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COCA ANNOUNCES SENIOR DIRECTOR OF ARTS PROGRAMMING

Orlando Graves Bolaños Joins COCA's Senior Leadership Team

ST. LOUIS (June 21, 2022)—[COCA](#), the fourth largest multidisciplinary community arts center in the U.S. and a leader in innovative arts education, announced Orlando Graves Bolaños has been named Senior Director of Arts Programming. He will report to COCA's Executive Director. Graves Bolaños brings more than 20 years of international experience collaborating with artists in a wide range of residency models as well as educational programming. Graves Bolaños has served as an educator, trainer, director of education, and gallery director. He is passionate about promoting social change as well as the management of arts programming that fosters respect for diversity and transforms young lives.

"Orlando brings deep understanding as an arts educator and administrator and has thoughtfully engaged diverse communities around the world in artistic experiences. We are thrilled to welcome Orlando to COCA's leadership team and the St. Louis arts community," said Kelly Pollock, COCA Executive Director.

In this new role, Graves Bolaños will be responsible for leading artistic and programmatic initiatives, continuing to align with COCA's mission-driven offerings, which inspire, challenge, and educate its community of patrons and students. Graves Bolaños will work to advance, implement, facilitate, and advocate for the artistic plans and visions of COCA's program and education teams.

"I am thrilled to be joining the COCA family and its vibrant vision and culture. I am honored to be surrounded by a team of high-performing professionals who intimately understand the transformative power of the arts for children and youth," said Graves Bolaños. "I look forward to working with everyone to grow programs that further engage and welcome the community-at-large."

Graves Bolaños comes from The DoSeum in San Antonio, Texas, where he was Director of Gallery Facilitation & Experience. He was responsible for incorporating artists and art education into interactive, hands-on exhibitions and was a key member of the leadership team for reopening the museum with COVID-19 pandemic safety measures. Graves Bolaños also served as The DoSeum's Art Education Manager. He supported the launch of the 68,000-square-foot children's museum, created and designed the artist-in-residence program, and was a core educator for camps and field experiences for children.

Previous roles also include serving as an Instructor at the University of Texas San Antonio in the Department of Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning, Deputy Director of Education at Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, and Trainer/Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at Imantia Desarrollo Directivo in Madrid.

Graves Bolaños earned a Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art from Universidad Complutense de Madrid and is completing the Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching Ph.D. program at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

COCA engaged in a national search for this role. The search was led by [Arts Consulting Group \(ACG\)](#). ACG is the leading provider of hands-on interim management, executive search, revenue enhancement, strategic planning & community engagement, and facilities & program planning services for the arts and culture industry.

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ABOUT COCA

COCA's mission is to *enrich lives and build community through the arts*. With a commitment to equity and access, COCA serves as a regional hub for learning in and through the arts for all ages from all backgrounds. One of the most diverse cultural institutions in St. Louis, COCA serves more than 50,000 students, audience members, artists, and families from more than 200 zip codes across the St. Louis region every year. The fourth largest multi-disciplinary arts organization in the country, COCA is committed to supporting the vitality and creativity of more than 200 artists at the heart of their work in schools, community centers, local business, cultural organizations, and on-site at its campus in University City.