

**Benefit for Iconic Detroit Arts Space the MBAD African Bead Museum**

**DETROIT, Mich.** – Wasserman Projects is proud to announce an upcoming Benefit for the African Bead Museum to be held at Wasserman Projects on December 16<sup>th</sup> from 4-8pm. The event will be co-sponsored by Gary Wasserman and Charles Kashner of Wasserman Projects, Peter Cummings and Dietrich Knoer of The Platform, and Lorcan O’Herlihy Architects [LOHA] Principal Lorcan O’Herlihy. The host committee is comprised of supporters of the Bead Museum -- Sinead Finnerty-Pyne [LOHA], Everard Findlay, Felicia Eisenberg Molnar, artists Corazon del Sol, Kathy Leisen and Marsha Music -- as well as representatives from Detroit arts institutions -- Elysia Borowy-Reeder [MOCA Detroit], Laura Mott [Cranbrook Art Museum], Alison Wong [Wasserman Projects].

This event is held in conjunction with the closing of the exhibition *Homemade Ice Cream* by artist Jason Yates, and will include live performances, a panel discussion, workshops, and more. The event is timed with a Patronicity fundraising and awareness-building campaign for Olayami Dabls’ African Bead Museum, in support of extensive renovations, designed by Lorcan O’Herlihy Architects [LOHA]. The restoration of the museum will allow for free rotating exhibitions of African material culture from Dabls’ extensive collection of beads and artifacts, as well as immersive public spaces for gathering and events.

Free and open to the public, this event will begin with a lively performance by Detroit-based drummer Efe Bes and a bead demonstration by Museum Founder, Olayami Dabls. A panel discussion moderated by Wasserman Director, Alison Wong will follow, and will feature Dabls in conversation with LA|Detroit-based architect Lorcan O’Herlihy, and Director of Planning and Development for the City of Detroit, Maurice Cox. The discussion will focus on the renovation of the Bead Museum and its important role as a catalyst for change in the city of Detroit, and will be followed by comments from longtime friend, supporter, and fellow artist, Marsha Music. While beads and other gifts will be available for purchase throughout the evening, a special paddle raise and auction will offer a chance to support the museum. To conclude the evening, Everard Findlay’s curated selection of local performers will take the stage, including Video7, Greg Baise, and a special guest appearance by Juan Atkins.

Donations can be made at registration, direct to campaign site, and in person at the event. Tickets are available here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/closing-reception-and-benefit-for-dabls-african-bead-museum-tickets-39786067198>

**ABOUT THE SPONSORS:****WASSERMAN PROJECTS**

Wasserman Projects is a flexible and constantly evolving program of art, design, and music, that brings together artists of all disciplines. Our mission is to promote the work of outstanding practitioners based locally and around the globe by hosting exhibitions, conversations, and supporting creativity wherever we can be useful. Through collaborations and programming that generates interest, curiosity, and commerce, our goal is to become one of the many threads in the vibrant fabric that is Detroit.

Whenever. Wherever. Art + Music

## **THE PLATFORM**

The Platform was established in 2016 when the acquisition of the iconic Fisher Building brought Peter Cummings and Dietrich Knoer together. With more than 60 collective years of experience—and a legacy of successful development projects in Detroit—they made a conscious decision to build a platform that would contribute to the city’s resurgence. To bring this dream to life, they assembled a team of young and diverse professionals poised to be the next generation of developers through ongoing mentorship and hands-on experience.

The Platform’s vision includes transit-oriented mixed-used developments that create quality residential and retail opportunities along the Woodward Corridor in the core of the city. But it also extends to projects and expands to neighborhoods that embrace the whole of the city in equally vibrant and sometimes unexpected ways. This allows The Platform to exercise their expertise while stretching their potential as a development company.

## **LORCAN O’HERLIHY ARCHITECTS [LOHA]**

Lorcan O’Herlihy Architects [LOHA] engages the ever-changing complexities of the urban landscape, embracing architecture’s role as a catalyst for change. With a conscious understanding that architecture operates within a layered context of political, developmental, environmental, and social structures, LOHA seeks to elevate the human condition via the built environment.

Based out of their studios in Los Angeles and Detroit, LOHA has built over 85 projects across three continents, and deliver diverse work ranging from art galleries, bus shelters, and large-scale neighborhood plans, to large mixed-use developments and university residential complexes. They have been published in over 20 countries and recognized with over 100 awards.