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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

**Executive Director to Receive Honor for Decades of Service in the
Western Addition**

(San Francisco, CA) Sheryl Evans Davis, newly appointed Executive Director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, will be honored Nov. 9 by community partners and City colleagues for her decades of work with children and families in the Western Addition. Davis was the founding director of Mo'MAGIC, a program of the Office of the Public Defender and a collaborative of service providers and stakeholders in the Fillmore District, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

For 20 years, Davis has been a champion for those historically marginalized and underserved in San Francisco, especially African American young people and their families. During her career as an educator, non-profit administrator, legislative staffer, and City commissioner, Davis has sought to expose youth and children to new opportunities and create space for students to feel valued and heard.

In just the last two years, Davis has served as a key anchor to the community-driven, city-supported Black to the Future initiative, bringing together stakeholders with expertise in mental health supports, workforce development, education, and human services to develop a tiered plan for San Francisco's African American residents most in need of targeted interventions. Davis has also developed and raised funds for a signature Author's Series, designed to bring acclaimed writers of color to San Francisco to meet and engage with local students, offering young people the crucial opportunity to see themselves and their community represented in literature. In 2015 and 2016, Davis arranged author talks and book signings with Jacqueline Woodson (*Brown Girl Dreaming, Pecan Pie Baby*), D. Watkins (*The Beast Side, The Cook-Up*), Wes Moore (*The Other Wes Moore*), and, in a transformative experience for many, Congressman John Lewis, along with collaborators Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell (the *March* graphic novel trilogy).

The aim to educate, expose, and empower children and youth by raising expectations is central to Davis's work in the community. In her new role as Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission, Davis looks forward to continuing the development of her Engineering for Equity framework. "I am honored by this appointment and thankful to Mayor Lee and the Commission for the opportunity to do the work that I love, in the City where I live and have raised my family," said Davis. "I am excited to create new civic partnerships focused on supporting disenfranchised communities to thrive, be seen and be heard. I consider this an opportunity to continue my work in public service and one that allows me to advocate for at-risk communities by creating pathways and access toward achieving socioeconomic sustainability."

The Mo'MAGIC anniversary celebration honoring Davis will be held Wednesday, Nov. 9, 12pm, in SF City Hall's North Light Court.

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