



516 ARTS announces new curator Rachelle B. Pablo (Diné)

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516 ARTS has hired Rachelle B. Pablo (she/her/hers) as its new Curator, a position previously held by Josie Lopez, PhD who is now Curator of Art at the Albuquerque Museum. The position involves curating exhibitions and developing programs for the downtown contemporary art museum, as well as working with community and regional partnerships. She will help coordinate 516 Arts' Indigenous Arts programming statewide.

Born in Gallup, New Mexico, Rachelle B. Pablo is a veteran of the U.S. Armed Services and holds an MA in Art History from the University of Delaware; a BFA from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Studio Arts with a minor in Museum Studies and Certificate in Business and Entrepreneurship; and an Associates of Arts in Anthropology and Liberal Arts from Central New Mexico Community College. She has completed a curatorial fellowship program at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts and has done a variety of internships and projects at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC, and the Museum of Contemporary Native Art in Santa Fe. She serves as a board member of IndigenousWays, a non-profit organization focusing on music, arts, outreach, and community events.

Founded in 2006, 516 ARTS is a non-collecting contemporary art museum which has a strong history of putting Indigenous artists and curators front and center in its programming. Executive Director Suzanne Sbarge says, "Rachelle's focus on Indigenous art is a great fit with our longtime priority of centering Native artists. She brings scholarship on Native American art, understanding of the complexities of cultures in New Mexico, and varied life experiences to the job. 516 ARTS seeks to present art that is relevant to our particular place and time, and Rachelle's perspective and ideas are a great contribution to our work."

This curatorial position is supported in part by a grant to 516 ARTS from the Henry Luce Foundation in their area of Native American Intellectual Leadership. The Foundation seeks to enrich public discourse by promoting innovative scholarship, cultivating new leaders, and fostering international understanding.

Pablo says about her new position, "As an enrolled member of the Diné (Navajo) Nation, I am Táchii'nii—Red Streak Running Into the Water Clan and born for Tó'ahedlíinii—Water Flows Together Clan. I will bring wide-ranging experience and cultural awareness of the Native American and diverse local communities in New Mexico. The intersectionality nurtured by the 516 ARTS team is a value that appeals to me as a queer Diné artist and museum professional. This curatorial position fulfills my long-term goal of contributing to the arts and community in New Mexico."

The mission of 516 ARTS is to connect contemporary artists and local audiences. 516 ARTS presents relevant exhibitions and public programs, which feature a mix of local, national, and international artists and seek to inspire curiosity and creative experimentation. For more information, visit 516arts.org.