

The Museum of Modern Art

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JOHN HIGHTOWER

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John B. Hightower, who becomes Director of The Museum of Modern Art on May 1, has been Executive Director of the New York State Council on the Arts since 1964. During his tenure, the Council dramatically increased its efforts in support of the arts with the addition of such new projects as the Film Program, the Poets and Writers Program, the inclusion of a children's theater in the Touring Program, the Museum Aid Program, the Ghetto Arts Program, and the Festival Program.

Under his directorship the Council also helped the American Dance Theater become a permanent repertory company for modern dance, contributed to the first Buffalo Festival of the Arts Today and initiated "Summer on Wheels," which sent mobile units in theater, dance, jazz, film and puppetry to upstate New York communities. The Council was formed in 1960-61 with the first appropriation of \$450,000 being granted the following year by the New York State Legislature. By 1968-69 this appropriation had risen to \$2,491,861 and by 1969-70 it had been increased to \$20,000,000.

Mr. Hightower was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1933. After graduation from Yale University in 1955, he served for two years in the U.S. Marine Corps. From 1957 to 1961, he was in an executive training post at the First National City Bank. In 1961, he went to the American Heritage Publishing Company as general assistant to the President and Publisher.

Mr. Hightower has been a frequent advisor to the arts councils throughout the United States. He was Chairman of the State Planning Panel of the Associated Councils on the Arts which led to the formation of an international assembly of arts councils, The North American Assembly of State and Provincial Art Agencies.

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