



VITAL SPACES

Media Contacts:

Hannah Yohalem and Raashan Ahmad,
Co-Directors contact@vitalspaces.org (505) 690-8962

VITAL SPACES APPOINTS NEW CO-DIRECTORS

Raashan Ahmad and Hannah Yohalem

SANTA FE, NM, September 10, 2020—Vital Spaces, a Santa Fe nonprofit dedicated to providing affordable spaces to artists by utilizing the city’s empty real estate, announces the appointment of Raashan Ahmad and Hannah Yohalem as co-directors of the organization, effective immediately. The appointment of these two new full-time co-directors marks a huge step towards achieving the vision of a city in which people of all backgrounds have access to space for creating and showing their work.

Ahmad, an active and visible member of the Santa Fe art community, comes to Vital Spaces with experience as a musician, poet, community worker, and DJ. He has released six critically acclaimed albums which have taken him to over thirty-five countries around the world. This, in turn, has led him down a path of collaboration across artistic mediums, borders, and cultures. Beyond his music and his event production knowledge, Raashan brings his passion for building connections across barriers that can divide communities to his work at Vital Spaces.

Yohalem grew up in Santa Fe and returned to work as Program Director of Vital Spaces last year after twelve years away. She has a background in curation, arts education, and community organizing. She’s a published art historian, art critic, and editor with degrees from Harvard and Princeton focusing on the history of modern and contemporary art and dance. She’s currently finishing her PhD with a dissertation on the ways that artistic communities supported and influenced one another in New York in the 1960s. She aims to foster similar types of interdisciplinary collaboration and support in Santa Fe through her work with Vital Spaces.

“I am incredibly inspired by Hannah and Raashan’s energy, vision and dedication to the arts and to Santa Fe’s rich communities,” said Jonathan Boyd, the founder and former executive director of Vital Spaces, who will remain active within the organization as the President of the Board. “With the two of them leading the charge on curatorial, programming and community outreach, I have no doubt that Vital Spaces will succeed in supporting people, ideas, and art forms that are currently underrepresented in Santa Fe’s commercial art scene.” Moving forward, Boyd will focus his energy on issues affecting the long-term sustainability of the organization, such as developing Vital Spaces’s Board of Directors and continued partnerships with local property owners.

With the conclusion of the highly-successful *Windows on the Future* installation series and the social media competition #NMtwinning, Yohalem and Ahmad are in the planning stages for more COVID-safe ways to engage the public and build community with the Vital Spaces studios. Stay tuned!



VITAL SPACES

About Vital Spaces

Vital Spaces is a Santa Fe-based 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to sustain and enhance Santa Fe's cultural vibrancy by creating affordable spaces for artists working in all media to create, present, connect, and teach. Their focus is on fostering a collaborative creative community and supporting people, ideas, and art forms that are underrepresented in Santa Fe's commercial art scene. www.vitalspaces.org