



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Museo de las Americas Presents the pop-up art exhibit, ¡Salud y Justicia! Destigmatizing mental health in the Latinx community.**

This exhibit is a collaborative and intergenerational effort with the March 2022 Amplify: Latinx Community Now Artists, ViVe Wellness Community and Lxs Jovenes Youth Leadership Lab.

**Denver- July 5, 2022-** Denver's Latin American Art Museum, Museo de las Americas (Museo), located in the heart of the Art District on Santa Fe, is excited to present a new pop-up art exhibition: *¡Salud y Justicia!*

Curated by Carina Bañuelos-Harrison, this exhibit aims to raise mental health awareness and explore what it means to struggle with mental health issues in Brown and Black communities. This exhibit will bring together over 25 youth leaders, community members, Latinx emerging and professional artists to help normalize mental health issues and to show the healing power of art making through a wide array of art mediums such as painting, collage, sculpture, video, photography and mixed media.



It is crucial to talk about mental health specifically among women, people of color and other historically marginalized groups. The pandemic provoked a mental health crisis already present within communities. In this conversation about mental health, we find recurrent topics like stigma, access, belonging, social media, generational trauma and how it is socially discouraged to go to therapy in these communities; associating mental health issues with something negative and almost fatal as if we deny and suppress these emotions,

they will go away. In the diverse and emotionally charged artworks shown in this art exhibit, visitors can see the opposite, the power of recognizing our issues to be able to transform them.

Museo de las Americas is a community museum, a safe space where difficult conversations can be had about mental health stigma, accessibility and generational trauma.

“Mental illness, such as depression, still carries a stigma within communities of color. Speaking to an outsider about personal problems, feelings, and family matters in general are often discouraged and perceived as a form of disloyalty and mistrust” said Carina Bañuelos-Harrison, Curator of *¡Salud y Justicia!*



These preconceptions make it even harder for people of color to look for professional mental health services when needed. Other obstacles that play a significant role in the access to mental health services for people of color are cost, cultural and language barriers. With *¡Salud y Justicia!* Museo de las Americas hopes that visitors can reflect on the importance of mental health within communities of color and the value of art as a catalyst to express emotions and feelings.

“The exhibit's goal is to spark an open and multidimensional conversation about mental illness to normalize our struggles and transform them through healthy outlets and modalities. While bringing to light that our community deserves equitable access to mental health” says Carina Bañuelos-Harrison, Curator.

*¡Salud y Justicia!* will be on view from August 5th to September 24th, 2022 at Museo.

### **About Museo de las Americas**

Museo de las Americas is the premier Latin American Art Museum of the Rocky Mountain region. Located in the heart of the Art District on Santa Fe, Museo is dedicated to educate our community through collecting, preserving, interpreting, and exhibiting the diverse arts and culture of the Americas, from ancient to contemporary, through innovative exhibitions and programming.

### **Media Contact**

Cristina Del Hoyo  
Communications & Media Manager  
Museo de las Americas  
[communications@museo.org](mailto:communications@museo.org)

**Image Credits****Image 1**

**Title/Year:** *Siesta*, 2019.

**Artist:** Alexander Hernandez

**Image 2**

**Title:** *When They Came*, 2013.

**Artist:** Cherish Marquez

**Planning Your Visit and COVID-19 Safety Protocols**

Information on planning a visit to Museo de las Americas can be found [here](#).

Up-to-date information regarding our COVID-19 safety protocols can be found [here](#).

**Location**

Museo de las Americas, 861 Santa Fe Drive, Denver, CO 80204

**Hours**

Tuesday - Friday: 12 PM – 6 PM

Saturday: 12PM – 5PM

Sunday - Monday: Closed

**General Admission**

\$8.00 Adults

\$5.00 Students/Seniors/Artists/Teachers/Military/

FREE – Children 13 years of age and under

FREE – Members

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