

September 30, 2020

Los Angeles County Museum of Art
5905 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90036

Dear Elaine Wynn, Tony Ressler, and Michael Govan,

On September 9, 2020, Worth Rises, a national advocacy organization dedicated to exposing and challenging the gross corporatization of our prison system, and Color Of Change, the nation's largest digital racial justice organization, issued a letter to LACMA's Board of Trustees calling for the removal of board member Tom Gores, the billionaire CEO of Platinum Equity, a Beverly Hills-based private equity firm. We, the undersigned 215 members of the arts community, urge LACMA to publicly support activists' appeals and disavow the unethical extraction of capital from economically-distressed communities by demanding that Tom Gores immediately resign from its Board of Trustees.

In 2017, Platinum Equity acquired Securus Technologies, one of the largest and most exploitative prison telecom corporations in the already woefully unethical prison industry. The corporation rakes in more than \$700 million per year charging egregious rates for phone calls from prisons, jails, and immigrant detention centers—funds that are primarily siphoned from impoverished families and Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities of color, further constricting the urgent resources of marginalized people. As the CEO of Platinum Equity, Tom Gores wields unique control over Securus' operational practices.

Under his control, Securus charges families as much as \$25 for a 15-minute phone call with their incarcerated loved ones and, on average, approximately 40% more than its largest competitor. Their extortionary rates and unscrupulous practices inflict undue financial and emotional harm on those directly impacted by mass incarceration. By price gouging a crucial lifeline between incarcerated people and their undeniably important networks of familial support, Securus pilfers from families (particularly women and children of color), propels many into debt, and leaves both family members and their incarcerated loved ones inhumanely isolated. Securus' impact extends further still; their predation undermines the successful reentry of people upon release by limiting their access to support, jeopardizing public safety, and feeding a bloated and brutal prison industrial complex that owes its roots to the toxic legacies of chattel slavery.

Echoing the artists, art workers, curators, scholars, and theorists who catalyzed the successful removal of Safariland CEO Warren Kanders from the Whitney Museum of American Art Board of Trustees, those who are advocating for the removal of BlackRock CEO Larry Fink from the

Museum of Modern Art Board of Trustees, and those members of the P.A.I.N coalition working to disentangle opioid money from the endowments of numerous public institutions, we condemn the artwashing that has poisoned the wells of our cultural centers. While the pre-existing power structures reinforcing these conditions are deeply rooted—and their unearthing reveals painful truths about our institutions’ indebtedness to colonialism, structural racism, and mass incarceration—reform through accountability is both urgent and necessary. Our institutions face an overdue moment of critical reckoning, from which LACMA is not immune.

At this crucial moment, we extol the museum to honor the truth of its own words. In a statement issued in response to the extensive protests that followed the horrific murder of George Floyd by police, a museum spokesperson declared: “We stand with our community in rejecting racism, in mourning, and in demanding justice for the deaths of countless African Americans who continue to be targeted by systematic violence. We recognize that museums cannot claim neutrality in addressing the horrific issues that have plagued our society for centuries.” It is imperative that LACMA examine its own breach of neutrality as it pertains to the diverse communities it wishes to serve. In doing so, the Board of Trustees must repudiate the rotten entanglements of racism, police brutality, and state-sanctioned violence by renouncing Tom Gores.

Sincerely,

Julie Adler

Njideka Akunyili Crosby

Carlos Alejandro

Sasha Ali

Rhea Anastas

Matthew Anderson

Shagha Ariannia

David Aronoff

Colleen Asper

Alejandro Avakian

Mark Ayala

Janani Balasubramanian

Eugenia Barbuc

Kelly Barrie

Elizabeth Whitney Bedford

Grainne Belluomo

Nevena Binney

Lee Biolos

Sandow Birk

Brice Bischoff

Hannah Black

Theodore Boyer

Andrea Breiling

Sarah Bremner

Tanya Brodsky

Savannah Brown

Tommy Burns

Francisco Cantú

Kelsie Capitano

Spencer Carmona

Justin Cavin

Alison Chen

Srijon Chowdhury

Donna Chung

Kayla Cloonan

Barnett Cohen

Jessica Cook

Jean Cooney

Veronica Corzo-Duchardt

Michaela Daly

Kyle DeWoody

Leslie Dick

Denise Domergue

Kimberly Drew

Zackary Drucker

Sam Durant

Ken Ehrlich

Charlie Ellis

Brenda Escobar

Cayetano Ferrer

Gabrielle Ferrer

Alison Ferris

Ciarán Finlayson

Colleen Flanigan

Nicole Fleetwood

Jason Flom

Luke Forsyth

*Eve Fowler
Leslie Frank
Andrea Fraser
Marcy Freedman
Britte Geijer
Rema Ghuloum
james gilbert
Eric Golo Stone
Meghan Gordon
Jane Goren
Todd Gray
Tyler Green
Molly Greene
Ron Griffin
Julia Gualtieri
Iva Gueorguieva
Karin Gulbran
Catherine Gund
Robert Gunderman
Marissa Gutierrez-Vicario
Abel Guzman
Andrea Gyorody
Karl Haendel
Julia Haft-Candell
Alexandria Hall
Tobi Haslett
EJ Hill
Michael Ned Holte
Margaret Honda
Aaron Horst
John Houck
Elliott Hundley
Nathan Hylden
Jeff Iorillo
Deborah Irmis
Kahlil Irving
Jess Jacobs
Bobby Jesus
Nova Jiang*

*Karen Johanson
Rachel Jones
Nikki Juen
Raffi Kalendarian
Susan Kandel
brooke kanther
Maurice Katz
Eunsong Kim
Nora Kletter
Karyn Kohl
Paul Kopeikin
Jesse Krimes
Jason Lambert
Molly Larkey
Ann Lau
Allie Lee
Karen Lee Williams
Olivia Leiter
Ryan Lentini
Thomas Linder
Jennifer Lin-Weinheimer
Julia Lourie
Jose Lozano
Kristy Luck
Marlen Lugo
Michael Luo
Shana Lutker
Ian Lynam
Jose M
Emma Macdonald
Erica Mahinay
Monica Majoli
Regina Mamou
Aubrey Ingmar Manson
moreno marzaroli
Jean Marie McKee
Blue McRight
Chandler McWilliams
Anne Mennealy*

*Ryan Mennealy
Lauren Merage
Yong Min
Naeem Mohaiemen
Carrie Monahan
Simone Montemurno
John Morrow
Carter Mull
Mariko Munro
Fredrik Nilsen
Garry Noland
Alison O'Daniel
Kathryn Ohalloran
Michele O'Marah
Meara O'Reilly
Tyler Matthew Oyer
Martin Pack
Marc Pally
Gregory Parkinson
Joan Perlman
Arianna Petrich
Michael Pierzynski
Lari Pittman
Gala Porras-Kim
Lucas Quigley
Evelyn Quijas
Yvonne Rainer
Michael Rakowitz
Roberto Rizzo
Doug E. Roberts
Mallery Roberts Morgan
Kelsey Rogers
David Rosenstein
Amanda Ross-Ho
Erika Rothenberg
Laura Roulet
Alice Russotti
Sarah Sandman
Vanessa Santos*

Lara Schilling
Marty Schnapf
Lara Schoorl
Inga Schunn
Julia Schwartz
Paul Mpagi Sepuya
Nicolas Shake
Wendy Sherman
Jessica Simmons
Jessica Smolinski
Thea Smolinskio
Laura Solomon
Laura Solomon
Ella Strauss
Rachel Summers
Camilla Taylor
Molly Tierney
Keith Tolch
Mongo Toole
Sebastian Tovar
Chloe Truong-jones
Artika Tyner
Jason Underhill
Andrew Urchin
Kara Vaggio
Rodrigo Valenzuela
Beatriz Vasquez
Mark Verabioff
Christian Viveros-Fauné
milo ward
Genevieve Ward
Roger White
Sarah Williams
Chris Wilson
Gosia Wojas
Audrey Wollen
Jemima Wyman
Rosha Yaghmai
Elaine Yang

Christopher Yin
Stephanie Ziemer