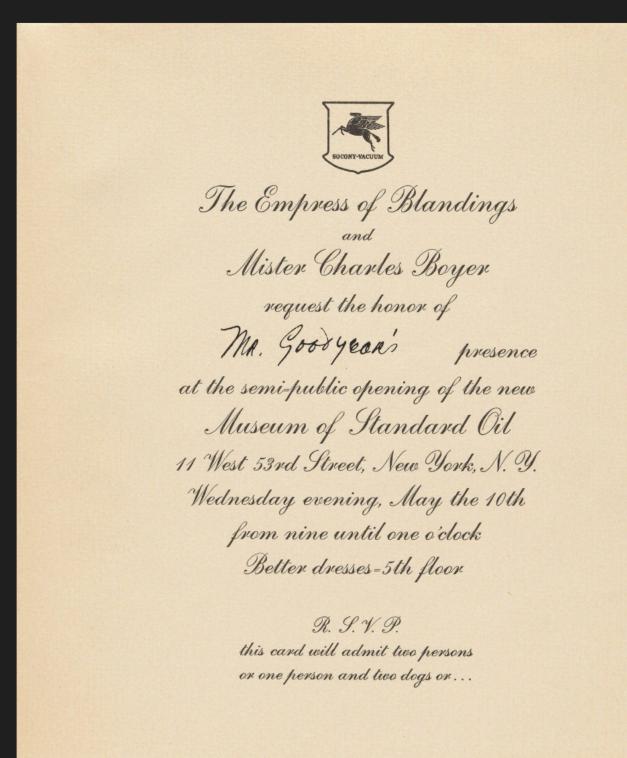
## YOUR ART MUSEUM... SPONSORED AND RUN BY?

# FREE ADMISSOIN DAYS... HOW WE ENDED UP WITH THIS SITUATION?

### "The Museum of Standard Oil"

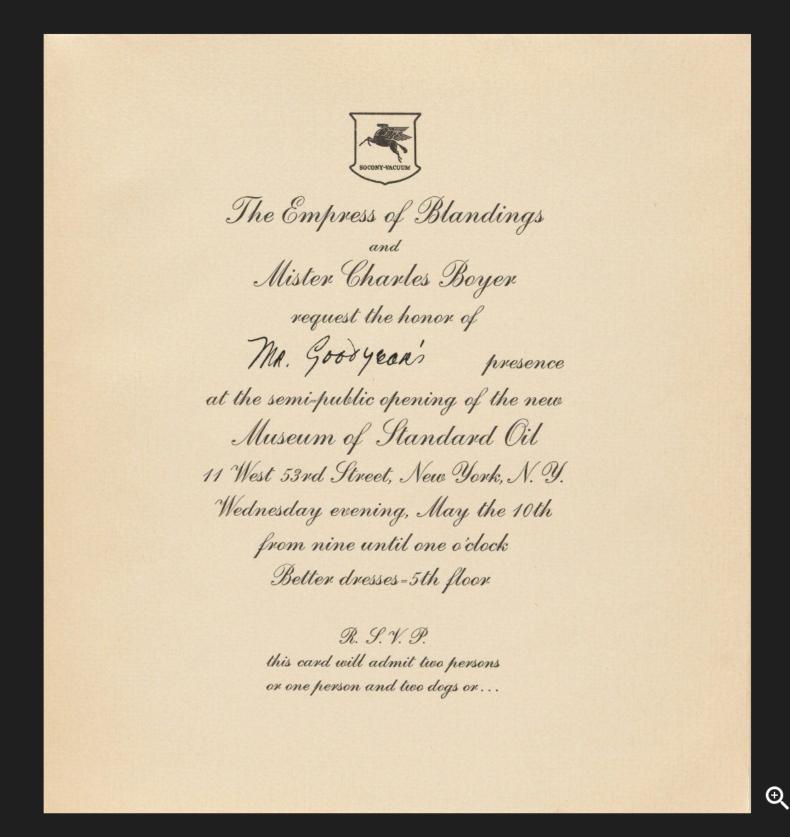


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Frances Collins. Oil that Glitters Is Not Gold. 1939

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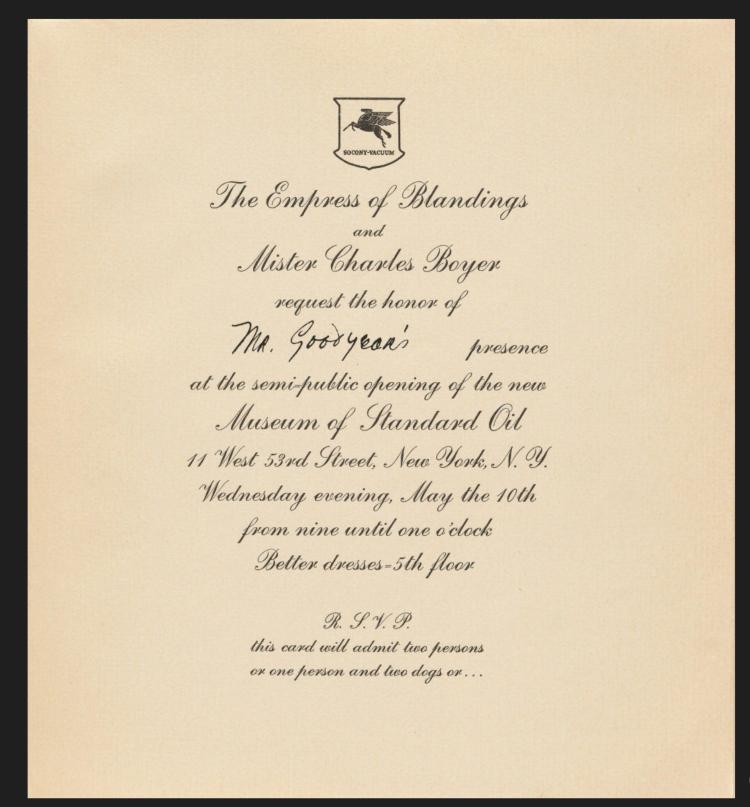
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"How modern is the Museum of Modern Art?" This question appeared at the head of a broadside distributed during a 1940 protest by the group American Abstract Artists (AAA), in which they claimed MoMA had been negligent in showing living artists in recent exhibitions. The AAA's members included Ad Reinhardt, who designed the broadside, along with Josef Albers, Willem de Kooning, Lee Krasner, and Jackson Pollock, among others.

Artists weren't the only ones to level critiques against MoMA during this time. In 1939 a Museum staff member, Frances Collins, then the manager of Publications, distributed a satirical invitation to "the semi-public opening of the new Museum of Standard Oil." Collins was purportedly upset that various staff members had not been invited to the opening party for the new flagship building, though the reference to Standard Oil hinted at deeper concerns with the institution. (John D. Rockefeller Jr., who was married to one of MoMA's founders, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller, was the oil company's heir.) On the front of the card, beneath a crown insignia, text read, "Oil that glitters is not gold."

Far more common, of course, was criticism from the press. In a piece titled "The Fur-Lined Museum" that appeared in the July 1944 issue of Harper's magazine, critic Emily Genauer took issue with MoMA's exhibition and collecting practices, specifically its championing of Surrealist art. The title was a reference to Meret Oppenheim's Object (1936), a fur-covered cup, saucer, and spoon that was shown in the 1936–37 exhibition Fantastic Art, Dada, Surrealism. Genauer considered the work an "aberration."

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Demonstrations against the war in Vietnam and Cambodia continued at MoMA in the months that followed, with artists rallying around Pablo Picasso's monumental antiwar mural Guernica (1937), then on view on the third floor. In one action, protesters presented copies of the "And babies?" poster. In another, a "Memorial to Dead Babies," complete with wreaths and flowers, was held, with Guernica as the backdrop.

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- The appointment of Black people on a curatorial level and in all other policy-making areas of the museum.
- That the Metropolitan Museum seek a more viable relationship with the TOTAL BLACK COMMUNITY!

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THE NEW YORK TIMES,

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1969

#### Sculptor Takes Work Out of Modern Museum Show

entitled "The Machine" at seum's outdoor garden. The yesterday because, he said, it had been displayed against his wishes. Takis Vassilakis said he took "this action as a symbolic act to stimulate" sculpture, a three-part construction, consists of an electromagnet about 12 inches in diameter and a white sphere and a black spool-shaped form that are suspended to the special special section. After an hour-long talk in the director's office on the fifth floor, the sculptor announced that the museum had agreed to the special section.

53d Street with several John de Menil, who friends at 4 P.M. Before it to the museum. guards could intervene, the group lifted the fixed part of the work off its pedestal,

a symbolic act to stimulate a more meaningful dialogue between museum directors, artists and the public."

The 44-year-old artist arrived at the museum on West 53d Street with several friends at 4 PM Refere

In the outdoor garden, Mr. teresting points on the prob-Vassilakis and his friends lems "between any instituput the sculpture on the tion, the artist and the

An artist removed his head revolving forms and refusing to move until they sculpture from the exhibition carried the parts to the mu- were permitted to confer with Bates Lowry, the mu-

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pulled down the two over- ground and sat around it, public.'

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tralize all cultural institutions into the as "culture."

about fair representation of black and puerto tists in the museums of this city and to give d puer to rican artists the encouragement which ent museum-gallery system has failed to give.

artists the same resale and revenue privileges work as are available to writers and composers.

e free unstructured alternatives to museums,

MEETINGS AND HELP US REACH THESE AND OTHER

ey-paying public to see works of art that rded by guards with guns?

kers Coalition (A.W.C.) is continuing its form the art world structure. Here are some gs it is fighting for:

only one 'pay day' each week, instead of only

nd minority areas of this city and to encourage ges this process may bring about in what we

artists a place in running our museums and to

about fair treatment of women artists and of without galleries.

o England's arts labs, where cultural preconcan be suspended.

IGHT O'CLOCK EVERY MONDAY EVENING AT 729 R OF WAVERLY PLACE, SECOND FLOOR. FOR MORE NE 982-1500.

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IF THE MUSEUM IS TO BE A LIVE INSTITUTION, EVEN AS THE MONEY NECESSARY FOR ITS GROWTH COMES FROM SINCERE PATRONS AND

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attack artists attack moma

Alex Gross

THE EAST VILLAGE OTHER JAN 24, 1969

ith MoMA's the 1968 My oies" is S troops. of its e poster.

Demonstrations against the war in Vietnam and Cambodia continued at MoMA in

#### The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900

The late

**Annual Pass** 



Good until

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DOCUMENTS 1

Valid only when signed. Non-transferable.

1. The immediate cancellation of the forthcoming "Harlem on My Mind" exhibition opening January 19, 1969.

The appointment of Black people on a curatorial level and in all other policy-making areas of the museum.

That the Metropolitan Museum seek a more viable relationship with the TOTAL BLACK COMMUNITY!

THE "MUSEUM" BELONGS TO ALL THE LIVING ARTISTS WHO WISH

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THE NEW YORK TIMES,

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1969

#### Sculptor Takes Work Out of Modern Museum Show

guards could intervene, the group lifted the fixed part of

sculpture from the exhibition entitled "The Machine" at the Museum of Modern Art yesterday because, he said, it had been displayed against his wishes. Takis Vassilakis said he took "this action as a symbolic act to stimulate a more meaningful dialogue between museum directors, artists and the public."

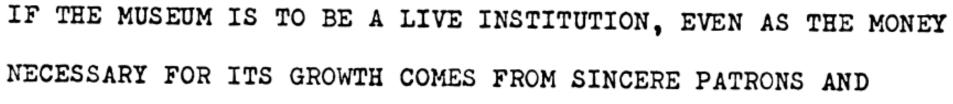
The 44-year-old artist arrived at the museum on West 53d Street with several friends at 4 P.M. Before guards could intervene, the seum's outdoor garden. The with Bates Lowry, the museum director. After an hour-long talk in the director's office on the fifth floor, the sculptor announced that the museum had agreed to place the work in storage.

Mr. Lowry said he had also agreed to meet with the artist and his friends again to set a date for a discussion on how best to initiate "an open dialogue." He said the incident had raised some interesting points on the prob-

the work off its pedestal, put the sculpture on the tion, to pulled down the two over- ground and sat around it, public."

An artist removed his head revolving forms and refusing to move until they sculpture from the exhibition carried the parts to the mu- were permitted to confer

In the outdoor garden, Mr. teresting points on the prob-Vassilakis and his friends lems "between any instituput the sculpture on the tion, the artist and the



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The 44-year-old artist arrived at the museum on West 53d Street with several friends at 4 P.M. Before in the sculpting forms and carried the parts to the museum seum's outdoor garden. The sculpture, a three-part construction, consists of an electromagnet about 12 inches in diameter and a white sphere and a black spool-shaped from that are suspended from the ceiling. When the museum had agreed to place the work in storage.

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- 2) A permanent wing should also be set up for unknown artists, and a zealous effort should be made to keep it filled not with works which satisfy a coterie but with odd, off-beat work and even with what is now considered to be junk.
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- 2. A section of the Museum, under the auspices of black artist should be devoted to showing the accomplishments of black
- 3. The Museum's activities should be extended into the Black, Spanish and other communities. It should encourage exhibit with which these groups can identify.
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1) TO DEMONSTRATE THE RIGHT OF ART WORKERS TO USE ALL MUSEUM FACILITIES:

- 2) TO SUPPORT THE DEMANDS OF BLACK ARTISTS:
- TO DEMAND THAT ALL MUSEUMS EXPAND THEIR ACTIVITIES INTO ALL AREAS AND COMMUNITIES OF THE CITY:
- 4) TO DEMAND FREE ADMISSION ON BEHALF OF ANYONE WISHING IT;
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should be administered communities, who should board for white artists

A permanent wing sh unknown artists, and a to keep it filled not v coterie but with odd, what is now considered

The Staff

Bates Lowry

March 18, 1969 Formation of a special committee to study the museum's relationship to artists and society.

The Modern Museum should be open free of charge all seven days of the week.

The Modern Museum should also remain open until midnight at least two days a week.

AMONG THE REASONS THIS ACTION IS BEING CALLED ARE THESE:

- TO DEMONSTRATE THE RIGHT OF ART WORKERS TO USE ALL MUSEUM FACILITIES:
- 2) TO SUPPORT THE DEMANDS OF BLACK ARTISTS:
- 3) TO DEMAND THAT ALL MUSEUMS EXPAND THEIR ACTIVITIES INTO ALL AREAS AND COMMUNITIES OF THE CITY:
- 4) TO DEMAND FREE ADMISSION ON BEHALF OF ANYONE WISHING IT;
- 5) TO DEMAND ACCESS TO MUSEUM POLICY-MAKING ON BEHALF OF ART WORKERS.

Mr. Bates Lowry, Director Museum of Modern Art 11 West 53rd St.

## DEMONSTRATE OUR STRENGTH AT MOMA!

March 10, 1969\*

To The Museum of Modern Art Bates Lowry, Director 21 West 53rd St. N.Y.C., New York

Dear Mr. Lowry:

architects, choreographers, composers, critics&WI designers, film·makers, museum workers, pail photographers, printers, sculptors, taxidermists

> ARE ASKED TO COME TO THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART 21 WEST 53RD STREET

> > ON SUNDAY, MARCH 30 TH.

NEW VOLCANO FOUND

TE THE MUSEUM IS TO BE A LIVE INSTITUTION, EVEN AS THE MONEY

TS GROWTH COMES FROM SINCERE PATRONS AND

#### The Museum of Modern Art

THE STAFF

BATES LOWRY

Attach. 4

below

March 24, 1969

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They then distributed to the public in the lobby the attached handbill. As you see, the handbill announces that the group is planning a demonstration to take place in the Museum's Sculpture Garden on Sunday, March 30, at 3:00 p.m. Admission to the Museum will proceed as usual on that day.

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March

Attach. 4 below



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#### The Museum of Modern Art

The Staff

From Bates Lowry

March 31, 1969

Artists' Demonstration, March 30, 1969

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#### THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, MARCH 31, 1969

## MODERN MUSEUM PROTEST TARGET

300 Demonstrators Orderly
—More Black Art Sought

#### By ROBERT WINDELER

About 300 demonstrators gathered in the courtyard of the Museum of Modern Art yesterday afternoon, protesting what they called the museum's inadequate showing of black art and demanding that admission be free.

public hearing and free admission were "absolutely impossible, and can't be considered."

In a long letter distributed to paying visitors yesterday he said he hoped they would not be inconvenienced.

An independent committee, of about 35 artists, filmmakers, critics, historians, collectors, dealers and civic leaders, Mr. Lowry said, would study the relation between museums and artists. Its members will be announced this week, he said.

Yesterday's demonstrators carried signs ("Bury the Mauso-leum of Modern Art," "Retrospective for Romane Bearden Now," "Dump Dada and Moma"), but they mostly milled about and there was no chanting.

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Date March 31, 1969

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NEW YORK (EVO) There is now free admission at the Modern Museum. This is the only conclusion to be drawn from last Sunday's demonstration. Fifty black and white demonstrators were let in without paying in the presence of the entire Museum staff and three television networks. Anyone wishing to enter on similar terms should go either alone or in a group to the museum and ask for free admission where the guards are standing. If denied entry he should go to the box office and press his point home. He should simply identify himself as one of the many citizens concerned for reform in America's museums. If he has any difficulty he should notify EVO. The Museum is expected to declare itself on an official free day some time in the near future, but until they do there is no reason to suppose that the above procedure is not the correct one.

april 16,

1969



The Museum of Modern Art

The Staff

Bates Lowry

March 31, 1969

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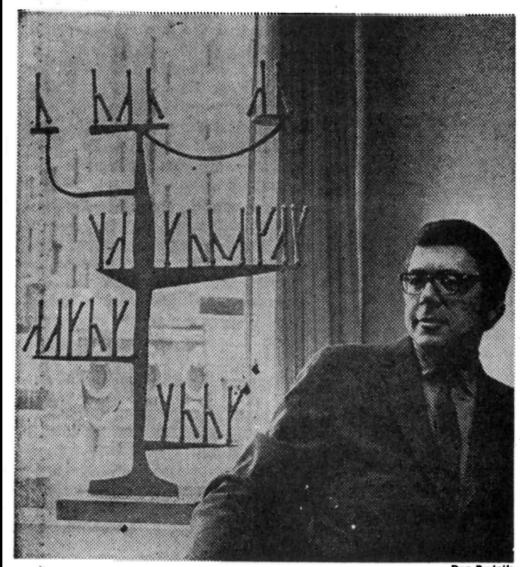
THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, MARCH 31, 1969

NEW

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1969

By GRACE GLUECK

#### Lowry Out as Director Of the Modern Museum



Bates Lowry in office at Museum of Modern Art, where nis resignation as director was announced yesterday. Behind him is a candelabrum by David Smith, sculptor.

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Bates Lowry, resigned

The Staff

Bates Lowry

March 31, 1969

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THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, MARCH 31, 1969

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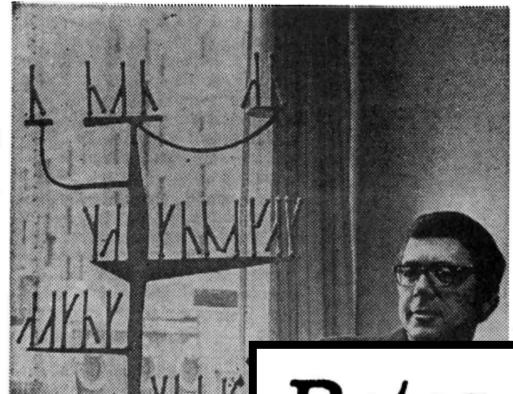
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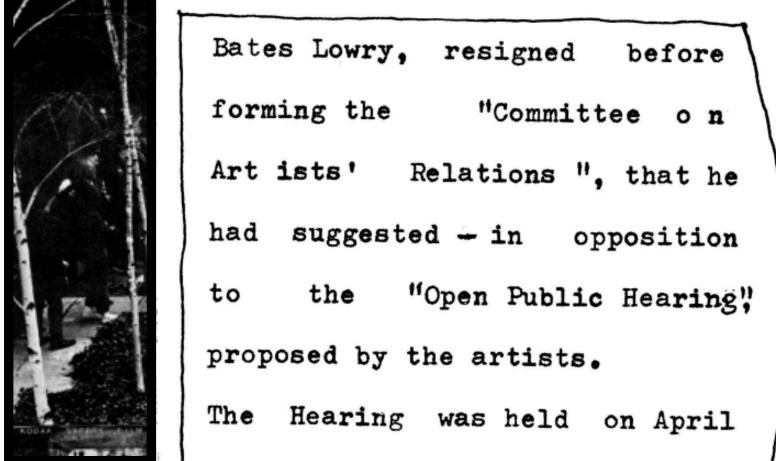


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The Staff

Bates Lowry

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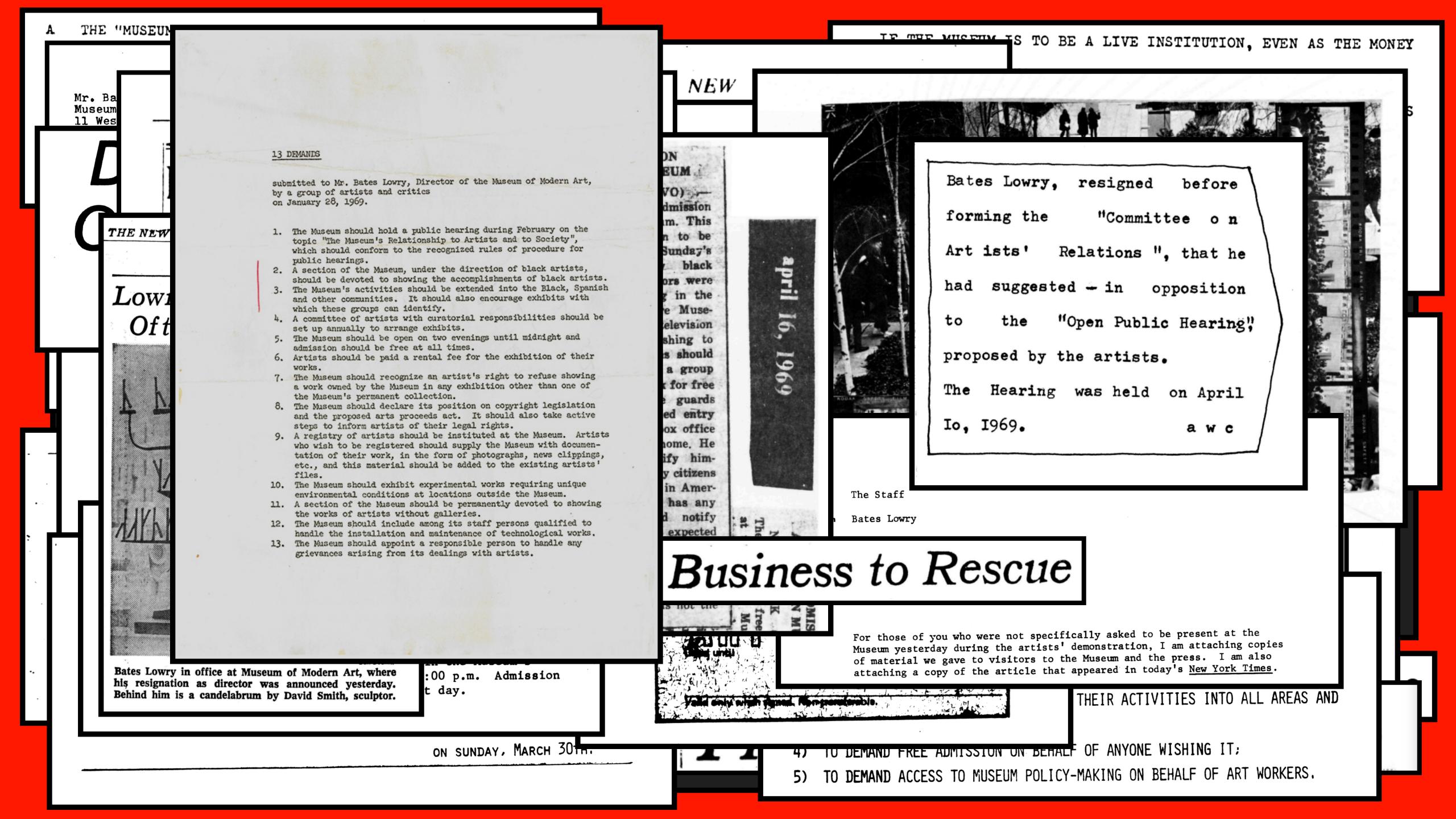
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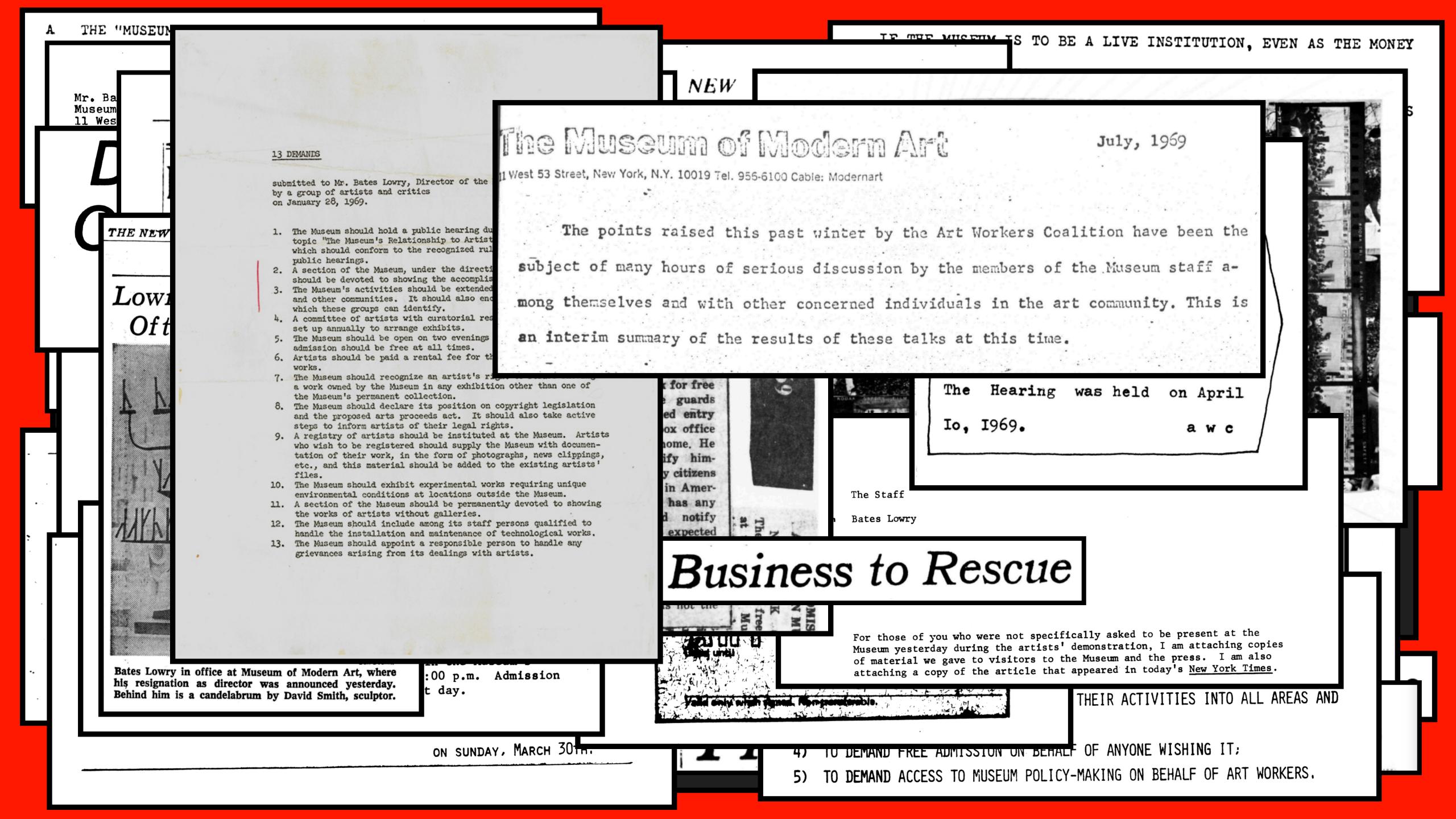
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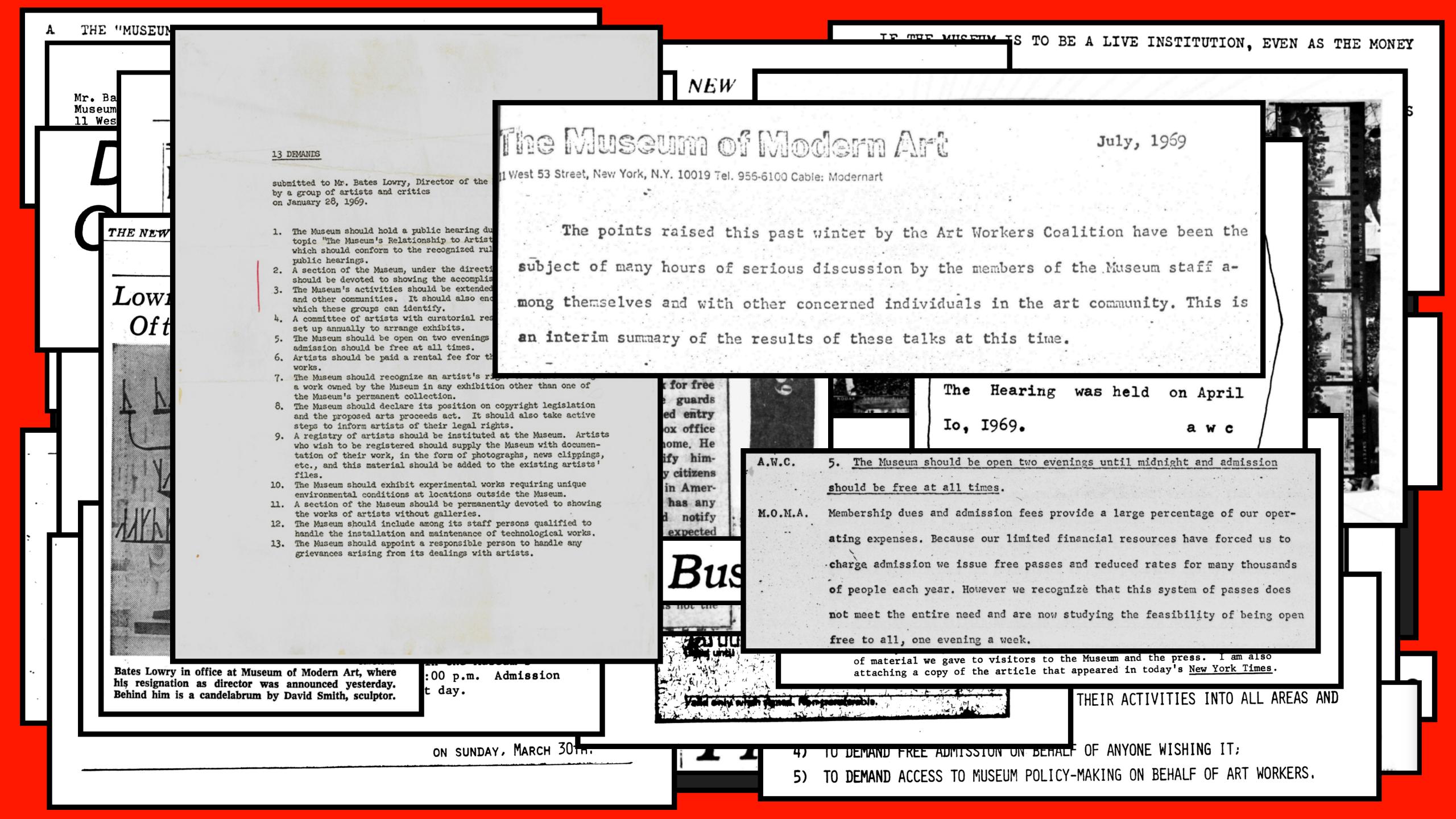
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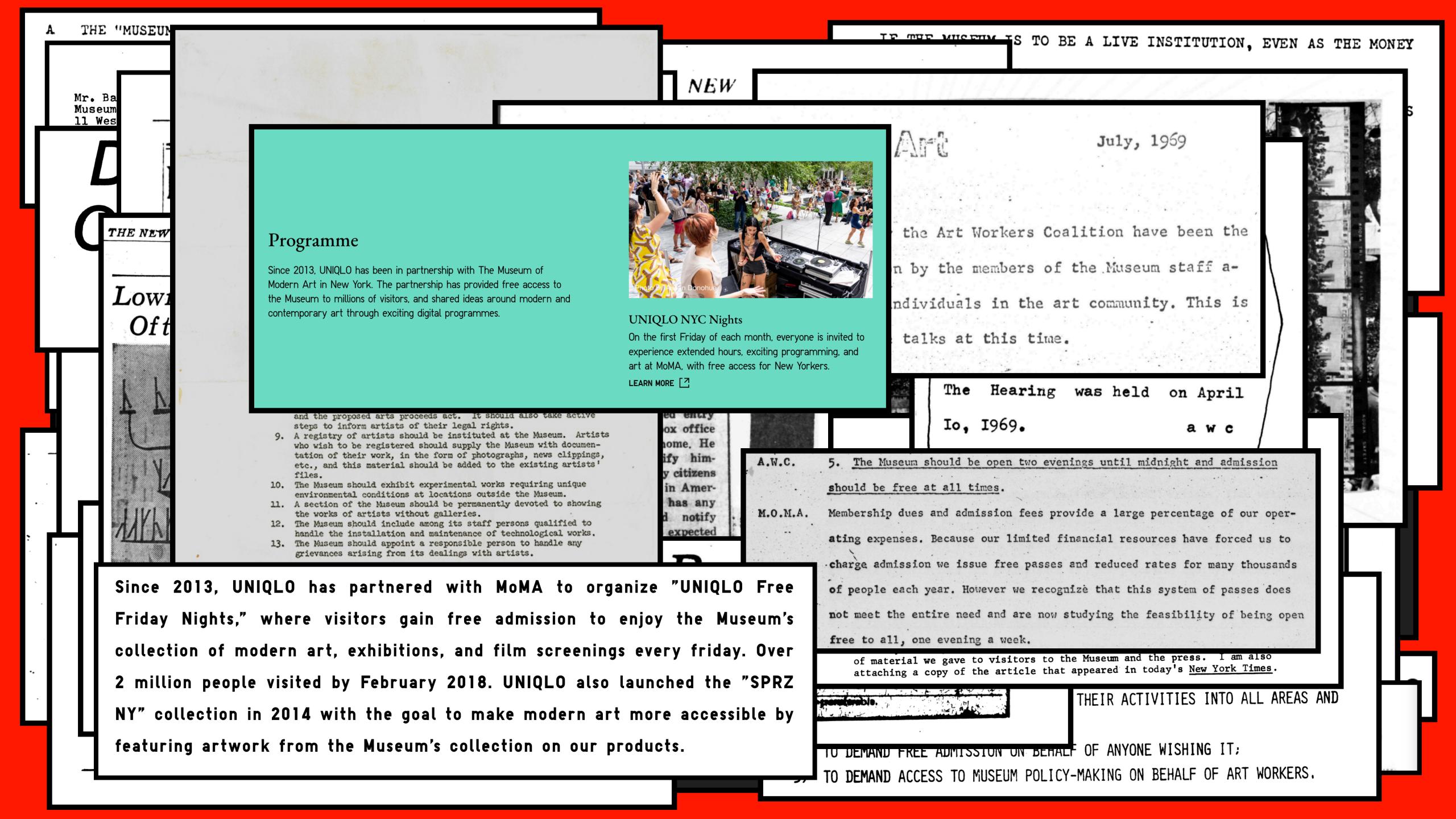
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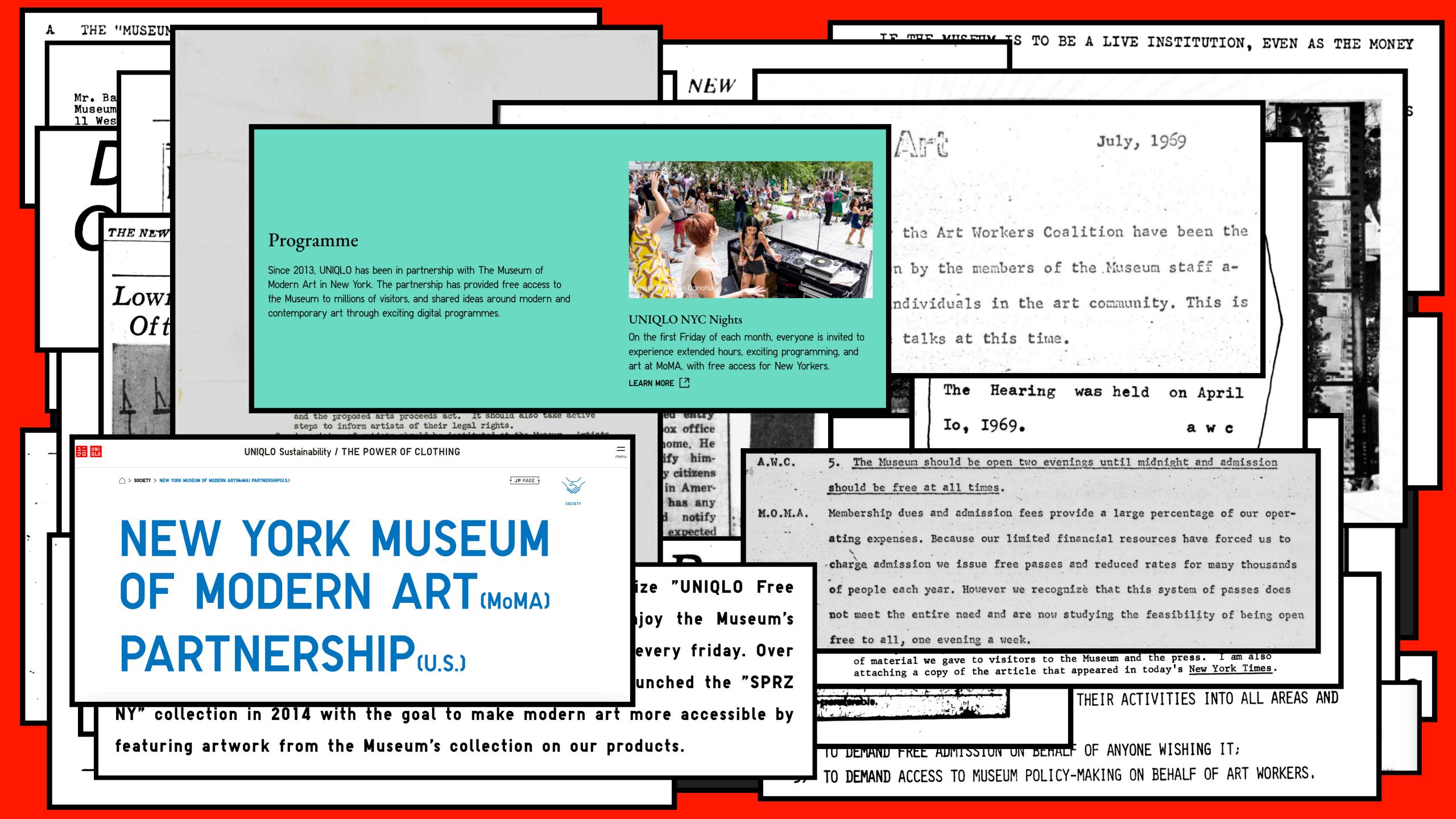
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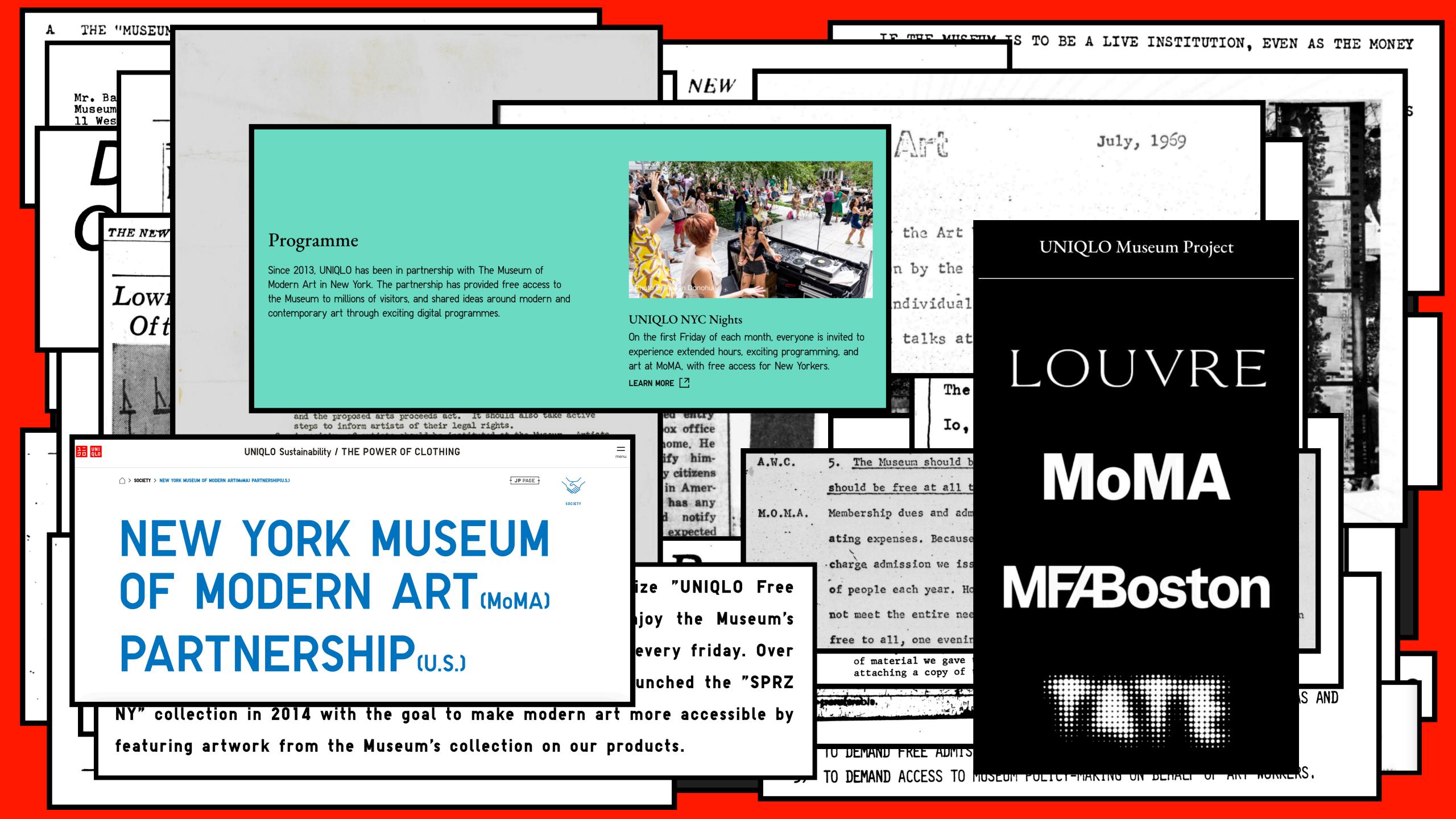


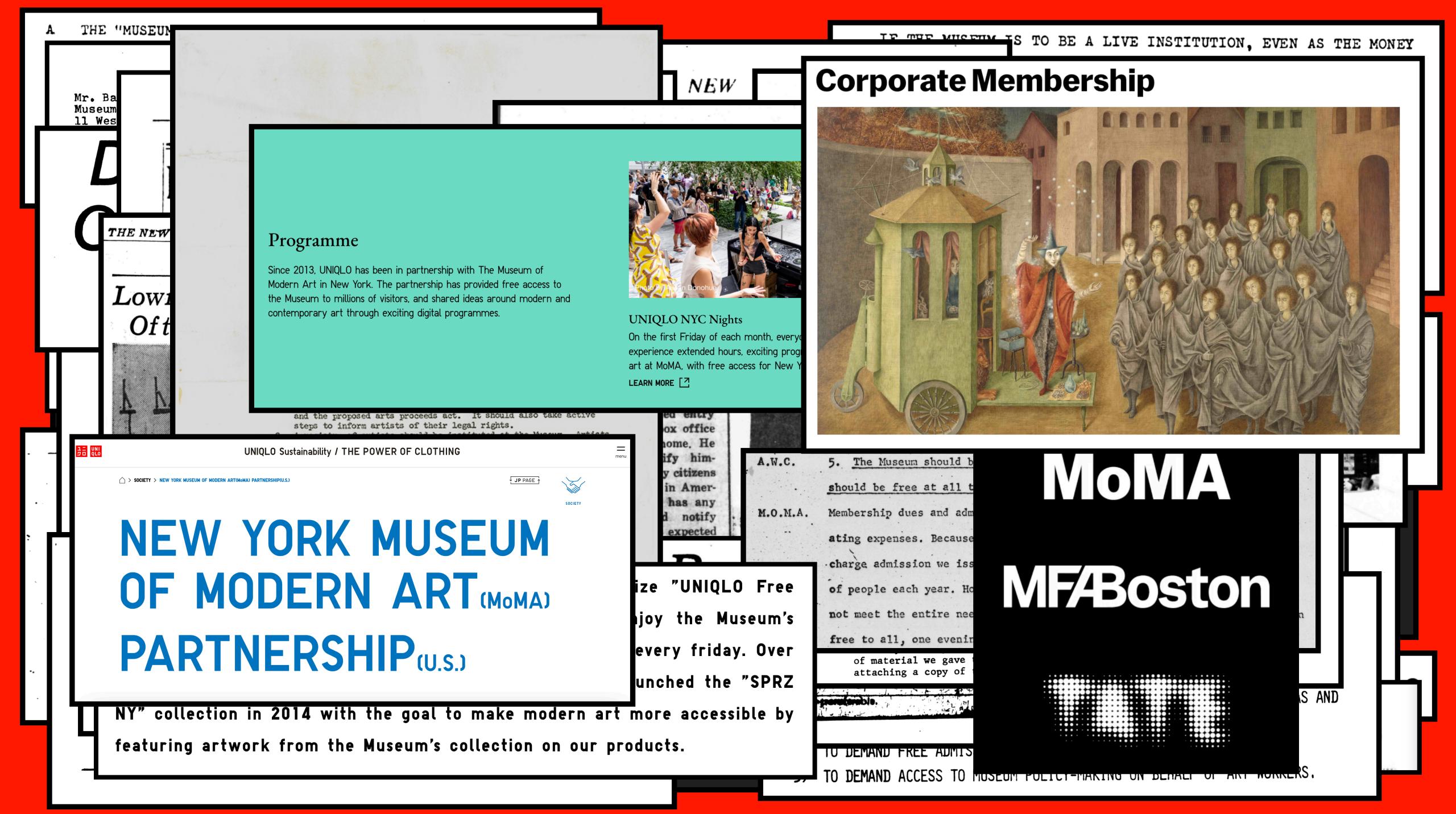












NEW

#### **Corporate Membership**

#### Programme

Since 2013, UNIQLO has been in partnership with The Museum of Modern Art in New York. The partnership has provided free access to the Museum to millions of visitors, and shared ideas around modern and contemporary art through exciting digital programmes.



ox office

expected

On the first Friday of each month, everyonexperience extended hours, exciting progrant at MoMA, with free access for New Y

and the proposed arts proceeds act. It should also take active steps to inform artists of their legal rights.

UNIQLO Sustainability / THE POWER OF CLOTHING

 $\bigcirc$  > SOCIETY > NEW YORK MUSEUM OF MODERN ART(MoMA) PARTNERSHIP(U.S.)

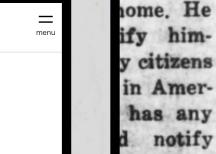
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NEW YORK MUSEUM OF MODERN ART (MOMA)
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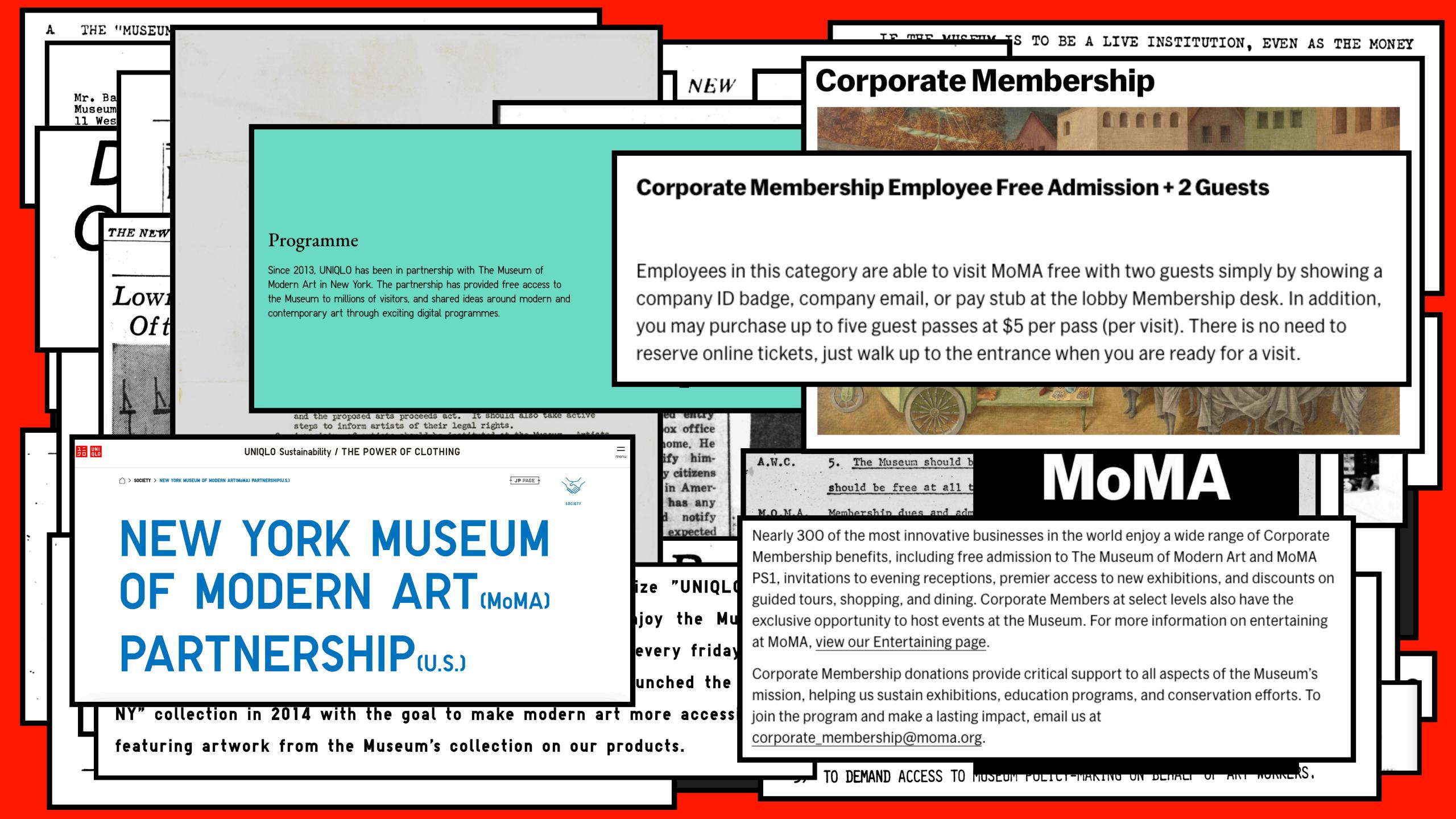
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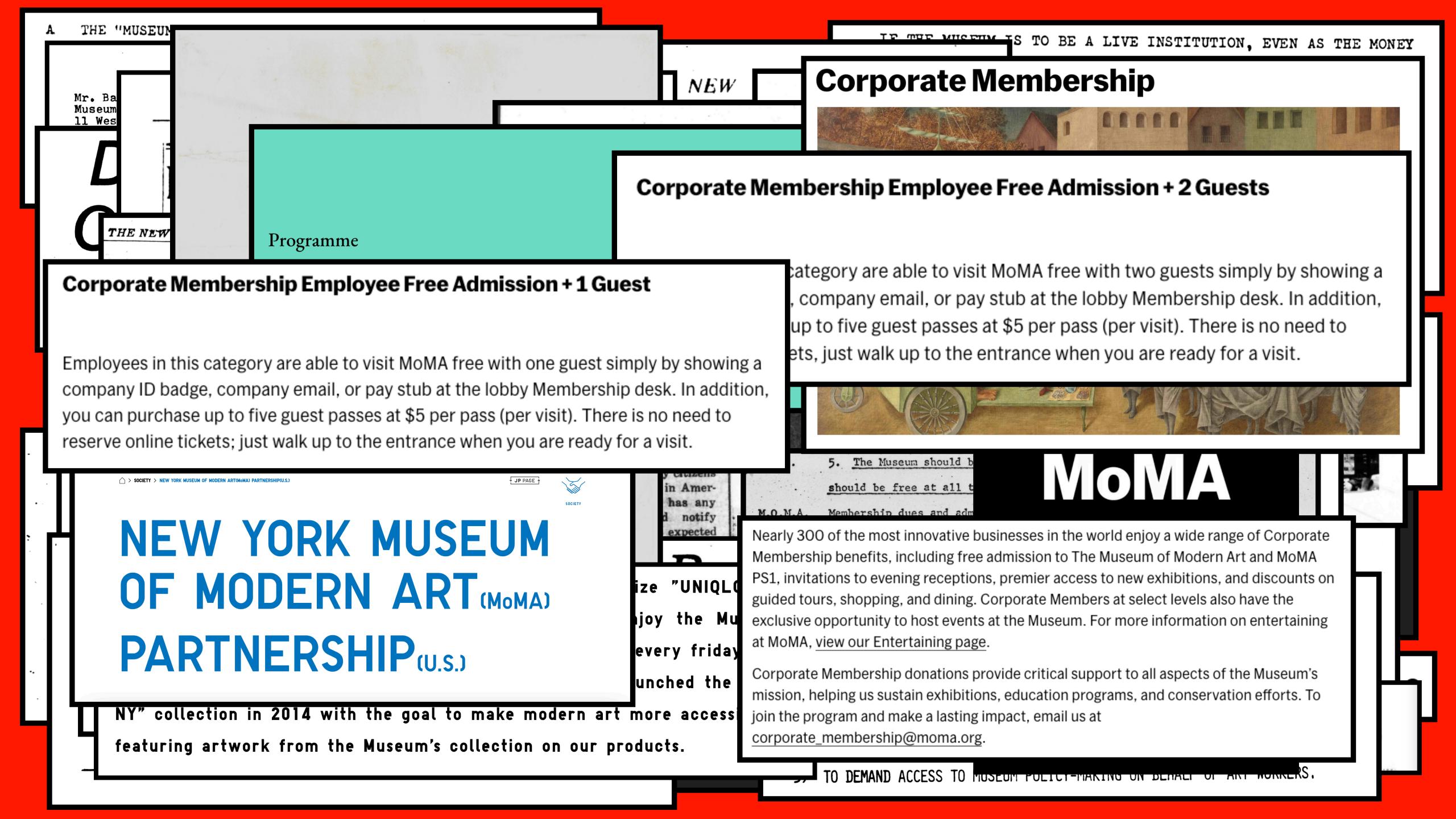
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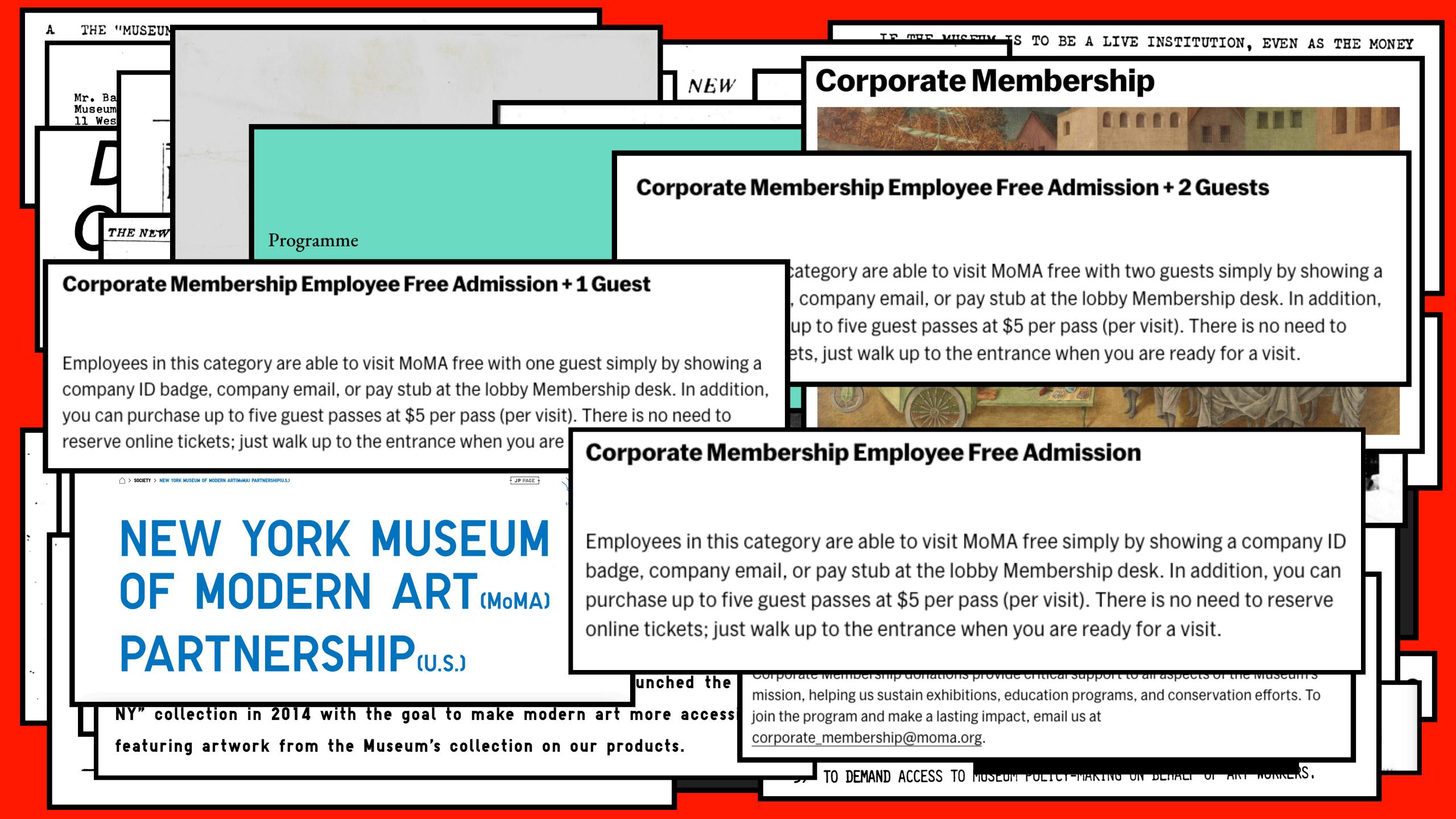
Nearly 300 of the most innovative businesses in the world enjoy a wide range of Corporate Membership benefits, including free admission to The Museum of Modern Art and MoMA PS1, invitations to evening receptions, premier access to new exhibitions, and discounts on guided tours, shopping, and dining. Corporate Members at select levels also have the exclusive opportunity to host events at the Museum. For more information on entertaining at MoMA, view our Entertaining page.

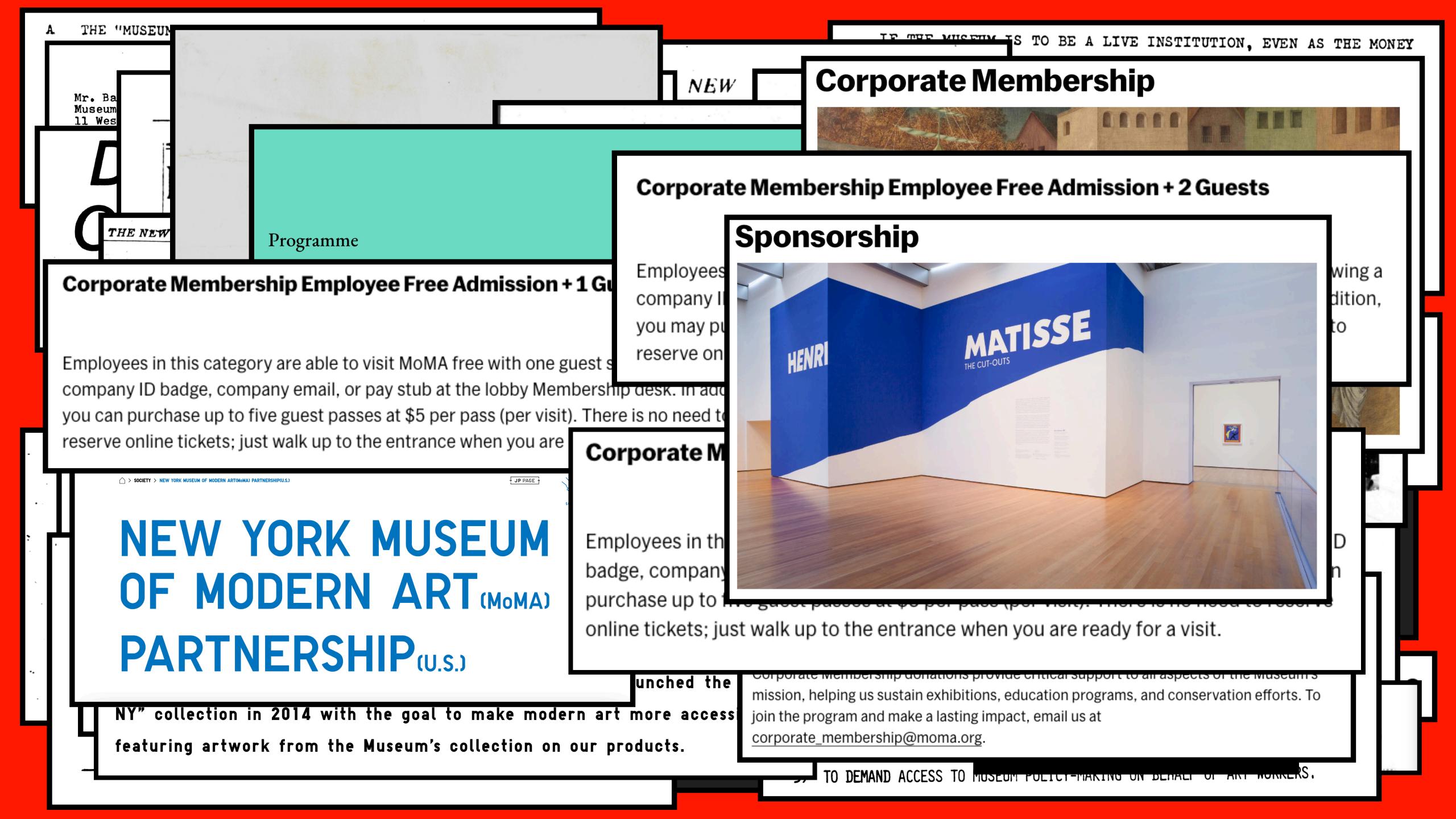
Corporate Membership donations provide critical support to all aspects of the Museum's mission, helping us sustain exhibitions, education programs, and conservation efforts. To join the program and make a lasting impact, email us at <a href="mailto:corporate\_membership@moma.org">corporate\_membership@moma.org</a>.

TO DEMAND ACCESS TO MUSEUM PULICY-MAKING UN BEHALL OF AKT WORKEN









NEW

**Corporate Membership** 

The Museum of Modern Art, one of the preeminent art institutions in the world, welcomes more than four million annual visitors and engages with over 54 million users online. With extraordinary exhibitions and an unparalleled collection of modern and contemporary art, MoMA fuels creativity, ignites minds, and provides inspiration for art lovers around the world. Through innovative programming, we are able to create meaningful, lasting connections with a global audience in search of the most thought-provoking and inspiring cultural experiences.

I II E NEW

Programme

#### Corporate Membership Employee Free Admission + 1 Guest

Employees in this category are able to visit MoMA free with one guest simply by show company ID badge, company email, or pay stub at the lobby Membership desk. In add you can purchase up to five guest passes at \$5 per pass (per visit). There is no need to reserve online tickets; just walk up to the entrance when you are

Corporate M

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# NEW YORK MUSEUM OF MODERN ART(MoMA) PARTNERSHIP(U.S.)

Employees in th badge, company

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NY" collection in 2014 with the goal to make modern art more access featuring artwork from the Museum's collection on our products.

orate Membership Employee Free Admission + 2 Guests

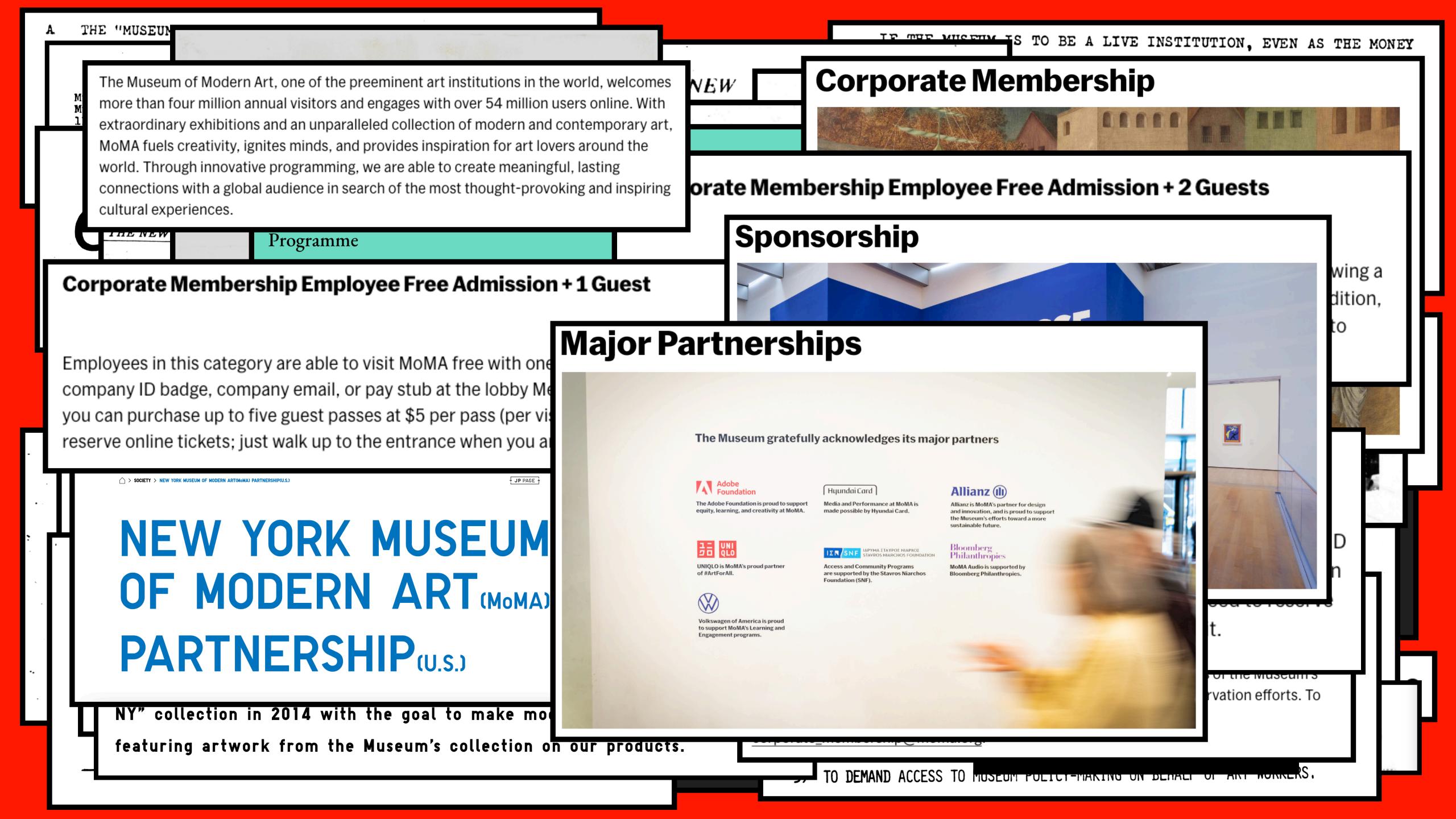
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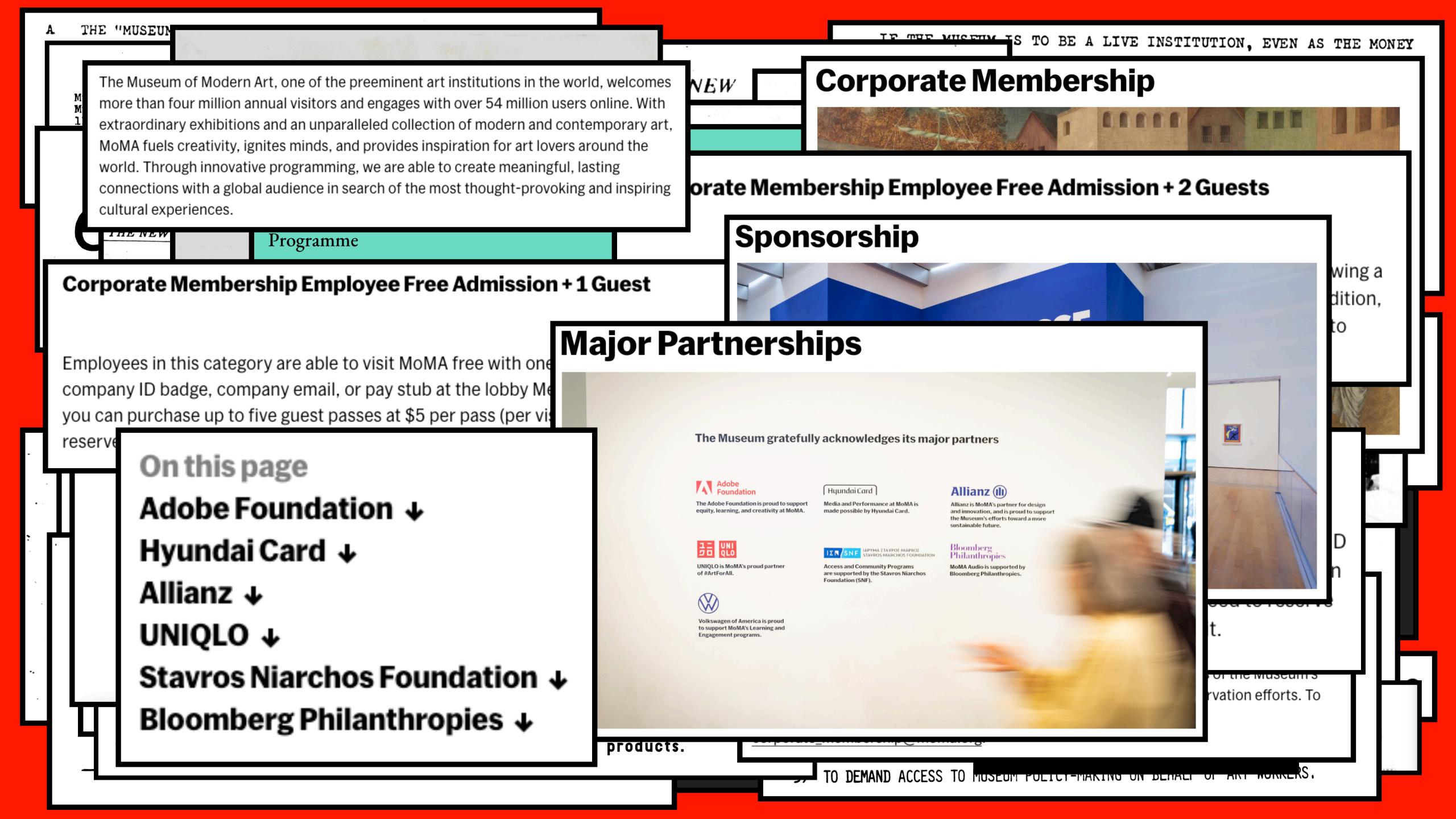


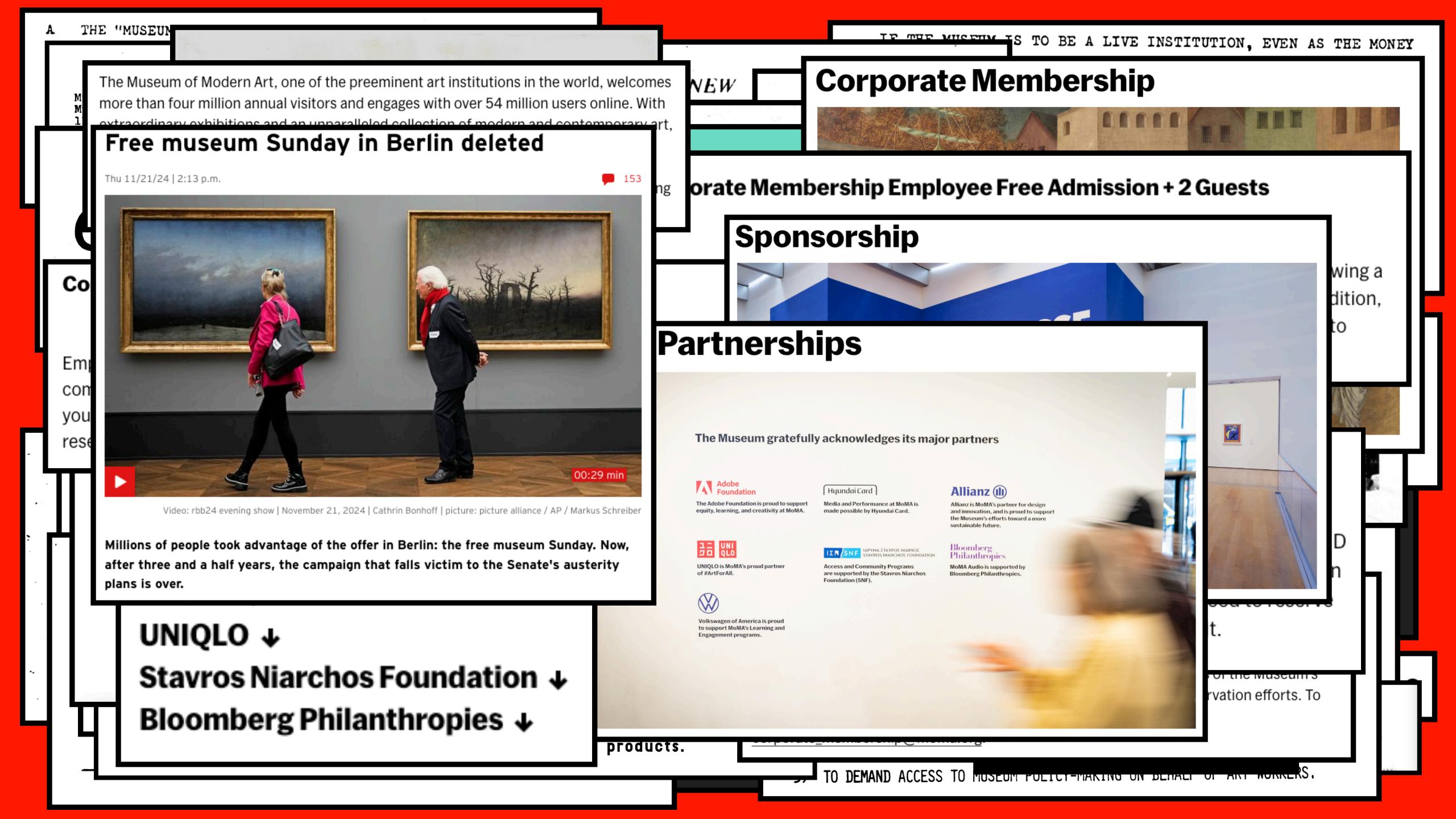
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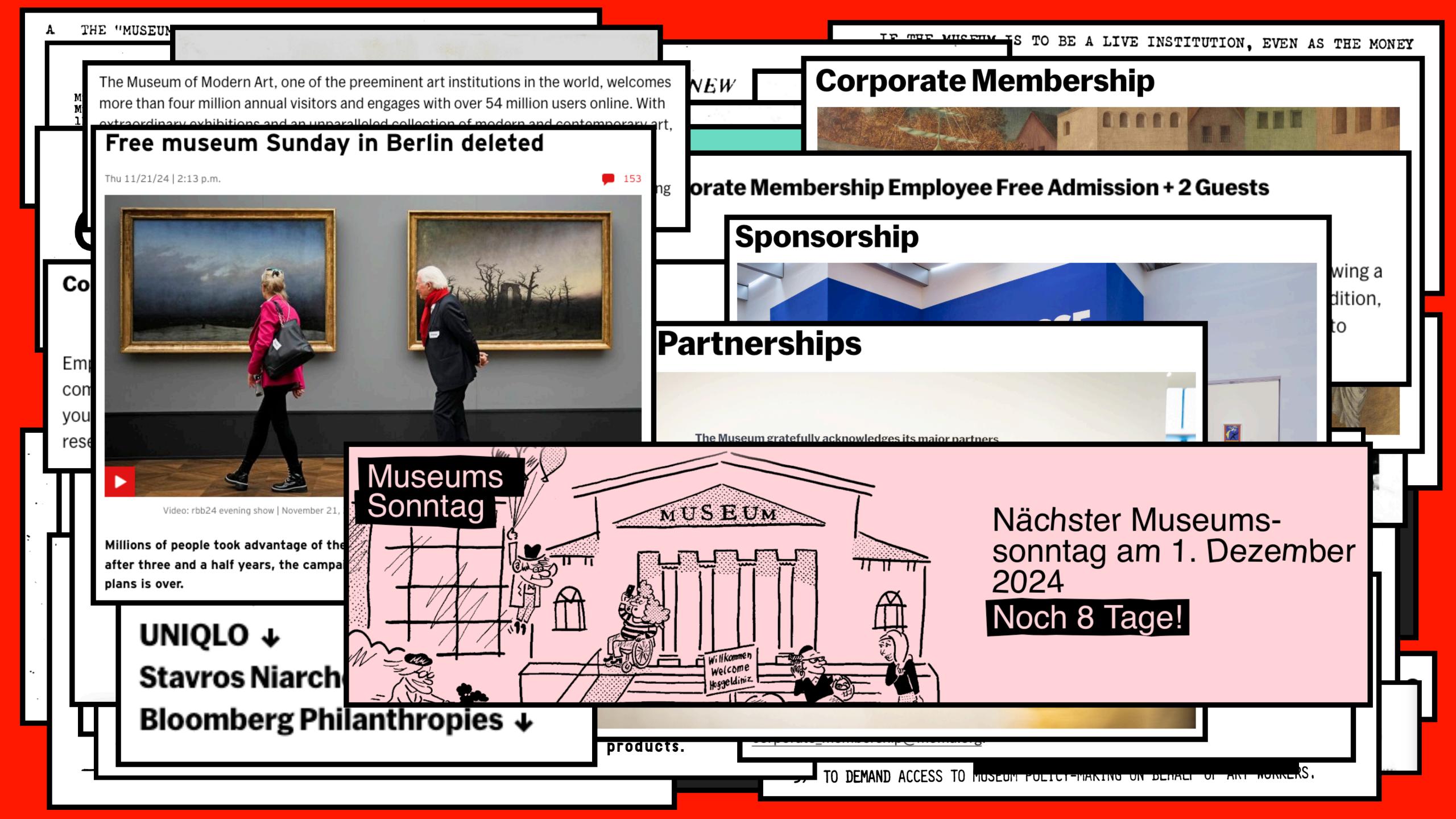
mission, helping us sustain exhibitions, education programs, and conservation efforts. To join the program and make a lasting impact, email us at corporate\_membership@moma.org.

TO DEMAND ACCESS TO MUSEUM PULICY-MAKING UN BEHALL OF AKT WORKEN









## SOURCES:

- <u>HTTPS://WWW.MOMA.ORG/INTERACTIVES/MOMA\_THROUGH\_TIME/1930/THE-MUSEUM-OF-STANDARD-OIL/</u>
- HTTPS://AMERICANABSTRACTARTISTS.ORG/
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