FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAP Fund to Begin New Executive Director Search: Moira Brennan Steps Down After 20 Years of Dedicated Service

NEW YORK, NY – The MAP Fund announced today that Moira Brennan will step down from her role after 20 years with the philanthropic organization. MAP’s Board of Directors has hired Fisher Associates to assist with a search for Brennan’s successor who is expected to begin by Spring 2023. David Blasher, who has served as a consulting operations manager for the MAP Fund's Scaffolding for Practicing Artists program, will serve as Interim Executive Director.

Reuben Roqueñí, MAP Fund Board Chair stated on behalf of the Board of Directors:

“For two decades, Moira has consistently championed the voices of under-resourced communities, of artists who push back on oppressive systems, of artists that explore the edges of artistic practice in doing so. With utmost respect and gratitude, we honor Moira's leadership, not only at MAP, but in the significant impact she has had on the field.”

Of her departure, Brennan said:

“When I joined MAP, I was immediately intrigued by the questions that lie at the intersection of creative freedom, power, and money in America,” Moira has said of what attracted her to the role at MAP. “I wanted to engage the ‘problem’ of how to redistribute resources with the goal of cultural progress, justice and equity. There are a lot of assumptions embedded in systems of meritocracy, and we often fail to see the profound harm that artists can experience when trying to work within that system. Those questions have driven my thinking always at MAP and will continue to compel me.”

Brennan’s leadership at MAP began as a program associate in 2002, when The Multi-Arts Production Fund, as it was formerly known, was a program of the Rockefeller Foundation, administered by Creative Capital. In 2016, under Brennan’s tenure, MAP became an independent organization with the intention of advancing its values rooted in equitable distribution of philanthropic resources within the arts and culture community. Since 2016, MAP has nearly quadrupled its staff, doubled its budget, and exponentially increased the number of artists who have benefitted from its programs.

Examples of programming Brennan has pioneered with her colleagues include Scaffolding for Practicing Artists, co-developed with David Sheingold, and based on the late great Paul Farmer’s principle of “accompaniment as policy,” which advances the idea that artists’ professional journey should be supported with dignity and care. Brennan also co-developed Equity in the Panel Room, with thirteen of her colleagues, which is an exploration of systemic problems in grant making and collectively ideated alternative systems. MAP also became one of seven sister organizations that developed and executed Artist Relief to support creative professionals hit hard by COVID in 2020 and 2021.
Brennan said of her partnership with staff and colleagues at MAP:

“The MAP staff, Kamyar Atabai, David Blasher, Maya Quetzali Gonzalez, Sarah Mostov, Ron Ragin, Kim Savarino, and Lauren Slone, have co-created this organization with me, and they truly are brilliant change-makers. What they are building, with the support of a deeply aligned board of directors, is rooted in systems of care and dignity for artists and is at the leading edge of the change we need. I’m proud that MAP is so strongly positioned to meet the urgent and evolving imperatives in the field today. The organization has never been more alive in its mission, and I’m so excited to support its next generation of leadership.”

In the coming months MAP will begin the search process for a new Executive Director while continuing its work advancing equity, care, and dignity for artists as performers, producers, and most importantly people in the cultural philanthropic and creative communities.

Biographies for Moira Brennan and David Blasher can be accessed [here](#). For more information, visit mapfund.org.

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**About the MAP Fund**

MAP is the longest running private funding source for new performance works in the United States and its territories. Since 1989, MAP has championed cultural equity and formal innovation in performance practices with an investment of more than $34 million. Over three decades, thousands of artists have received grants and strategic support for groundbreaking projects that interrogate presumptive cultural norms, challenge entrenched ideologies, and remind us of our shared humanity.
MAP Fund Leadership Transition
FAQ

When will MAP begin the search for a new Executive Director?
MAP has already begun the search for a new Executive Director. The organization has hired Fisher Associates Executive Search to assist in the process. A new Executive Director is expected to begin by Spring 2023.

Who will lead MAP in the interim until a new Executive Director is named?
David Blasher, a member of MAP’s Scaffolding for Practicing Artists team, has been appointed interim director.

Will Moira’s transition have any impact on current MAP programming?
All scheduled programming will continue uninterrupted during Moira’s transition.

Since you are using a search firm for Moira’s replacement, is anyone able to apply for the role?
Yes, all are welcome to apply.

Will there be a job description available? Where can I find it?
MAP will announce the opportunity through our mailing lists as soon as it becomes available. You can sign up for our mailing list here.

Why is Moira leaving? Does she have any plans once she leaves MAP?
Moira is honored to have worked in the MAP community for 20 years. She will take some time to work on personal projects and will continue to support the creative sector in multiple ways.