

**Joan Mitchell Foundation Announces Release of Estate Planning Workbook,
Developed to Support Artists and Attorneys in Legacy Planning**

**Produced in Partnership with Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston,
Workbook Includes Legal Advice Alongside Essays
From Diverse Range of Arts Professionals**

New York—November 1, 2018—The Joan Mitchell Foundation announced today the release of a new workbook, titled *Estate Planning for Visual Artists: A Workbook for Attorneys & Executors*. Developed in partnership with the Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston (A&BC), the workbook includes in-depth sections on legal matters pertaining to intellectual property and copyright as well as estate vehicles, such as wills, trusts, and artist-endowed foundations, among others. The legal details are complemented by perspectives from a diverse group of arts professionals, who offer further information and context on the constellation of entities and relationships that play a role in the legacy-planning process. The workbook is part of the Foundation’s Creating a Living Legacy (CALL) initiative, which provides resources and tools for artists in the areas of studio organization, documentation, and the inventorying of artworks.

The creation of *Estate Planning for Visual Artists: A Workbook for Attorneys & Executors* marks the second collaboration between the Foundation and A&BC. In 2014, the two organizations partnered to produce and release the *Estate Planning Workbook for Visual Artists*, which provides guidance to artists on artwork documentation, intellectual property, and the basic components of estate planning. The new workbook builds on the original advice—intended primarily for artists—by focusing in particular on the needs of estate planning attorneys and others working with artists on their legacies. With this resource, the Foundation aims to expand the pool of attorneys with knowledge and experience in this area, as well as to provide insights and increase understanding of this important work in the arts field. Both workbooks are available free-of-charge on the Foundation’s website, along with a Career Documentation Guide and other resources for visual artists.

The legal content is penned by Megan Low, Legacy Consultant, and Jim Grace, Executive Director, of A&BC, and is accompanied by a series of essays from artists on their own work and the idea of legacy, as well as expert opinions from those working in related areas, including: Kate Haw, Director, and Josh T. Franco, National Collector, Archives of American Art at the Smithsonian Institute; Katy Rogers, Programs Director and Director of the Robert Motherwell Catalogue Raisonné project at the Dedalus Foundation; and Jill Sterrett, Deputy Director, Museum Affairs and Strategic Impact at the Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago, among others. This content provides a range of frameworks through which to consider legacy planning, as well as important details to acquaint attorneys with art-specific issues, such as conservation, inventory, and working with art professionals. Shervone Neckles-

Ortiz, Artist Programs Manager at the Joan Mitchell Foundation, has overseen the workbook's development and publication.

“The Creating a Living Legacy (CALL) initiative is an essential component of the Joan Mitchell Foundation's work, as it engages with the dual aspects of our mission to provide direct support to artists and responsibly steward Joan Mitchell's legacy,” said Christa Blatchford, CEO of the Joan Mitchell Foundation. “CALL was born, in part, out of our own understanding of the responsibility entailed in capturing and enhancing knowledge of Mitchell's life and career. In our conversations with artists, we recognized the need to create accessible tools and resources in this arena for a wider array of individuals. The Estate Planning Workbooks, along with the other resources provided through the initiative, support artists and their collaborators in the important effort of organizing, documenting, and managing their artworks, and establishing priorities for how their life's work will be treated in perpetuity. We are so honored to have had the opportunity to work with A&BC again, along with the Workbook's many contributors, to further understanding of this important topic.”

Creating a Living Legacy (CALL) at the Joan Mitchell Foundation

In 2007, the Joan Mitchell Foundation began exploring new ways to support mature artists through documentation and preservation of their legacies. In the pilot phase of CALL, the Foundation worked closely with four artists: Mildred Howard, Elemore Morgan, Jr., Jaune Quick-To-See Smith, and Freddy Rodriguez. This initial phase led to the creation of a range of tools for artists, designed to provide support in the areas of studio organization, archiving, and inventory management, and to ultimately help establish comprehensive and usable documentation of their artworks and careers. Since the initial pilot, the Joan Mitchell Foundation has engaged a range of legal experts, legacy specialists, and other important voices in the field, to expand and enhance the resources it makes available to artists on the subject.

Among the currently available resources are: workbooks that lead artists through the basics of creating their own comprehensive organizational system for their studios and archives; estate planning workbooks for visual artists and attorneys; the CALL Resources website, featuring information, resources, and troubleshooting tips; and workshops and public dialogues that invite artists and arts professionals to speak to their own experiences and knowledge of legacy planning. The CALL Program resources are freely available to the public, as are most programmatic offerings.

About Joan Mitchell Foundation

The Joan Mitchell Foundation celebrates the life of abstract artist Joan Mitchell by expanding awareness of her pioneering work and fulfilling her wish to support and provide opportunities for visual artists. Through grants, residencies, and related initiatives, the Foundation advances the work of today's artists and amplifies their essential contributions to communities around the world.

As the chief steward of Joan Mitchell's legacy, the Foundation manages a collection of Mitchell's artwork and archives containing her personal papers, photographs, and ephemera. It provides loans of artworks to museums, academic institutions, and other non-profit arts spaces. Foundation staff are dedicated to assisting researchers and sharing information to further scholarship and broad appreciation for Mitchell's life and work. The Foundation is also supporting the Joan Mitchell Catalogue Raisonné, established in 2015.

Fulfilling Mitchell's mandate to "aid and assist" living artists, over the past 25 years the Foundation has evolved a range of initiatives that directly support visual artists at varying stages of their careers. The Foundation's grant programs include the annual Painters & Sculptors Grants, which provide 25 artists with unrestricted funds of \$25,000, and Emergency Grants of up to \$6,000 for disaster recovery. The New Orleans-based Joan Mitchell Center hosts residencies for national and local artists, as well as artist talks, open studio events, and other public programs that encourage dialogue and exchange with the local community. The Creating A Living Legacy (CALL) initiative provides free and essential resources to help artists of all ages organize, document, and manage their artworks and careers. Together, these programs, along with additional professional support services, actively engage with working artists as they develop and expand their practices.

About Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston (A&BC)

The Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston (A&BC) is a nonprofit arts services organization offering integrated and responsive programs and services designed to support and nurture the creative ecosystem. Its flagship program, Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts (VLA), has been serving the legal needs of the state's artistic community since 1989. The VLA provides pro bono referrals and direct legal services to artists and arts organizations as well as educational opportunities for artists, arts organizations, and attorneys. A&BC also assists local art and cultural institutions in finding, training, and matching attorneys and business executives to sit on their respective boards of directors.

Recognizing the great need for estate planning for working artists, the VLA has been developing trainings and tools to help artists and attorneys work together and achieve their goals. In 2006, the VLA received a grant from Fay Chandler, an artist and innovator, to launch a program educating and preparing artists to better plan for the disposition of their estates. Since that time, the VLA, through programs and workshops, has focused on educating artists about the necessity for estate planning, understanding copyright law and its implications for their estates, and practical methods for better cataloguing and preparing their works for disposition. In addition, the VLA is working to increase the panel of estate planning lawyers to whom it can refer its artists (both pro bono and for fee cases), through educational workshops on artist-specific issues that arise in estate planning, and outreach to the estate planning bar committees.

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JOAN MITCHELL FOUNDATION

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