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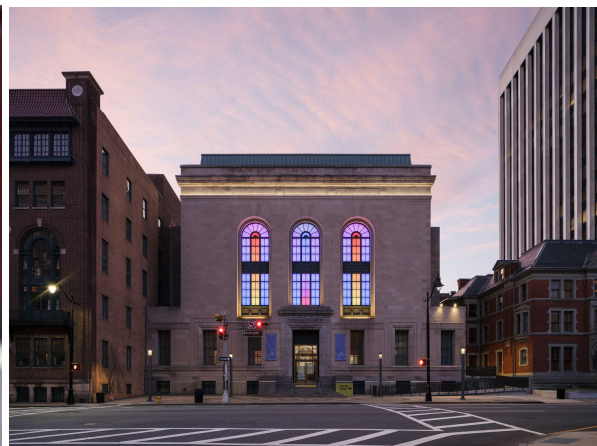
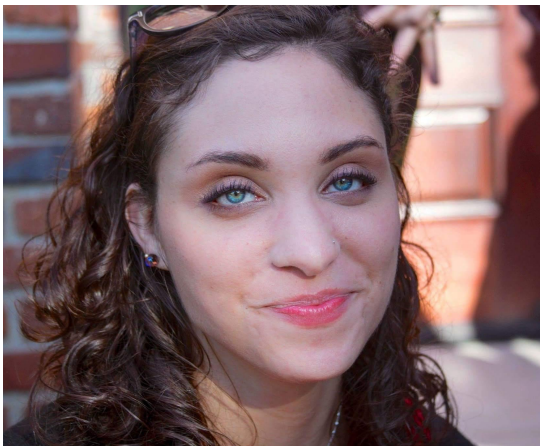
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**The Newark Museum of Art Receives \$500,000 Grant Toward
Advancing Latinx Art**

The initiative funds 10 institutions and curatorial positions across the U.S. and Puerto Rico with \$5 million, in partnership with the Ford, Mellon, Getty, and Terra Foundations



Left: Elena C. Muñoz-Rodríguez, The Newark Museum of Art's Assistant Curator, Latinx & Latin American Art.
Right: *Three Half Lozenges* by Phillip K. Smith III, The Newark Museum of Art. Photograph by Lance Gerber Studio

February 24, 2023 — The Newark Museum of Art is honored to be a recipient of a \$500,000 grant as part of **Advancing Latinx Art in Museums (ALAM)**, a \$5,000,000 initiative supporting 10 institutions in the U.S. and Puerto Rico that prioritizes the creation and formalization of permanent curatorial positions with expertise in Latinx art. The five-year grant is funded by the **Ford Foundation, the Getty Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and the Terra Foundation for American Art**. In conjunction with the new funding, the Museum is also pleased to announce the promotion of **Elena C. Muñoz-Rodríguez** from Curatorial Assistant to **Assistant Curator of Latinx & Latin American Art**.

“The Museum has been spotlighting the creative vision and work of Latinx artists for many decades, primarily through our comprehensive collection of Latin American art and programming, presenting the work and perspectives of artists who have been traditionally overlooked,” said Linda C. Harrison, Director and CEO. “Opportunities like ALAM give us the vital support we need to expand our curatorial team of Latin American art specialists, like Elena C. Muñoz-Rodríguez, while also allowing us to continue showcasing a range of artworks that are by and for our growing Latinx communities.”

Latinx artists have made significant contributions to American culture for generations. The ALAM initiative aims to bolster museums and visual art organizations that have shown a commitment to collecting, studying, exhibiting, and engaging with art by Latinx artists by ensuring they have the capacity to employ specialist curators. The grant program also includes opportunities to enhance and grow the existing community of curators with expertise in Latinx art, connecting the individuals supported at each awarded institution to each other, as well as to a wider circle of museum professionals working in this space.

“I’m thrilled for the opportunity to expand on the great work that my predecessors and colleagues here at NMOA have done in the field of Latinx art,” said Elena C. Muñoz-Rodríguez, Assistant Curator, Latinx & Latin American Art. “I’m excited to continue to thoughtfully build our Latinx art collection and to help make our galleries a welcoming space for all communities.”

In addition to Muñoz-Rodríguez's appointment, the Museum has also increased its emphasis on collecting recently-made art by Latinx artists, growing its collection of Latinx & Latin American Art alongside seminal artworks by Carmen Herrera, Joaquín Torres-García, Juan Soriano, and Gabriel Dawe, among others.



Carmen Herrera, *Cadmium - #4*, 1965, Acrylic on canvas, 48 x 48 in. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Feiwel, 1970 70.87 © Carmen Herrera

In 2022, 48 museums and visual arts organizations, showing a commitment to collecting, studying, exhibiting, and engaging with Latinx artists, were invited to submit an application for the funding. After review by a panel of five experts in Latinx visual art and museums, the ALAM recipients were finalized, presenting a cohort made up of large institutions, college and university museums, and leading Latinx museums – spanning scale, modality, and location – all aligned in their commitment to building or expanding a curatorial focus on Latinx art and ultimately creating a more inclusive curatorial field.

Alongside the Museum, the 2023 ALAM recipients include: 516 ARTS, Albuquerque, NM; Arizona State University Art Museum in partnership with CALA Alliance, Tempe, AZ; Blanton Museum of Art at the University of Texas at Austin, TX; El Museo del Barrio, New York, NY; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego, CA; National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago, IL; and Vincent Price Art Museum at East Los Angeles College, Los Angeles, CA.

For more information on the Museum's Latinx & Latin American Art collection and upcoming programming, please visit the Museum's [website](#).

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About the Newark Museum of Art

Founded in 1909, The Newark Museum of Art (NMOA) is the largest museum in New Jersey and ranks twelfth nationally in collection size, with more than 130,000 artworks and significant holdings

of science and natural history. The NMOA is committed to the values of Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion by responding to the evolving needs and interests of diverse audiences through participation, visitor experiences, and community engagement.

From the ancient world to contemporary art, the Museum boasts a renowned collection of exceptional quality and depth, spanning concentrations in the Arts of Global Africa; Arts of Global Asia, featuring a Tibetan Buddhist altar; Arts of the Americas; American Art, with a particular strength in Native American art; Decorative Arts; Arts of the Ancient Mediterranean; and Science.

With a focus on welcoming everyone with inclusive experiences that spark curiosity and foster community, the NMOA offers groundbreaking exhibitions, engaging programming, a research library with 60,000 volumes, paid internships, and impactful local and global partnerships. A four-acre campus includes The Ballantine House (1885), a National Historic Landmark; the Ward Carriage House (1860); the Old Stone School House (1784); the Alice Ransom Dreyfuss Memorial Garden; and Horizon Plaza. Under the leadership of Director and CEO Linda C. Harrison, the NMOA has launched an era of transformation to create an engaged citizenry by reimagining the role of the art museum in the 21st century.

About Advancing Latinx Art in Museums

Advancing Latinx Art in Museums represents the second phase of a multi-year funding collaboration seeking to nurture and prioritize US Latinx art (phase one supported the Latinx Artist Fellowship). A partnership between the Mellon, Ford, Getty, and Terra Foundations, the initiative bolsters museums that have shown a commitment to collecting, studying, exhibiting, and engaging with Latinx art and artists by ensuring they have the capacity to employ specialist curators. Advancing Latinx Art in Museums supports the creation or formalization of permanent early and mid-career curatorial positions with a specialization in Latinx art.

About The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is the nation's largest supporter of the arts and humanities. Since 1969, the Foundation has been guided by its core belief that the humanities and arts are essential to human understanding. The Foundation believes that the arts and humanities are where we express our complex humanity, and that everyone deserves the beauty, transcendence, and freedom that can be found there. Through our grants, we seek to build just communities enriched by meaning and empowered by critical thinking, where ideas and imagination can thrive. Learn more at mellon.org.

About the Ford Foundation

The Ford Foundation is an independent organization working to address inequality and build a future grounded in justice. For more than 85 years, it has supported visionaries on the frontlines of social

change worldwide, guided by its mission to strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote international cooperation, and advance human achievement. Today, with an endowment of \$16 billion, the foundation has headquarters in New York and 10 regional offices across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Learn more at www.fordfoundation.org.

About the Getty Foundation

The Getty Foundation fulfills the philanthropic mission of the Getty Trust by supporting individuals and institutions committed to advancing the greater understanding and preservation of the visual arts in Los Angeles and throughout the world. Through strategic grant initiatives, the Foundation strengthens art history as a global discipline, promotes the interdisciplinary practice of conservation, increases access to museum and archival collections, and develops current and future leaders in the visual arts. It carries out its work in collaboration with the other Getty Programs to ensure that they individually and collectively achieve maximum effect. Additional information is available at www.getty.edu/foundation.

About the Terra Foundation for American Art

The Terra Foundation for American Art, established in 1978 and having offices in Chicago and Paris, supports organizations and individuals locally and globally with the aim of fostering intercultural dialogues and encouraging transformative practices that expand narratives of American art, through the foundation's grant program, collection, and initiatives. Learn more at terraamericanart.org.