

PRESS RELEASE

THE RUBIN APPOINTS TWO NEW TRUSTEES: SAMPHE DORJE LHALUNGPA AND ANG TSHERING LAMA

The appointments will deepen the Museum's relationships within the Himalayan region and its global diaspora.



Left to right: Ang Tshering Lama and Samphe Dorje Lhalungpa

New York, NY, July 9, 2024 – The Rubin is pleased to announce the appointment to its Board of Trustees of **Samphe Dorje Lhalungpa**, a Canadian Public Service Commission advisor and international development expert with 23 years of experience at UNICEF, and **Ang Tshering Lama**, a Nepal-based sustainability and hospitality entrepreneur.

Lama and Lhalungpa's appointments will strengthen the Board's support of the Museum's mission and innovative program of partnerships, traveling exhibitions, and digital initiatives for international audiences. They join the Rubin during a moment of transformation, as the Museum prepares to close its physical galleries in October and implement a fully decentralized, global model.

Samphe Dorje Lhalungpa brings to the Rubin decades of experience in international development and social justice. During his tenure with UNICEF, Lhalungpa served as the County Representative in Turkmenistan after completing assignments in Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Kyrgyzstan, Thailand, and more. He has managed several large-scale humanitarian projects throughout his career, including founding the Welcome to School (WTS) initiative providing education to over 400,000 students in Nepal. Lhalungpa also served as a key fundraiser for the Tibetan Resettlement Project in Canada, which provides aid to Tibetans in Arunachal Pradesh as they relocate to Ottawa.

Ang Tsherin Lama is the founder and managing director of Beyul Experiences, a travel company that operates the boutique hotel Happy House, in Phaplu, Nepal. Lama is passionate about sustainable and ethical travel and has fought for greater representation for the Sherpa community in the region. He is also the founder of outdoor recreation initiatives for youth in Nepal and Mongolia.

“We are delighted that Ang Tshering Lama and Samphe Dorje Lhalungpa will join the Rubin in our ongoing commitment to making Himalayan art, its insights, and cultural context accessible on a global scale,” says **Rubin Museum Executive Director Jorrit Britschgi**. “We are confident that their joint expertise in community development and international outreach will provide valuable guidance during this moment of transformation for the Museum, including furthering our partnerships and programming within the Himalayan region.”

CURRENT AND UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Among the initiatives that Lama and Lhalungpa will champion are the Rubin’s current exhibition *Reimagine: Himalayan Art Now*, the Museum’s largest presentation of contemporary Himalayan art to date, which will travel to Wrightwood 659 in Chicago this fall, and the launch of the inaugural Rubin Himalayan Art Prize. Additionally, the Rubin will continue traveling [Gateway to Himalayan Art](#), the traveling exhibition for colleges and universities as part of the Rubin’s [Project Himalayan Art](#). After its presentation this spring at the Harn Museum of Art (University of Florida), *Gateway* will travel to the Frank Museum of Art in Ohio, and will continue to travel through 2026.

ABOUT THE RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART

The Rubin is a global museum dedicated to sharing Himalayan art with the world. Founded in 2004, the Rubin serves people internationally through a dynamic digital platform, participatory experiences, exhibitions, and partnerships. Inspired and informed by Himalayan art, the Rubin invites people to contemplate the human experience and deepen connections with the world around them in order to expand awareness, enhance well-being, and cultivate compassion. The Rubin advances scholarship through a series of educational initiatives, grants, long-term loans, and the stewardship of a collection of nearly 3,500 Himalayan art objects spanning 1,500 years of history—providing unprecedented access and resources to scholars, artists, and students across the globe.

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