651 ARTS appoints industry veteran Monica L. Williams as new arts leader

BROOKLYN, NY — As the world continues to adjust to a new normal in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Brooklyn’s renowned organization 651 ARTS today announced a major step forward in reinventing their role. Throughout the crisis, the organization has been working to make arts accessible to everyone, and today they announced the appointment of Monica L. Williams in the new role of Director of Programs and Chief Curator (DPCC). With Williams scheduled to begin in her role at 651 on August 3, the institution looks forward to welcoming her and appreciates the wealth of experience she brings to the table. I look forward to the moment and sustain and grow 651’s identity – our artistic programs. She is an accomplished leader who is deeply rooted in the arts of the Diaspora. The ways in which the center contributes to the community, the work, thinks globally, not to mention how we love Brooklyn and will transform 651’s programing and serve our larger organizational vision to illuminate the evolving stories and varied cultural experiences. I believe that in Monica we have found the best match for 651 in these historic and future-focused times,” said Roberts.

Since its start in 1988, 651 ARTS has become a trusted convener of contemporary African Diasporic artistic expression, a champion and nurturer for emerging artists and their work and a vital cultural resource for its surrounding communities. Part of 651’s success is owed to the legacy of Black culture in Brooklyn, celebrate the eclecticism of Black performance and to pioneer new visions of African Diaspora artists—continuing to lay the framework for the next decade and reinforcing its role as an incubator for artistic innovation in the 21st century. For more information contact: Nina Flowers ninaflowerspr@gmail.com; (917) 388-7444

Monica L. Williams

Monica L. Williams is a conceptual performance artist and artistic leader who specializes in cross-sector collaborations. Over her 20-year career, she has produced, curated, and directed projects and performances centered around the World Famous Apollo Theater, National Black Arts Festival, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts Music, the Kentucky Foundation for Women’s Special Project has received national recognition and philanthropic support for community-based arts work that celebrates and inculturates. She is the founder of Create Legacy, a creative self-development company and formally full-time lecturer in African American Studies at New York City College of Technology. Monica is a 2020 MAP Fund recipient, a 2016 NACAD Creative Cultural Advoca-
cay Fellow, a Rockwood Leadership Institute Fellow, a mentee of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society and a graduate of Wright State University and New York University.

About 651 ARTS

Founded in Brooklyn, NY in 1988, the mission of 651 ARTS is to bring the community together in celebration and appreciation of contemporary performing arts and culture of the African Diaspora. The organization provides professional and creative opportunities for artists of African Descent. 651 ARTS’ nature programs have featured pioneering black choreographers throughout the world including Germaine Acogny, Nora Chipaumire, Carmen de Lavallade, Diane McIntyre, Bebe Miller, Abdel R. Salaam and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar. As part of its commitment to the furtherance of conversations and celebration of Diaspora music, the institution has presented dialogues and performances by Soni, Hugh Mase-
kel, and Grammy-winning artist Bettye Lavette, to name a few. Theatrical and text-based works by Anna Deavere Smith, Sekou Sundziat, Mariam Mamutu Joseph, Nozake Shange, Okwui Okpokwasili and Maria Bauman are re-presentative of the hundreds of artists and productions featuring solo creations, collaborations, emerging artists, and works-in-development all produced by 651’s visionary leadership. 651 ARTS’ programs are made possible by gifts from generous individuals and grants from the Bay and Paul Foundations, Con Edison, Donors Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, Lambert Founda-
tion, the LaEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust, Mertz Gilm-
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Wednesday's Woman

By Audrey J. Bernard

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