



For Immediate Release

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**RISË WILSON JOINS FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE
AS CHIEF PROGRAMMING OFFICER**

NEW YORK (October 20, 2017) – Friends of the High Line, the nonprofit conservancy that oversees maintenance, operations, public programming, public art, and private funding for the High Line, today announced that Risë Wilson will join the organization as Chief Programming Officer. In her new position, Wilson will develop and implement innovative and strategic cultural and community initiatives that advance the High Line’s mission and elevate the organization to new levels of creativity, visibility, and impact. She will also oversee the design and management of public art, as well as programming for horticulture, youth, school, and family programs and partnerships. Wilson will report to Friends of High Line Co-Founder and Executive Director Robert Hammond.

“Throughout her career, Risë has helped connect unique and dynamic art to new audiences in deeply meaningful ways,” said Hammond. “We know her programs will celebrate the local community, engage all visitors, and have an immediate impact on the experience of visiting the High Line.”

“The High Line has such a rich heritage and special place in our city. We have a responsibility to offer programs that inspire creativity, promote diversity of opinion, and welcome all people,” said Wilson.

Wilson joins friends of the High Line from the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation where she served as director of philanthropy. She previously has held positions at the Ford Foundation, Parsons: the New School for Design, MoMA, and the International Center for Photography. She founded The Laundromat Project, an award-winning organization that places public art in local laundromats around New

York City as a way to help neighborhoods like Bed-Stuy, Harlem, and the South Bronx showcase and amplify their creative power.

Wilson holds an MA in Africana Studies from New York University, where she was a MacCracken fellow, and a BA in African-American Studies from Columbia University, where she was a Kluge Scholar.

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About Friends of the High Line

Friends of the High Line raises 98% of the High Line's annual budget. Owned by the City of New York, the High Line is a public park maintained, operated, and programmed by Friends of the High Line, in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.