

Nancy Adelson, Josh T Franco, and Nyeema Morgan Join Joan Mitchell Foundation Board of Directors

New York, NY—January 27, 2026—The Joan Mitchell Foundation welcomes three new members to its Board of Directors for 2026: Nancy Adelson, an attorney based in New York; artist and art historian Josh T Franco; and Nyeema Morgan, an artist and professor based in Chicago.

Members of the Foundation's board serve three-year terms, with a maximum of three consecutive terms. The Foundation strives to ensure that at least 30% of the board are practicing artists; many current and past board members are former grant recipients of the Foundation. The remaining members represent professional areas of expertise that complement and advise the Foundation's mission-based work, including curators, conservators, arts programmers, non-profit executives, and financial professionals.

"We are thrilled to have Nancy, Josh, and Nyeema join the Foundation's board, as each of them bring varied and deep expertise in areas that are central to the Foundation's work," said Christa Blatchford, Executive Director of the Joan Mitchell Foundation. "As an attorney who spent a significant portion of her legal career at The Museum of Modern Art, Nancy Adelson brings expertise in stewarding an artist's intellectual property rights. Through his work as an artist and at the Archives of American Art, Josh T Franco's background melds our commitment to artists and to legacy. Nyeema Morgan, a former Foundation grant recipient and Joan Mitchell Center Artist-in-Residence, is grounded in her work as an artist and art professor, and also in stewarding her artist mother's legacy. All three are deeply aligned with the Foundation's values and mission, while bringing fresh and different perspectives. Going into a year of strategic planning in 2026, we appreciate having their expertise and dedication in our discussions."

About the New Board Members

Nancy Adelson has been fortunate to pursue a legal career that allowed her to nurture her deep love of the arts. She joined the legal department of The Museum of Modern Art in 1998, became MoMA's Deputy General Counsel in 2006, and retired from the Museum in 2020. Prior to her work as a museum lawyer, Nancy represented, advised, and delivered educational programs to emerging artists and not-for-profit arts organizations while employed by Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts as Senior Legal Counsel. [Read more](#)

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"I am excited and honored by this opportunity to serve on the Joan Mitchell Foundation's Board and am deeply grateful for the chance to be a part of its mission to preserve Joan Mitchell's legacy and continue the Foundation's essential commitment to support, recognize, and nurture visual artists."

Josh T Franco, PhD is an artist and art historian. He is Executive Director of the US Latinx Art Forum and Collector at Large at the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art. As an artist, Franco's primary medium is the discipline of art history itself. Using performance and a variety of materials, he transforms the components of being an art historian—reading, writing, annotating, sketching, lecturing, looking, museum going, archival research, and so on—into artworks appropriate for museum going audiences. [Read more](#)

"After years of rich thinking together about how artists become ancestors, joining the Joan Mitchell Foundation's board feels like a natural step. This is in addition to witnessing the Foundation's thoughtful and extensive support of living artists, including many of my peers. I could not be more thrilled to deepen my relationship with this incredible organization and the community in which it has invested so much."

Nyeema Morgan is a visual artist and Assistant Professor of Sculpture at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Morgan's work is driven by a deep curiosity about how articulations of power are woven into our banal encounters with images, objects, and information. Morgan's twenty-year art practice has been acknowledged through grants, fellowships, and residencies from the Art Matters Foundation, Artadia, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Harpo Foundation, and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. [Read more](#)

"It is an honor and inspiration to join the board of the Joan Mitchell Foundation at this moment of heightened political and cultural insecurity. If there was ever any doubt as to the importance of what we do, it's now become imperative that we triple down on our collective responsibility to nurture this kind of work. Joan Mitchell's uncompromising practice has been a strident reminder to me of the unapologetic stance we need to take in upholding artistic freedom. I look forward to the challenges and successes ahead of working with the Joan Mitchell Foundation in meeting the rising needs of artists across the country."

About the Joan Mitchell Foundation

The Joan Mitchell Foundation cultivates the study and appreciation of artist Joan Mitchell's life and work, while fulfilling her wish to provide resources and opportunities for visual artists. As the steward of Joan Mitchell's legacy, the Foundation manages a collection of Mitchell's artwork and archives containing her personal papers, photographs, sketchbooks,

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and other historical materials. Fulfilling Mitchell's mandate to "aid and assist" living artists, over the past 33 years the Foundation has evolved a range of initiatives that have directly supported more than 1,300 visual artists at varying stages of their careers. The Joan Mitchell Fellowship gives annual unrestricted awards of \$60,000 directly to artists, with funds distributed over a five-year period alongside flexible professional development and convenings that facilitate community building and peer learning. The New Orleans-based Joan Mitchell Center hosts residencies for national and local artists, complemented by professional development offerings, 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 actively engage with working artists as they develop and expand their practices. For more information, visit joanmitchellfoundation.org.

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