THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART HOSTS INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL LEADERS FOR “BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE BALTIMORE” DISCUSSION

BALTIMORE, MD (April 4, 2017)—The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) hosts Building an Inclusive Baltimore: A New Lens for Inclusion at The Baltimore Museum of Art in partnership with Beyond Conflict, a global initiative internationally recognized for its powerful new approaches to achieving peace in divided societies. Open to the public, the free event on May 4, 2017, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. brings together leaders in the arts, conflict resolution, and behavioral science to share the drivers of exclusion and the ways people consciously and unconsciously act. The event seeks to apply these insights to spark strategies for cultural organizations to more meaningfully engage with and reflect their communities.

Speakers and moderators include: Rebecca Saxe, Principal Investigator, SaxeLab for Social Cognitive Neuroscience, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool, activist and former South African Ambassador to the U.S.; Carrie Mae Weems, Contemporary Artist, MacArthur Genius Award recipient; Jeannie Howe, Executive Director, Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance; Mark Muller, Senior Advisor to the United Nations Envoy to Syria; Christopher Bedford, BMA Dorothy Wagner Wallis Director; and Timothy Phillips, Co-Founder and CEO of Beyond Conflict.

“I encourage everyone interested in creating a more inclusive Baltimore to participate in this event,” said BMA Dorothy Wagner Wallis Director Christopher Bedford. “This is an extraordinary opportunity for individuals and cultural institutions to harness the considerable wisdom and experience of the panelists to reflect on the narratives that they tell and how they interact with their communities.”

This is the second in a series of events designed by Beyond Conflict to engage leaders across the United States in conversations on the seemingly intractable challenges of discrimination, bias, and exclusion. Beyond Conflict’s most notable accomplishments include: catalyzing the field of transitional justice; helping introduce the truth commission concept in South Africa; and fostering peaceful negotiations and national reconciliation among leaders in Northern Ireland, Central America, and the Balkans.

BIOGRAPHIES
Rebecca Saxe
Rebecca Saxe is the Principal Investigator at the SaxeLab for Social Cognitive Neuroscience and a Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is also an associate member of MIT’s McGovern Institute for Brain Research. Before joining the faculty, she was a Junior Fellow in Harvard’s Society of Fellows. Dr. Saxe has authored more than 60 peer-reviewed papers on the cognitive neuroscience of social cognition, Theory of Mind, and moral judgment. Her TED talk has been viewed over a million times, and has been translated into 27 languages. She was recently named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.

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Amb. Ebrahim Rasool
Ebrahim Rasool is the former South African Ambassador to the United States and former Governor of Western Cape. Previously, he served as a Member of Parliament in South Africa’s National Assembly and Special Advisor to the State President. He has a long history of involvement in the anti-apartheid struggle, including leadership in the United Democratic Front (UDF) and the African National Congress (ANC). He is the founder of the World for All Foundation, which aims to rethink the intellectual tools available to Muslims and faith communities, and create cooperative relations between faiths, cultures and communities at a global level.

Carrie Mae Weems
Considered one of the most influential contemporary American artists, Carrie Mae Weems has investigated family relationships, cultural identity, sexism, class, political systems and the consequences of power. Determined as ever to enter the picture—both literally and metaphorically—Weems has sustained an ongoing dialogue within contemporary discourse for over thirty years. During this time Carrie Mae Weems has developed a complex body of art employing photographs, text, fabric, audio, digital images, installation, and video.

Weems has received numerous awards, grants and fellowships including the prestigious Prix de Roma, The National Endowment of the Arts, the Alpert, the Anonymous was a Woman and the Tiffany Awards. In 2012, Weems was presented with one of the first US Department of State’s Medals of Arts in recognition for her commitment to the State Department’s Art in Embassies program.

In 2013 Weems received the MacArthur “Genius” grant as well as the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation’s Lifetime Achievement Award. Since she has also received the BET Honors Visual Artist award, the Lucie Award for Fine Art photography, the ICP Spotlights Award from the International Center of Photography, the W.E.B. Du Bois Medal from Harvard University, the Distinguished Feminist Award from the College Arts Association, and the National Artist Award from Anderson Ranch.

Ever invested in social causes, Weems also serves on the board of several institutions including People for the American Way, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Art21, the Everson Museum of Art, and the Gifford Foundation.

She is represented in public and private collections around the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY; The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Museum of Modern Art, NY and Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. Weems has been represented by Jack Shainman Gallery since 2008.

Jeannie Howe
Jeannie L. Howe is the Executive Director of the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance (GBCA), a regional, membership organization that was organized by artists and cultural organizations to unify, nurture and promote the cultural sector in Baltimore and its five surrounding counties. Under her leadership, since January 2012 GBCA has transformed and expanded its services to the cultural community, including: new professional development initiatives for artists and emerging arts management leaders of color; re-launched audience development strategies; supported artists with awards and grants; and advocated for the health, visibility, and financial strength of the sector. Membership during this time has increased from 80 to nearly 500 artists and organizations.

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Prior to joining GBCA, Howe was founder and president of BayCliff Associates, and provided management and fundraising consultation for nonprofit clients, including Everyman Theatre in Baltimore for whom she led a successful $17.7 million capital campaign. Her career has included leadership positions with a range of nonprofit organizations including the Alley Theatre, Baltimore Reads, and The Marrow Foundation (now Be the Match Foundation). Howe has held many volunteer positions including her current service on the Baltimore Orchard Project and Callaway Garrison Improvement Association Boards of Directors. Howe received a M.A. in Theatre from Miami University of Ohio and a B.A. in Theatre from St. Mary’s College of Maryland. In 2014, the Daily Record recognized her as one of Maryland’s Top 100 Women.

Mark Muller, QC
Mark Muller Stuart is Founder of Beyond Borders Scotland. He is a senior advocate at Doughty Street Chambers in London and the Faculty of Advocates in Edinburgh, where he specializes in public international law, criminal, terrorism, and human rights related litigation. He also regularly advises numerous international bodies on humanitarian and conflict resolution laws. He was appointed to the rank of Queen’s Counsel in 2006 and has won numerous international test cases and awards in the field of human rights. Since 2005 he has acted as a Senior Advisor to the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Beyond Conflict and InterMediate. He is also head of the MENA Programme of the John Smith Memorial Trust and a founding director of the Delfina Foundation and a Fellow at Harvard Law School.

He is currently head of rule of law for the International Committee of the Bar Council of England and Wales, a member of the Attorney General’s International Committee, and was formerly Chairman of the Bar Human Rights Committee between 2006-12. As an advocate and mediator, he has appeared before various UN, OSCE, EU, and Council of Europe bodies including before the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights. He is currently on leave from Beyond Borders and took up a post as a Senior Mediation Expert with the Mediation Support Unit in the United Nations Department of Political Affairs.

Christopher Bedford
Christopher Bedford is the Dorothy Wagner Wallis Director of The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) and the 10th director to lead the museum, which is renowned for its outstanding collections of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Recognized as an innovative and dynamic leader for building greater community engagement and creating programs of national and international impact, Bedford served as director of the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University for four years prior to joining the BMA and was recently appointed as Commissioner for the U.S. Pavilion for the 2017 Venice Biennale, the world’s most prestigious contemporary art fair. Previously, Bedford held the positions of chief curator and curator of exhibitions at the Wexner Center for the Arts at The Ohio State University; assistant curator and curatorial assistant in the Department of Contemporary Art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and consulting curator in the Department of Sculpture and Decorative Arts for the J. Paul Getty Museum. Bedford has a Bachelor of Arts from Oberlin College, received a master’s degree in art history through the joint program at Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Museum of Art, and has studied in the doctoral programs in art history at the University of Southern California and the Courtauld Institute of Art at the University of London. Bedford is also a noted author and contributor to publications including Art in America, ArtForum, and Frieze, among others. He is currently a trustee of Art + Practice, Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance, and Maryland Citizens for the Arts.
Timothy Phillips
Timothy Phillips is a pioneer in the field of conflict resolution and reconciliation and co-founder of Beyond Conflict, a global initiative that is internationally recognized for contributions to the field of transitional justice in post-communist Europe. Using the unique approach of shared experience, Beyond Conflict has helped catalyze the peace and reconciliation processes in several nations, including Northern Ireland, El Salvador, and South Africa. Under Mr. Phillips’ leadership, Beyond Conflict launched a partnership with MIT to conduct cutting-edge research on the relationship between neuroscience and social conflict. Mr. Phillips has advised the United Nations, the U.S. Department of State, and the Council of Europe and has been a frequent speaker in national and international forums, including the Council on Foreign Relations and the U.S. Congress. He helped launch and serves on the Advisory Committee of the Club of Madrid, a forum for about 90 former democratic heads of state and government.

BEYOND CONFLICT
For 25 years, Beyond Conflict has created powerful and innovative frameworks to open pathways for progress in peace talks, transitions to democracy, and national reconciliation in countries, including South Africa, Northern Ireland, Guatemala, Kosovo, Sri Lanka, Cuba, and numerous others. Now applying our decades of experience to insights from behavioral science research, we partner with our extensive global network of leaders, communities, scientists and others, bringing a new lens for addressing discrimination, difference, and inclusion, building trust between enemies, and moving diverse communities from conflict to peace.

THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART
The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914 with a single painting, the BMA today has 95,000 objects—including the largest public holding of works by Henri Matisse. Throughout the museum, visitors will find an outstanding selection of American and European painting, sculpture, and decorative arts; works by established and emerging contemporary artists; significant artworks from China; stunning Antioch mosaics; and an exceptional collection of art from Africa. The BMA’s galleries also showcase examples from one of the nation’s finest collections of prints, drawings, and photographs and exquisite textiles from around the world. The 210,000-square-foot museum is distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope and two beautifully landscaped sculpture gardens. As a major cultural destination for the region, the BMA hosts a dynamic program of exhibitions, events, and educational programs throughout the year. General admission to the BMA is free so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

VISITOR INFORMATION
General admission to the BMA is free. Special exhibitions may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. The museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year’s Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located at 10 Art Museum Drive, three miles north of Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. For general museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit artbma.org.

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