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High resolution images available upon request

HIGH CONCEPT LABS APPOINTS STEVEN WANG AS FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Appointment comes as organization celebrates the 5th Anniversary
of its flagship Sponsored Artist Program*

CHICAGO, IL — High Concept Labs (HCL) is proud to announce today that Steven Wang has been appointed as the organization's first Executive Director, effective immediately.

Wang comes to HCL from the for-profit branding world, drawing upon his background in consumer behavior to broaden the reach and sustainability of cultural events and production. He possesses an MBA from the University of Cambridge with a concentration in Culture and Arts Management. Previously a consultant with the Pacific Northwest Ballet in Seattle and Aldeburgh Music in Great Britain, Wang merges his passion for Baroque and Early Classical opera with his marketing experience. Says Wang, "I am excited to build upon my ideas and utilize strategies I have developed to provide transformative experiences for artists, audiences, and our organization. With the upcoming Fall Sponsored Artist Program, our artists will have new ways to engage with each other, and our audiences will have new ways to engage with our artists."

As the first Executive Director in the company's five-year history, Wang joins the organization at a time of exciting growth. In 2015, HCL received the support of the Chicago Community Trust's Smart Growth program, expanded the role of the Board of Directors and the Artistic Advisory Committee, and engaged two part-time staff members. High Concept Labs has an annual operating budget of \$190,000.

"As we celebrate the 5th anniversary of High Concept Labs' flagship Sponsored Artist Program, the Board feels especially fortunate to have attracted such a talented leader as Executive Director," says HCL Board Chair Mónica Millán. "HCL occupies a unique space in the Chicago arts community, and we look forward to building upon our strong foundation with Steven's guidance, passion, and expertise. I am confident that HCL will benefit extensively from his leadership, as will the artists that we support and the community we all share."

The arts-service organization has supported more than 200 artists and collectives through its Sponsored Artist Program, and offers critical organization-building support to organizations through its Institutional Incubation Program. Additional programs include Cultural Conversations, artist showcases, and special community events.

Specific organizational priorities identified by Wang include increasing partnerships with other Chicago-based organizations, fostering organizational stability, and focusing on the strategic pillars of

artists, audience, and staff. Within these three pillars, Wang plans to increase collaboration, foster dialogue, and provide opportunity for growth.

“High Concept Labs has grown from being just a few artists producing work to becoming a recognized entity in the Chicago arts scene,” says Wang. “I look forward to providing opportunities for transformation and another five years of service to Chicago artists and audiences.”

For more information about Steven Wang, please visit highconceptlabs.org/staff

About High Concept Labs: High Concept Labs is a Chicago-born not-for-profit arts service organization and cultural platform dedicated to supporting working artists and engaging the Chicago community with arts and culture. Partnering with artists at every step of the creative process, HCL offers high-quality custom support services through its Sponsored Artist and Institutional Incubation Programs. HCL also curates and hosts Cultural Conversations, hosts artist showcases, presents special community events, and facilitates educational arts partnerships. With a vibrant cycle of programs, and process-support, High Concept Labs grows community alongside culture and fosters new audiences for the arts.

highconceptlabs.org

HCL is supported in part by the generosity of MANA Contemporary Chicago, the Chicago Community Trust, the Illinois Arts Council Agency, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, the Chicago Dancemakers Forum, the Cliff Dwellers Arts Foundation, and individual donors.

website: highconceptlabs.org

calendar of events: highconceptlabs.org/calendar/

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HCL is based at Mana Contemporary Chicago in the Pilsen neighborhood, at 2233 S. Throop St. Chicago, Illinois 60608.

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