GREENWICH, CT, May 21, 2020 — Bruce Presents, the Bruce Museum’s program series featuring thought leaders in the fields of art and science, returns on Thursday, June 4, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, with a Zoom virtual panel discussion: Architecture 20/20: New Visions for Public Spaces in the Age of COVID-19.

How will the global coronavirus pandemic change how public spaces are designed or modified, from classrooms to auditoriums, public restrooms to restaurants, hallways to elevators? How will the need for adequate social distancing impact how public spaces are used in a post-lockdown environment?

Providing expert insight into these new and pressing issues are four distinguished architects whose practices focus on the design of public buildings and spaces:

- Steve Dumez, Principal and Director of Design at EskewDumezRipple
- Craig Dykers, Founding Partner at Snøhetta
- Maitland Jones, Principal at Deborah Berke Partners
- Paul Schulhof, Principal at Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects
Participation in the virtual *Bruce Presents* on Zoom for the benefit of the Bruce Museum is $25 for Museum members, $35 non-members. To reserve a place, visit brucemuseum.org or call 203-869-0376; a link to join the online conversation will be sent to registered attendees prior to the program.

In a second segment of the program, three executive directors of prominent cultural organizations will join the conversation. They are Pamela Franks, Executive Director of the Williams College Museum of Art in Williamstown, MA; Nico Wheadon, Executive Director of NXTHVN, a multidisciplinary arts incubator in New Haven, CT; and Robert Wolterstorff, The Susan E. Lynch Executive Director of the Bruce Museum.

The four architects will open the program at 7:00 pm; the three museum directors will join the panel at 7:45. The program will conclude with a Q&A session moderated by Leonard Jacobs, producer of *Bruce Presents*.

Support for *Bruce Presents* is generously provided by Northern Trust and Berkley One, a Berkley Company.

**More on our architect panelists:**

Under Steve Dumez’s leadership, the New Orleans-based EskewDumezRipple has received numerous prestigious awards for design excellence, including more than 50 national awards, among them the 2014 AIA Architecture Firm Award, and over 100 additional awards at the local, state, and regional level. Dumez is lead designer of the Bruce Museum’s transformative $45 million expansion and renovation project. The centerpiece of the New Bruce is a three-story, 40,000 square-foot addition that will more than double the size of the current Museum, offering more space for art and science, education, and community connections.

As a Founding Partner of Snøhetta, Craig Dykers has led many prominent projects internationally, including Egypt’s Alexandria Library, the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet in Oslo, the National September 11 Memorial Museum Pavilion in New York City, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Expansion in California, and the Ryerson University Student Learning Centre in Toronto, Canada.

Maitland “Mait” Jones started working for Deborah Berke in 1992 and formed Deborah Berke Partners with her and Marc Leff in 2002. His first projects focused on art and art-making: live/work lofts in Soho, offices for designers, and Yale’s School of Art. Mait taught at Yale’s School of Architecture, and the Akademie der bildenden Künste in Vienna. He is currently leading projects for Princeton University and NXTHVN in New Haven, CT.

Paul Schulhof is a partner at Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects | Partners (TWBTA). TWBTA has won numerous awards, including the 2013 AIA Architecture Firm Award given to a single architecture firm in the U.S. each year. Paul has overseen a wide range of cultural and civic projects and is currently working on the Obama Presidential Center in Chicago, the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, and the expansion of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City.
“The COVID-19 crisis makes urgent the need for new thinking about how we gather in our public spaces. It’s certain to lead to innovative, even surprising, ideas for how we can create new spaces, and for how we better use spaces that already exist,” says Robert Wolterstorff, The Susan E. Lynch Executive Director of the Bruce Museum, and an architectural historian by training. “Museums are places where we come together, in real space, to engage in culture and discussion. Bringing people together is essential if a museum is to create a sense of community. These ideas of gathering and of community are deeply embedded in the designs for the New Bruce, and that’s why this topic is so important to me right now. The Bruce Museum is delighted to present this timely discussion featuring four world-class architects, famous for their design of public spaces.”

Leonard Jacobs produces Bruce Presents and will moderate the Architecture 20/20 panel. “Earlier this year, we aimed to convene a group of architects to imagine the 2020s—trends in design and technology. With the disruption caused by COVID-19, now we’re making a powerful pivot: Will the crisis revolutionize the design, form and function of public space—and how?”

Suzanne Lio, Managing Director of the Bruce Museum, conceived Bruce Presents. “We’ve long been an important resource in our community for forward-thinking public programs. By leveraging our unique network of institutional and professional connections, the series will offer unprecedented access for our members and visitors to major thought leaders in the fields of art and science.”

Launched in 2019, Bruce Presents has received enthusiastic reviews for its compelling programming. Presentations on art have featured philanthropist/collector Jennifer Stockman, filmmaker Olympia Stone, and art historian/author Dr. Ágnes Berecz. Programs on science have featured an exclusive live Skype with Antarctica researcher Dr. Kim Bernard and a provocative dialogue between artist/activist Alexis Rockman and David Abel, an award-winning environmental reporter at The Boston Globe.

About the Bruce Museum
The Bruce Museum is a community-based, world-class institution highlighting art and science. Changing galleries for art and permanent galleries for the natural sciences encompass regional to global perspectives. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and voted the best museum in Fairfield County by area media in recent years, the Bruce plays an integral role in the cultural life of area residents. The Museum attracts approximately 70,000 visitors annually, including 24,000 schoolchildren, and also has special programs for families, seniors, students, and community organizations. Located in a park setting just off I-95, exit 3, at 1 Museum Drive in Greenwich, Connecticut, the Museum is also a 5-minute walk from the Metro-North Greenwich Station. The Bruce Museum is temporarily closed in accordance with state and local guidelines. Normal operating hours: Open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm; closed Mondays and major holidays. For additional information, call the Bruce Museum at 203-869-0376 or visit brucemuseum.org.

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