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ANNOUNCING THE SECOND ANNUAL 21c MUSEUM HOTEL ARTADIA AWARD: SUPPORTING VISUAL ARTISTS IN KANSAS CITY

*Applications Open June 15; Partnership Will Support Visual Artists in Nine Rotating
Cities Nationwide*



21c Museum Hotel in Kansas City, MO

For Immediate Release

(KANSAS CITY, MO | June 15, 2022) – **21c Museum Hotels**, a multi-venue contemporary art museum and award-winning hospitality company, and **Artadia**, a nonprofit grantmaker and nationwide community of visual artists, curators, and patrons, are thrilled to announce their collaboration on the second annual **21c Artadia Award**.

Launched last year in **Louisville, KY**, the 21c Artadia Award marked the beginning of a long-term partnership, which will annually provide **\$10,000** in unrestricted funds to one artist living and working in the unique creative communities where 21c Museum Hotels are located. The 21c Artadia Award is designed to provide essential funding and recognition to artists at pivotal points in their careers, strengthen arts communities, and spur new levels of career achievement.

In addition to the grant itself, the Award includes lifelong access to the Artadia Network, a support program nurturing strategic relationships and connecting Awardees with a community of fellow artists and a diverse cohort of professionals. This partnership allows Artadia to reach new communities and artists with its Award program, with future Award cycles slated for Durham, NC (2023); and Nashville, TN (2024).

Open June 15 - July 15, 2022, the Kansas City Award application is an open call, free to apply, and available to visual artists currently living and working within **Cass, Clay, Jackson, Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami, Platte, Ray, and Wyandotte Counties**. The 21c Kansas City Artadia Awardee will be announced in August 2022.

"We are excited to continue our partnership with 21c, which allows us to broaden Artadia's geographic reach and honor artists and arts communities that already thrive outside our program cities," Executive Director **Carolyn Ramo** shared. "We look forward to witnessing and recognizing the undeniable rigor and brilliance of artists within Kansas City through this opportunity."

"We are thrilled that the second 21c Artadia Award will be given to an artist based in Kansas City, home to a vibrant, inclusive arts community," says 21c Chief Curator and Museum Director **Alice Gray Stites**. "21c and Artadia share a commitment to supporting today's most dynamic, engaged artists across the country. Last year's Awardee, Louisville-based Kiah Celeste, continues to make compelling work that is being exhibited in numerous galleries and has gained broad attention. We expect that the opportunity the award cycle will bring to Kansas City will elevate national awareness of the richness and strength of talent here."

"As a full-time emerging artist, the financial support I received from the 21c Artadia Award was crucial and impactful for me. It was also beneficial to be included in a community of artists and organizers — especially during a time when my life was in a moment of instability," remarks **Kiah Celeste**, last year's inaugural 21c Artadia Awardee from Louisville. "It came like a gift from an angel, but instead, it was real people who believed in me, my work, and its potential for the future."

About 21c Museum Hotel Kansas City

21c Museum Hotel Kansas City includes a 120-room boutique hotel, contemporary art museum, and The Savoy restaurant. 21c Kansas City is located between the Power & Light District and River Market downtown - the perfect base to explore the City of Fountains. The property offers 8,000 square feet of exhibition space featuring rotating, curated contemporary art exhibitions free of charge, seven days a week. 21c Kansas City has 19 suites, including the rooftop 21c Suite

with expansive views of downtown. The Savoy, led by executive chef Brandon Brumback, offers a dining experience with deep ties to the community, featuring seasonal ingredients and products from local farmers, distilleries, and family-owned businesses.

About 21c Museum Hotels

21c is a multi-venue contemporary art museum combined with a boutique hotel and chef-driven restaurant with nine properties across the U.S. The company was founded by Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson, contemporary art collectors and preservationists committed to expanding access to thought-provoking contemporary art. Each 21c property features a public exhibition space that presents rotating solo and group exhibitions that reflect the global nature of art today and commissioned site-specific installations curated by Museum Director, Chief Curator Alice Gray Stites. 21c collaborates on arts initiatives with artists and organizations worldwide, including the North Carolina Museum of Art, Contemporary Arts Center, Speed Art Museum, Creative Capital Foundation, Creative Time, For Freedoms, and others. Since opening in Louisville, KY, in 2006, 21c Museum has presented nearly 100 exhibitions, including Cuba Now!; Alter Ego: A Decade of Work by Anthony Goicolea; Hybridity: The New Frontier; Aftermath: Witnessing War, Countenancing Compassion; SEEING NOW; Wild Card: The Art of Michael Combs; Albano Alfonso: Self-Portrait as Light; Pop Stars! Popular Culture and Contemporary Art; Labor&Materials, Fallen Fruit: The Practices of Everyday Life; The SuperNatural; Dress Up, Speak Up: Regalia and Resistance; The Future is Female; Truth or Dare: A Reality Show; Refuge; and Wim Botha: Still Life with Discontent.

About Artadia

Artadia is a nonprofit grantmaking organization and a nationwide community of visual artists, curators, and patrons. Over two decades, Artadia has worked collaboratively to foster a more just arts economy and improve the conditions necessary for artists from all backgrounds to thrive. We elevate the careers of artists at critical moments in their practice through a proven combination of recognition, grantmaking, community support, and advocacy. Since its founding in 1999, Artadia has awarded over \$5 million in unrestricted funds to over 350 artists in 7 cities, with partnerships like the 21c Artadia Award allowing an even further reach.

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