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## **Portland's Nationally Acclaimed Museum of Contemporary Craft Right-sizing Operations to Reach Optimal Financial Health**

**PORTLAND, OR—November 5, 2008**—Museum of Contemporary Craft announced today a revised operations budget for fiscal year 2009. The Museum took proactive measures to right-size the organization's operations to reach optimal financial health.

In response to the current national economic climate coupled with the goal to ensure long-term sustainability of the organization, the Museum's Board of Directors approved a revised operational budget of \$1.53M for fiscal year 2009. The prior budget was \$2.19M.

Since opening the doors of the Museum's new facility in Portland's Pearl District in July 2007, the Museum exceeded visitor goals by fivefold, doubled membership and received international recognition for exhibitions and programming. While the Museum has the desire to sustain this level of public interest and momentum, the Museum felt, given the nation's uncertain economic environment, its commitment to fiscal responsibility needs to be priority.

"Building on the momentum and excitement of our move to the Pearl last year and given what's happening nationally, we needed to find the balance in how best to respond to these issues. Right-sizing the museum before the end of the fiscal year enables us to maintain the community's interest while prioritizing our goal of sustainability," said Museum Board President Kathy Abraham.

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# Museum of Contemporary Craft

Another key part of the Museum's efforts in reaching optimal financial health is the transition of David Cohen's role as Executive Director. Cohen will now focus on the Museum's priority to raise unearned income. To support David's transition, an Interim Executive Director has been brought in to manage daily operations and provide the support needed for staff during this transition.

Taking prudent measure to ensure fiscal stability resulted in the difficult decision to make necessary staff layoffs. The Museum's staff size was 22 and is now at 15. These outcomes reflect the right level of staffing and budget the Board believes the organization needs to be at this time. Additionally, the Museum anticipates a short-term impact to programming and may postpone some programs into the next fiscal year.

"For more than 71 years, the Museum of Contemporary Craft has been an important part of shaping Portland's cultural landscape and does what no other museum on the West Coast does in the visual arts. Transparency and stewardship are our core values and we believe our due diligence today will ensure a solid future for the Museum of Contemporary Craft," concluded Abraham.

#### **NOTE**

The Museum is on target to meet its attendance goals of 80,000 for the current fiscal year. The Museum saw 32,312 visitors in the first five months of fiscal year 2009, which began in June. Fiscal year 2008 visitors totaled 75,000 and in fiscal year 2007 at the Museum's former location on SW Corbett the visitor total was 11,000.

#### **ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY CRAFT**

Committed to the advancement of craft since 1937, Museum of Contemporary Craft is one of Oregon's oldest cultural institutions. Centrally located in Portland's Pearl North Park Blocks, the Museum is nationally acclaimed for its curatorial program and is a vibrant center for investigation and dialogue, expanding the definition of craft and the way audiences experience it.

Visit the Museum online at [www.MuseumofContemporaryCraft.org](http://www.MuseumofContemporaryCraft.org).

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