

CALA ALLIANCE

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CALA Alliance Appoints Alana Hernandez Executive Director and Curator

Phoenix, AZ / February 16, 2021—CALA Alliance is pleased to announce the appointment of Alana Hernandez to the position of Executive Director and Curator. In this role, Hernandez will be responsible for the overall strategic and operational aspects of CALA’s programs, fundraising, and financial health, advancing CALA’s mission and vision. She will play an instrumental role in fostering Latinx artistic talent in the Metro-Phoenix region and beyond while strengthening cultural ties to the Americas. Her position at CALA begins **on March 1, 2021**.

“The entire Board is excited to welcome Alana into her new role,” said Ruben Alvarez, CALA Alliance Board Chair. “Hernandez brings strong credentials and a prestigious work history. We look forward to taking CALA to the next level.”

Hernandez comes to CALA from the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego where she served as Assistant Curator. During her tenure at MCASD her exhibitions and programming focused on peripheral and ignored art histories, with particular attention paid to U.S. Latinx and artists from Latin America. Hernandez also spearheaded and developed new programmatic digital offerings for MCASD, including a series of artist talks titled the Charlas.

“I am honored to lead CALA and its team in this new phase of its history. I look forward to strengthening and broadening the culturally-relevant, dynamic programming CALA offers and merging our shared goals of expanding the cultural relevancy of U.S. Latinx and art from Latin America,” said Hernandez.

Hernandez has held curatorial positions at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Páramo, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico; Hunter East Harlem Gallery, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Phoenix Art Museum; and BRIC Arts Media, Brooklyn. Her writing has appeared in *MCASD.Digital* (2021), *HereIn Journal* (2020), and the exhibition catalogues *John Rivas: Los Voces Inside of Me* (2020), *Atlpán: Claudia Peña Salinas* (2019), and *Traveler Artists: Landscapes of Latin America from the Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Collection* (2015). She is a contributor to the forthcoming *Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego: Handbook of the Collection* (2021) and the three-print volume, *Grove Encyclopedia of Latin American Art and Architecture*. Hernandez received her M.A. from CUNY Hunter College, where she specialized in Modern and Contemporary Latin American Art.

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About CALA Alliance

CALA Alliance (Celebración Artística de las Américas) is a multidisciplinary Latinx arts organization based in Phoenix that collaborates with artists and arts organizations to connect Arizona, Mexico, and Latin America. We advance our mission through innovative public programming, artist commissions, international residencies, and cultural exchanges that reimagine Arizona's place in the Americas. CALA envisions a cultural landscape that values the creative and artistic contributions of Latinxs and latinoamericanxs, and critically engages their stories in Arizona and throughout the Americas.

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