the implementation of critical initiatives in natural resource protection, child abuse prevention, crime victim counseling and care, public health awareness, and art accessibility. Since the end of her ambassadorship, Bell has become a member of the

Council of American Ambassadors and a Board Member of the Pacific Council, the Atlantic Council, and also Georgetown University, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service on International Policy. This month, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed her director of the California Film Commission.

Bell earned a BA in Political Economy from Sweet Briar College and studied International Relations at St. Andrews University in Scotland. She and her husband, writer/producer Bradley Bell, have four children.

Melody Hobson

Melody Hobson is the president of Ariel Investments, responsible for managing the firm's business operations, development, and strategic initiatives. Hobson also serves as Chair of the Board of Trustees of Ariel Investment Trust. Headquartered in Chicago, Ariel Investments manages assets of retirement plans, college saving accounts, and personal investment accounts with a focus on making investing accessible for everyone. Hobson is a regular contributor on CBS News, provides weekly money tips on the Tom Joyner Morning Show, and authors a column for Black Enterprise Magazine. In addition to serving as a financial expert in the media, Hobson is Vice Chair of the Board of Starbucks Corporation and serves as a director of JPMorgan Chase. She is former Chair of the Board of DreamWorks Animation.

As a Chicago native, Hobson is involved in numerous organizations that focus on improving the city. She serves as Chair of After School Matters, a nonprofit that provides Chicago teens with high-quality, out-of-school-time programs. She is also a board member of The Chicago Public Education Fund, and in 2017 became the first African American woman to serve as Chair of the Economic Club of Chicago.

Hobson is also a board member of the Rockefeller Foundation, George Lucas Education Foundation, and Lucas Museum of Narrative Art. In 2015, Time Magazine named Hobson one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World. She has been awarded honorary degrees from Howard University, Johns Hopkins University, and St. Mary's College, and earned her BA from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of International Relations and Public Policy.

Robbie Robinson

Robbie Robinson is a partner at BDT & Company, a merchant bank that provides advice and long-term capital to family- and founder-led businesses. He is responsible for both investing in and advising these businesses and managing several of the firm's priority client and limited partner relationships. Robinson has been at BDT since its

inception in 2009 and recently established the firm's presence on the West Coast in Los Angeles. Prior to BDT, Robinson spent nine years at Goldman Sachs in New York and Chicago working in investment, advisory and financing capacities. Since 2017, Robinson has worked with President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, counseling them on their personal endeavors.

An engaged civic leader, Robinson has served since 2014 as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for After School Matters, the largest after school program in the U.S. that provides high-school teens with opportunities to explore their talents while gaining critical skills for work, college and beyond. He is also a trustee of the George Lucas Family Foundation.

Robinson received a BA from Morehouse College. In 2015, the Robbie Robinson Finish Line Scholarship was created at Morehouse to provide last-resort funding for graduating seniors. To date, more than 200 Morehouse students have received the scholarship.

Robbie and his wife, D'Rita, founder of The Front Porch Conversations, have two children.

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About LACMA

Located on the Pacific Rim, LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection of nearly 140,000 objects that illuminate 6,000 years of artistic expression across the globe. Committed to showcasing a multitude of art histories, LACMA exhibits and interprets works of art from new and unexpected points of view that are informed by the region's rich cultural heritage and diverse population. LACMA's spirit of experimentation is reflected in its work with artists, technologists,

and thought leaders as well as in its regional, national, and global partnerships to share collections and programs, create pioneering initiatives, and engage new audiences.

Location: 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90036. lacma.org

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