

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

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MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE APPOINTS AZIZ ISHAM AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Astoria, New York, August 24, 2023 — The Board of Trustees of Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI) today announced the appointment of Aziz Isham as their new Executive Director. A veteran non-profit arts executive, Emmy-winning filmmaker, writer, and curator, Isham steps into the leadership position on October 1, 2023, as the Museum explores a major project to redesign its core exhibition.

Isham comes to the Museum after a twenty-year career leading non-profit arts organizations, most recently as the executive director of Twenty Summers, whose annual festival in Provincetown, Massachusetts, presents and incubates original work that imagines a more sustainable and equitable future. Prior to that, Isham was the founding Executive Producer of the Brooklyn-based community-media network BRIC TV where he oversaw hundreds of hours of programming by filmmakers and journalists and shepherded numerous features and shorts to the national spotlight. While there, he opened a state-of-the-art media incubation center in Downtown Brooklyn. Isham has produced more than 40 documentaries, feature films, and TV series—with an emphasis on independent and community-focused productions. He has received six NY Emmy Awards for documentaries on climate change, education, and the arts.

Isham grew up in New York City and graduated from Yale with a degree in Anthropology. He speaks frequently on community and media and teaches showrunning and social justice filmmaking at the Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema in Brooklyn, New York. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife and two young children.

"MoMI really is the museum of the moment. AI is changing everything we think we know about the moving image and media literacy is a prerequisite for navigating our world online. I can't think of a more relevant New York institution and a better place to make sense of the present and figure out our future," said Isham. "As the world of the moving image transforms, we've got this opportunity to redesign how the Museum engages with the public, and with our communities in Queens and in New York City. I'm especially thrilled to be joining as the Museum re-imagines its core exhibition—building on so much incredible work by the curators, staff, and trustees."

"After our six-month robust search, we are thrilled to announce Aziz Isham as MoMI's new Executive Director," said MoMI Co-Chair Ivan Lustig. "With his impressive background and diverse set of skills, Aziz emerged as the most capable, energetic, and enthusiastic candidate, and we are truly delighted to have him join the MoMI team."

"Aziz's background and many achievements leading non-profit arts organizations make him a dynamic addition to MoMI's fine leadership team," added MoMI Co-Chair Michael Barker. "Together with our curators, educators, and other staff, we look for Aziz to advance the mission of our Museum and shape and expand the footprint of our many education and community engagement initiatives. We are pleased to welcome him in the midst of an exciting new era for MoMI."

The Museum is in the planning phase of a full redesign of its core exhibition that explores how people create and engage with the moving image, defined as film, television, video games, social media, and other forms of digital media. The new exhibition, to be on view for a decade, will take a culturally and physically inclusive approach to this subject matter. Located on two floors comprising 13,000 square feet of gallery space, it will immerse visitors in the creative and technical process of producing, promoting, and presenting films, television shows, and digital entertainment, and consider how audiences creatively respond to screen-based stories and characters. The Museum anticipates the redesigned exhibition will play a critical role as its touchstone experience and primary teaching resource.

The project has received major support from the State of New York, with funding secured by Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris; the Institute of Museum and Library Services; the National Endowment for the Humanities; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Office of the Queens Borough President Donovan Richards; and individual supporters.

Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI) is the only institution in the United States that deals comprehensively with the art, technology, enjoyment, and social impact of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facility in Astoria, New York, the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, and creative leaders; and education programs. It houses the nation's largest collection of moving image artifacts and screens over 500 films annually. Its exhibitions—including the core exhibition *Behind the Screen* and *The Jim Henson Exhibition*—are noted for their integration of material objects, interactive experiences, and audiovisual presentations. For more information about the MoMI, visit movingimage.us.

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Top image: Aziz Isham / photo: Joe Navas

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MUSEUM INFORMATION

Hours: Thurs, 2:00–6:00 p.m. Fri, 2:00–8:00 p.m. Sat–Sun, 12:00–6:00 p.m.

Museum Admission: \$20 adults, \$12 senior citizens (ages 65+) and students (ages 18+) with ID, \$10 youth (ages 3–17). Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. General admission is free every Thursday, 2:00–6:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, tickets: \$15 adults, \$11 students and seniors, \$9 youth (ages 3–17), free or discounted for Museum members (depending on level of membership). Advance purchase is available online.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M or R to Steinway Street. N or W to 36 Ave or Broadway.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

Membership: movingimage.us/join-and-support/become-a-member or 718 777 6877

Museum of the Moving Image is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and has received significant support from the following public agencies: New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York City Council; New York City Economic Development Corporation; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature; Institute of Museum and Library Services; National Endowment for the Humanities; National Endowment for the Arts; and Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation). For more information, please visit movingimage.us.