

NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale Announces Seven New Members to its Curator Circle Committee
Theresa Christie, Lori Franke, Dawn Elise Hamilton, Sheryl Maher, Mark R. Richards, Lauren Sperber, and Zachariah "Reggie" P. Zachariah, Jr. join the Museum's Curator Circle Committee

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA. — [NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale](#) is pleased to appoint Theresa Christie, Lori Franke, Dawn Elise Hamilton, Sheryl Maher, Mark R. Richards, Lauren Sperber, and Zachariah "Reggie" P. Zachariah, Jr. to its Curator Circle Committee. With a steadfast passion for the arts, deep involvement in the community and a strong commitment to philanthropy, this committee leads the unique and exciting Curator Circle membership that offers the opportunity to directly participate in the Museum's permanent collection by contributing to the Acquisition Fund dedicated to the selection and purchase of artworks, while enjoying the benefits of stimulating and engaging events, and exclusive access to the art world.

"We are thrilled to welcome Theresa Christie, Lori Franke, Dawn Elise Hamilton, Sheryl Maher, Mark R. Richards, Lauren Sperber, and Zachariah "Reggie" P. Zachariah, Jr. to NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale's Curator Circle Committee," said Bonnie Clearwater, Director & Chief Curator. "Each new committee member brings a unique perspective and expertise to the growth of Curator Circle, the newest affinity group designed for the Next Generation of art enthusiasts, aspiring collectors, and Museum supporters."

These new appointees join Founding Curator Circle members Whitney Lane, Kristin Cline Wurzak, and Tara and Miles Forman.

NSU Art Museum's newly appointed Curator Circle Committee members include:

- **Theresa Christie**, a graduate with a B.S. in Regional Development from the University of Arizona. Theresa was formerly a teacher for Mesa Public Schools where she taught Geography and American History, she also enjoyed teaching Microsoft Word, Excel and HTML classes at Avaya, Inc. in Denver, Colorado. She served on the Beaux Arts Board for four years, is currently a member of Beaux Arts Fort Lauderdale, and has been involved in fundraising for NSU Art Museum throughout those years. She is the wife of Ted Christie and the mother of two teenagers. She enjoys playing tennis, running, skiing, art, reading and traveling.
- **Lori Franke**, a longtime contemporary art collector and supporter of the NSU Art Museum in Fort Lauderdale. Lori was one of the founding members of Cobra Circle before growing her membership to Curator Circle and served on the Board of Governors as Ex Officio during her two years as President of Beaux Arts, NSU Art Museum's auxiliary group. Currently a Regional Account Executive with AbbVie and mother to teen sons Carson and Crosby, she continues to volunteer for Beaux-Arts and Broward County Schools.
- **Dawn Elise Hamilton**, owner and principal designer at DawnElise Interiors International, Inc., a Fort Lauderdale-based interior design firm. Born and raised in the New York metropolitan area,

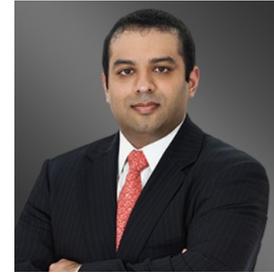


Dawn earned a bachelor's degree from Columbia University, where she majored in Art History. Subsequently, she worked at various world-renowned museums, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, El Museo del Barrio, and The Museum of the Moving Image. Design has always been a passion of hers, so after moving to South Florida, Dawn launched DawnElise Interiors in 2006 and has been building a reputation as a top-tier interior designer ever since.

- **Sheryl Maher**, a retired Chief Marketing Officer from Phillips PetFood and Supplies and VP of Sales and Marketing at Virbac Laboratories. After retiring, fundraising for meaningful organizations has become her passion. Sheryl serves on boards including the Foundation Board for the Lehigh Valley Charter Arts School, Bethlehem, PA and is the current past President of PAWS for the Broward County Humane Society. She has served as president for three years, vice president for two years and co-chaired four galas, as well as several other events in the last six years. Sheryl is a recent art enthusiast and started collecting mid-century and modern art over the last eight years. While she has collected some important pieces, the real value is when the piece speaks to her.
- **Mark R. Richards**, is a seasoned operating executive with 30 years of senior-level executive experience, including over 20 years in the C-Suite running large, global industrial businesses. Mark has 20 years of board experience performing various roles, including board chair and serving on all standing committees. Mark is a member and a founding chapter President of the Private Directors Association (PDA), a leading national non-profit organization dedicated to driving excellent practice in board formation and governance within private and family businesses. In addition, Mr. Richards is a certified Board Leadership Fellow from the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD), the highest level of credentialing for corporate directors and corporate governance professionals. Mark is passionate about performing and fine arts, wellness programming, and access to healthcare. He has served as a Trustee for the Appleton Performing Arts Center, a nationally recognized, award-winning performing arts center, and Thedacare Hospital, a nationally recognized leader in applying lean principles to a healthcare setting to control costs while improving care. Mark has been a long-term fundraiser for United Way, Trout Museum of Art, Habitat for Humanity, and Catalpa, a novel delivery system for addressing community-wide adolescent behavioral health issues in rural counties. Mr. Richards co-founded Fusion, a women's affinity group focused on leadership development and C-Suite sponsorship and grew to over 700 members.
- **Lauren Sperber**, mother of three children and the wife of Andrew Sperber. She is a Fort Lauderdale native and has supported NSU Art Museum for several years. She is a philanthropist and co-founder of the Childhood Cancer Project. In addition to her nonprofit work, she is an interior designer, which includes her passion for the arts.
- **Zachariah "Reggie" P. Zachariah, Jr.**, a shareholder in the firm's Corporate Practice in Fort Lauderdale and focuses his practice on private equity transactions;



mergers and acquisitions; corporate restructurings and counseling boards and senior management on strategic business, corporate formation and governance, financial and transactional matters. Reggie's specific industry experience includes healthcare technology and services, education, insurance, manufacturing, franchises, retail, and infrastructure. Before law school, he was a financial analyst, focusing on mergers & acquisitions for a public company.



The Curator Circle is a unique and exciting membership that offers the opportunity to directly participate in the Museum's permanent collection by contributing to the Acquisition Fund dedicated to the selection and purchase of art works, while enjoying the benefits of stimulating and engaging events, and exclusive access to the art world. The acclaimed Unveiling Reception on March 31, 2023, marked a new milestone in NSU Art Museum's history: the first artwork to enter the permanent collection thanks to the exceptional dedication and support of Curator Circle members. Congratulations to Miami artist Zoe Schweiger and Haitian artist Kathia St. Hilaire, whose paintings *High Tide* and *Tout Moun Se Yo Moun* were chosen for this honor.

Situated midway between Miami and Palm Beach, NSU Art Museum is located in the heart of Downtown Fort Lauderdale. The Museum is a premier destination for exhibitions and programs encompassing all facets of civilization's visual history and is widely known for its significant collection of Latin American art, contemporary art with an emphasis on art by Black, Latin American and women artists, as well as works by American artist William Glackens and the European CoBra group of artists. For more information, please visit <https://nsuartmuseum.org>.

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About NSU Art Museum

Founded in 1958, NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale is a premier destination for exhibitions and programs encompassing many facets of civilization's visual history. Located midway between Miami and Palm Beach in downtown Fort Lauderdale's arts and entertainment district, the Museum's 83,000 square-foot building, which opened in 1986, was designed by architect Edward Larrabee Barnes and contains over 25,000 square feet of exhibition space, the 256-seat Horvitz auditorium, a museum store and café. In 2008, the Museum became part of Nova Southeastern University (NSU), one of the largest private research universities in the United States. NSU Art Museum is known for its significant collection of Latin American art, contemporary art with an emphasis on art by Black, Latinx and women artists, African art that spans the 19th to the 21st century, as well as works by American artist William Glackens, and the European Cobra group of artists. Two scholarly research centers complement the collections: The Dr. Stanley and Pearl Goodman Latin American Art Study Center and the William J. Glackens Study Center.

Major support for NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale is provided by the David and Francie Horvitz Family Foundation Endowment, the City of Fort Lauderdale, Wege Foundation, Community Foundation of Broward, Lillian S. Wells Foundation, the Broward County Cultural Division, the Cultural Council, the



Broward County Board of County Commissioners, the State of Florida through the Division of Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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