

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Valerie A. Cooper Assumes National Role for The Society, Incorporated

H-DAP Founder to serve as National Archivist and Chair of the Archives Committee

[Stamford, CT] – **Valerie A. Cooper** has been appointed National Archivist and Chair of the Archives Committee for **The Society, Incorporated**. The appointment was announced during the National Executive Board Meeting in December 2023 by National President **Kelly Whiting, Esq.** The Society is a national organization of women, incorporated in 1983, and dedicated to enhancing, exposing, and promoting youth within the fields of literary, visual and performing arts, while serving as a beacon of friendship, service and support for professionals and young artists alike.

In her national role, Cooper will be responsible for preserving the organization’s important records and documents for historical purposes. Additionally, she’ll ensure that those records are properly stored at the repository at the **Moorland Spingarn Research Center (MSRC)** at the **Howard University** Founder’s Library in Washington, D.C. where they will find a permanent home. She’ll assist people in accessing those archival records and give presentations and tours related to the archives.

Cooper, a member of the **Monumental Women for the Arts (MWFTA)** chapter of the Society based in the DMV /Metro DC area, is the founding owner of **Picture That Consultants**, a 22-year-old certified MWBE providing consulting services including art collection management, art appraisals, curatorial services, and Diversity programming. The company has offices in Stamford, CT and Atlanta, GA. In 2022 Cooper was tapped to serve as Community Outreach Diversity Consultant for the **Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM)**. In this role she supports SAAM’s efforts to expand and diversify their audience and community partnerships. Additionally, she is National Project Director for the **HBCU Digital Art Project (H-DAP)**, and with SAAM’s support she is leading the effort to create a digital directory and searchable repository of artwork from HBCU art collections nationwide.

“We are excited that Valerie will be contributing her passion, knowledge, and commitment to the continued success and growth of The Society, Incorporated at a national level,” said **LaNay Coleman**, president of the MWFTA Chapter. “Our organization’s focus is preserving our artistic culture by passing it on to our children and supporting our young people in their artistic endeavors, and she is uniquely suited to advance this mission.”

“I am excited to utilize my extensive technology skills, background in African American art, my professional affiliations and network in order to advance the mission of The Society,” said Cooper. “Investing in our youth and supporting their dreams for careers in the arts has long been my avocation.”

The accredited art appraiser’s journey in the Arts includes serving as Arts Facet Co-Chair for the Eastern Area of the Links, Incorporated and Vice-Chair of the Arts & Culture Commission for the City of Stamford, CT. Prior to founding her company, she was a vice president of Technology for Goldman Sachs Investment Bank. There she developed recruitment partnerships with HBCU’s and worked alongside Goldman’s corporate art curator to

Picture That

ART CONSULTANTS

curate diversity-themed art exhibitions for the firm globally, in addition to performing global technology responsibilities. The Morgan State University graduate holds an MBA from Columbia University.

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Society, Incorporated, is a non-profit national organization of women dedicated to enhancing, exposing, and promoting youth in the arts for the betterment of our communities. With a focus on under-served children, they provide support for young literary, visual, and performing artists. The organization was founded in May 1983 by four women who conceived the idea of organizing a group of professional women of color who shared the goals of friendship and service; promoting friendship among members and serving as a resource in the arts for professionals and young people alike, all while championing artistic enrichment. Founded on the principles of camaraderie and cultural benevolence, the organization has more than 30 chapters, located in 41 cities across the U.S., providing scholarships, grants, stipends, and other opportunities to help young people experience the exciting dimensions of artistic expression.

ABOUT PICTURE THAT

Picture That Consultants is a certified MWBE firm with offices in Stamford, CT and Atlanta, GA. Founded in 2002 the firm provides an array of fine art consulting services including art collection management, art appraisals, curatorial services, and Diversity programming. Institutional clients include corporations, health care organizations and HBCU academic institutions with a special focus on art collection preservation.

ABOUT H-DAP

The **HBCU Digital Art Project (H-DAP)** provides a digital directory and searchable repository of artwork from HBCU art collections nationwide, thus providing education and cultural awareness about African American art. This partnership with the Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM) will lead to the cataloguing and preservation of partially developed and marginalized American art history. H-DAP's goal is to include all 107 HBCU art collections in the project.

For media inquiries or further information, please contact:

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