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For Immediate Release

**MOCA-NORTH MIAMI AWARDED NATIONAL MEDAL FOR MUSEUM
AND LIBRARY SERVICE**

Medal Will Be Presented on November 14th in Washington D.C.



North Miami, FL – November 7, 2012 – The Institute of Museum and Library Services has chosen to honor North Miami’s Museum of Contemporary Art as one of ten recipients of this year’s **National Medal for Museum and Library Service**. The National Medal is the nation’s highest honor conferred on museums and libraries for service to the community. The National Medal will be presented at a celebration at the White House in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, November 14, 2012 from 4 – 6 p.m.

The Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami serves one of the most diverse communities in the United States through educational programming with goals of keeping students in school, improving literacy, empowering women, deterring unsocial behavior, and easing feelings of isolation through the universal language of art. Among its acclaimed outreach initiatives is *Women on the Rise!* – a program that serves teen girls in the community and trains local artists to go into such facilities as juvenile detention centers where it helps female detainees to learn to express themselves through art. Additionally, the museum’s innovative classes, workshops and seminars forge creativity and inspire students of all ages to become lifelong learners.

“We are so proud of MOCA and all that the museum is able to accomplish in our community in just 15 years,” shared Mayor Andre D. Pierre, Esq. “It is because of their work that North Miami has been recognized throughout the world for the outstanding programs the museum offers, but it goes beyond the art. MOCA is the catalyst spurring economic development in our City’s downtown district. We are looking forward to expanding the museum to make an even larger impact in the next several years.” MOCA was an integral part to the City of North Miami’s recognition as a 2010 All-America City, awarded by the National Civic League.

“This year’s National Medal recipients demonstrate the many ways libraries and museums build strong communities and provide opportunities for individual success,” explained Susan Hildreth, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Medal winners are selected from nationwide nominations of institutions that demonstrate innovative approaches to public service, exceeding the expected levels of community outreach.

“It is a great honor to receive the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. At the Museum of Contemporary Art, we have always recognized the transformative power of art in changing lives,” said Bonnie Clearwater, executive director and chief curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art. “Building a strong cultural life in the community is one of the main goals of our education programs, which serve more than 20,000 children, teens and adults annually.” Mayor Pierre, Bonnie Clearwater and members of MOCA’s Board of Trustees will be in Washington D.C. to accept the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. For more information, visit www.northmiamifl.gov.

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