

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MoMI ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF 'OPEN WORLDS,' OFFERING FREE ACCESS TO MUSEUM'S EXPANSIVE LOBBY AND COURTYARD BEGINNING MAY 18

Initiative will create brand-new WiFi-enabled community and green space in western Queens

Museum to host free community programs; café to reopen with new, improved food and beverage options



People gathering in the George S. Kaufman Courtyard (Thanassi Karageorgiou/MoMI) | [Press gallery](#)

Astoria, New York, April 16, 2024 — Aziz Isham, Executive Director of Museum of the Moving Image, announced today plans to launch [Open Worlds](#), an initiative boasting one of the largest free community spaces in western Queens. As the cultural anchor institution in the heart of Astoria, MoMI presents Open Worlds as an accessible, 15,500-square-foot, climate-controlled, WiFi-enabled community resource for visitors of all ages looking to convene, find creative inspiration, learn about and experience new media technologies, or participate in many diverse programming selections.

Open Worlds' offerings, which will be available during all Museum operating hours through October, include a wide range of free community and technology-focused programming spanning themes of content creation, Pride, accessibility, science on screen, special effects, video gaming, and much more. The open lobby will feature a new food and beverage concession offering wine, beer, and food from local businesses.

"The Museum is lucky enough to be at the center of one of the most diverse and creative neighborhoods in the country," said Isham. "With Open Worlds we're removing yet another barrier to entry—cost—and ensuring that we have a place where all New Yorkers can experiment with cutting-edge technology, collaborate, create, and recharge their creative energies."

On the Museum's first floor, visitors will have free access to the Hearst Lobby and adjoining café area, the Founders Hall, William Fox Amphitheater, and the George S. Kaufman Courtyard.

On Saturday, May 18, 4:00 to 9:00 p.m., MoMI will host a festive celebration to kick off Open Worlds with a ribbon-cutting ceremony featuring Isham, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, and other local officials. This will be followed by a launch party featuring music from DJ Stretch Armstrong, a VR demo in the Fox Amphitheater, food and drinks, and artist Joshua Davis's renowned sound-responsive video installation *the VOID*, projected on the lobby's Schlosser Media Wall.

Open Worlds' free community programming continues throughout the summer and into October, and will feature artist talks, live music, professional development panels, trivia events, and more. For a list of upcoming Open Worlds programs, visit: movingimage.org/series/open-worlds. Additional programs will be added as they are confirmed.

Programmatic support provided by the William Fox, Jr. Foundation.

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 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.

Press contacts:

Tomoko Kawamoto, MoMI, tkawamoto@movingimage.org / 718.777.6830

Jayna Zelman, Rubenstein Associates, momi@rubenstein.com

[PRESS IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE HERE.](#)

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 Gallery 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).

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.org

Membership: movingimage.org/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.org.