

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

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**Blanton Museum of Art Names Kenyon Adams as Director of Public Programs
in Advance of 2023 New Grounds Completion**



The Blanton will launch a full slate of programs during its 60th year

AUSTIN, TX — November 9, 2022 — The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin is pleased to announce that Kenyon Adams has joined the museum as Director of Public Programs. Adams joins the Blanton as it prepares to launch a new line-up of programming in conjunction with the reopening of its grounds, currently under construction for a [comprehensive redesign by renowned international design firm Snøhetta](#), with completion expected in Spring 2023.

“We are delighted to welcome Kenyon Adams to the Blanton,” said director Simone Wicha. “He brings a wealth of experience in the arts and a proven track record of success in visionary public programming. Our new grounds have been designed to open the museum into the city, inviting people in to experience creativity and community throughout. I’m confident Kenyon will help us create programs that make the most of these beautiful new spaces, our collections, and our exhibitions—ensuring the Blanton is a vibrant and beloved destination.”

In this role, Adams will lead the Blanton’s public programming, further strengthening the museum’s presence among its audiences across Central Texas and beyond. Along with current popular programs such as the online *Curated Conversations* series and the acclaimed art and music series *SoundSpace*, Adams will develop a full slate of new offerings. The line-up will include live events to inaugurate the outdoor performance spaces on the Moody Patio, a centerpiece of the Blanton’s revitalized grounds.

“I’m thrilled to join the Blanton during this transformational stage and lead its public programming in a reimagined space,” said Adams. “The unique potential of public programs is the opportunity to activate

spaces in ways that connect audiences, mission, and institutional memory. I greatly look forward to working with the team to further engage Austin's diverse communities."

Adams previously served as the founding Director of the Arts Initiatives at Grace Farms and the SANAA-designed River Building in New Canaan, CT, where he developed and led public arts programming for an award-winning international institution that welcomed a variety of audiences. He also has contributed in various roles to the Louis Armstrong House Museum, *Live Ideas* (New York Live Arts), the Alpine Fellowship, the Langston Hughes Project, YoungArts, the National Arts Policy Roundtable (Americans for the Arts), the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and the Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College.

Since moving to Austin from Brooklyn last fall, Adams has worked as Strategic Development Advisor to Fusebox Festival. He is a Senior Fellow at the Hannah Arendt Center at Bard College and Resident Artist at Texas Performing Arts at The University of Texas at Austin. Adams has performed nationally as a singer, songwriter, and blues harmonica player. He studied Religion & Literature at Yale Divinity School, and Theology of Contemporary Performance at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. He holds a BFA from Southern Methodist University and an MAR from Yale University.

About the Blanton Museum of Art

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art holds the largest public collection in Central Texas with more than 21,000 objects. Recognized as the home of Ellsworth Kelly's *Austin*, its major collecting areas are modern and contemporary U.S. and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and prints and drawings. The Blanton offers thought-provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.