

# LAWNDALE

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Lynn Randolph, *Soul Sphere* (2016), Graphite on paper, 25 x 31", featured in winter 2017/18 exhibition *Between Worlds*. Image courtesy of the artist.

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Dear Lawndale Friends,

I am writing to share with you that I will be stepping down from my role as Lawndale's Executive Director this summer. After seven wonderful years in Houston, my family is planning to return to the Northeast. Like all decisions, this one comes with bittersweet tradeoffs. While our relocation creates the opportunity for me and my husband to raise our young children in close proximity to their many cousins and to pursue new professional challenges, it will separate us from the very special community that we have been a part of here in Houston.

When I joined Lawndale in 2015, I was stepping into my first Executive Director position. At the time, I could not imagine how rich, collaborative, and fulfilling my work would be. While Lawndale's many achievements during my tenure are laid out in the formal press release announcing my departure, I am most proud to have ushered in a new era of financial and curatorial support for Lawndale's exhibiting and Artist Studio Program artists; to have introduced new artistic and community initiatives including the *SPEAKEASY* music and performance series, the Lawndale Lending Library, and *The Sankofa Project*; and to have established long-term collaborations with Nameless Sound, Gulf Coast: A Journal of Literary and Fine Arts, The Unsung Masters Series and Artadia—all of which have engaged each of you at various moments over the years!

It has been an honor and a privilege to lead this beloved organization into the future and a pleasure to have met all of you. Despite our move from Houston, I look forward to engaging with Lawndale from afar and will forever delight in playing a part in Lawndale's decades-long commitment to artists and the Houston community.

As ever,  
Stephanie Mitchell  
Executive Director

[Read the Press Release and Executive Director Job Description.](#)