

The Noguchi Museum Welcomes Lizan Highland as Director of People and Culture



Lizan Highland. Photo: Justin Raul Baez. © The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum, NY / Artists Rights Society

New York (October 11, 2022) – Brett Littman, Director of The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum (The Noguchi Museum), announced today the appointment of Lizan Highland to serve as the Museum’s new Director of People and Culture. As a member of the senior leadership team, she will oversee human resources, employee engagement, and DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility) policies and initiatives. She started at the Museum on October 3.

Mr. Littman stated, “The Noguchi Museum is very excited to add Lizan Highland as our first Director of People and Culture. Lizan’s personal and professional background, her commitment to DEAI work, her passion for people, and her interests in art, culture, and fashion make her a great fit for our institution and I cannot wait to see how she will positively impact our museum’s community and culture both inside and outside of our physical walls.”

Ms. Highland stated, “As a person with a strong passion for helping others, I believe that nothing is more important than creating an inclusive culture centered on the growth and development of people. I am thrilled to be a part of the team at The Noguchi Museum.”

Prior to joining the Museum, Ms. Highland served as the Operations Director at Circle for Justice Innovations. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from John Jay College of Criminal Justice; and certificates from Cornell University in Human Resources, Executive Leadership, and Diversity & Inclusion.

ABOUT THE NOGUCHI MUSEUM

Founded in 1985 by category-defying artist Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988), The Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum (now known as The Noguchi Museum), was the first museum in the United States to be established, designed, and installed by a living artist to show their own work. Located in Long Island City, Queens, the Museum itself is widely viewed as among the artist’s greatest achievements.

Holding the world’s largest collection of Noguchi’s works, it features open air and indoor galleries in a repurposed 1920s industrial building and an outdoor sculpture garden. Accompanying the permanent installations placed by Noguchi, the Museum presents temporary exhibitions exploring themes in Noguchi’s work, his milieu and collaborators, and his enduring influence today among contemporary practitioners across disciplines. It exhibits a comprehensive selection of Noguchi’s material culture, from sculpture, models, and drawings, to his personal possessions, and manages the artist’s archives and catalogue raisonné. Through its rich collection, exhibitions, and programming, the Museum facilitates scholarship and learning for audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

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