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Co-Executive Announcement – Jan. 1, 2023

The Drawing Studio, a nonprofit organization that brings art and the benefits of creating art to the entire community, is excited to announce its new **executive directorship team**: Emiel Martin Brott and Anton Russell.

Emiel Martin Brott (they/them), Co-Executive Director

Emiel has been The Drawing Studio's sole executive director for the past four years, with almost 20 years overall working for Tucson nonprofits. Before joining The Drawing Studio, Emiel served as the Chief Development Officer for Our Family Services, where their team was responsible for all fundraising, communications, and contract management of the \$5 million homeless-serving organization. Prior to Our Family Services, Emiel worked for over a decade as a river ecologist, community organizer, and fundraiser at the Sonoran Institute. Emiel holds a Master of Business Administration in Global Management from the Thunderbird School of Global Management, a Master of Science in Environmental Sciences from Lund University, and received their undergraduate degree at Harvard, where they studied biology. Emiel is a past fellow in the Tucson Public Voices Fellowship and a winner of the Tucson 40 Under 40 award. Emiel has a consistent art practice, including printmaking, guitar, cooking, fiber arts, and classes at The Drawing Studio.

Anton Russell (he/him), Co-Executive Director

Anton's most recent role at The Drawing Studio was Program Director. He started in community activism at age 15 working on the "Puesta, Cuesta y Molesta" campaign to keep youth off tobacco, with the goal of keeping his peers out of gangs and off harmful substances. Anton is a poet and spoken word performer with decades of experience making connections and building bridges in Tucson, in such varied arenas as the City of Tucson Transit Task Force (where he served as Chair and facilitated conversations between citizens and government officials); the informal "Looking in the Mirror" collaborative, which explores race and inclusion in Tucson communities; and the Pima County Bicycle and Pedestrian Program. He is also the Secretary of the NAACP Criminal Justice Reform Committee, the IDEA Co-Chair for the Association of Fundraising Professionals local chapter, and a JEDI committee member for the Arts Foundation of Southern Arizona. Anton is a single father of two illustrious & budding artists. He has an Associate's Degree in Automotive Technology from Pima Community College and was a SunTran bus driver for many years.

"The Drawing Studio is not just expanding physically. We have a vision of making art accessible to everyone, particularly youth of color. We feel that a co-executive directorship ensures shared accountability and a collaborative culture," said Frank Velásquez Jr., board president of The Drawing Studio. "We are grateful to have already had Emiel and Anton on our leadership team. We believe that both will successfully lead The Drawing Studio into its next phase of growth. And although the work will be hard, it will be joyful work as we move towards our vision!

The Drawing Studio is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and charitable organization.

Mission

To inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to embrace art practice as a pathway to personal growth and healthy community.