



Gateway to the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico

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For Immediate Release:

**INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER ANNOUNCES OPENING OF
SHAUN BEYALE (DINÉ) “TESTAMENT OF EMPOWERMENT” EXHIBIT
IN ARTISTS CIRCLE GALLERY**

Albuquerque, N.M., June 1, 2022 – The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center (IPCC) is hosting an opening night reception on June 2 from 5 – 7 p.m. in the Artist Circle Gallery for a new exhibit from Shaun Beyale (Diné), whose interest in comic books sparked a passion for drawing unique, Indigenous superheroes.

Beyale was born in Shiprock, N.M. on the Navajo Nation. As a child, his strong interest in comic books led him to draw his favorite superheroes in his free time. Eventually, he started to create his own comic book characters, such as an early version of “Ayla, the Monster Slayer,” a Diné superhero warrior who protects her homeland and her people.

Beyale has worked with Indigenous, independent comic book creators including “Hero Twins” author and artist Keith Jim, and companies such as Red Plant Books. Recently, he fulfilled one of his childhood dreams, working with mainstream company Marvel Comics.

He has also shown his art throughout the United States and Canada. One of his first shows was a part of the “When Raven Became Spider” art show at Dunlop Gallery in Grand Prairie, Alberta. It became a traveling art exhibit that was held in a few institutions, including the University of Winnipeg Art Gallery, for more than three years.

Beyale graduated from Farmington High School and after completing a year in the Job Corps, he received his bachelor’s degree in Studio Arts from the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) in Santa Fe.

“Art can empower and inspire oneself to their potential in life, and I believe in empowerment through art,” Beyale said. “This body of work reflects my artistic journey of empowerment using my inspirations, comic books and my culture.”

Acoma
Cochiti
Isleta
Jemez
Laguna
Nambé
Ohkay Owingeh
Picuris
Pojoaque
Sandia
San Felipe
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Santa Clara
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"Shaun's work has always been an inspiration for me," said IPCC Head Curator Paula Mirabal (Taos). "The female characters that he created show his support in the empowerment of women. The figures show the strength and individuality that young women can be – and already are.

"Shaun is also very friendly and has a great sense of humor," she added. "I've known him since meeting him at the IAIA and have looked forward to supporting his career with an exhibition of his great art work."

"Testament of Empowerment" will be on display at IPCC's Artist Circle Gallery through Oct. 10, 2022.

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About the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center:

Founded in 1976 by the 19 Pueblo tribes of New Mexico, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center is a world-class museum and cultural center located in the historic 19 Pueblos District. The Mission of the IPCC Campus is to serve as a gathering place where Pueblo culture is celebrated through creative and cultural experiences while providing economic opportunities to Pueblo and local communities. Visitors can learn fascinating history, shop for Native jewelry and art, watch a cultural dance, hear Native languages and experience the flavors of traditional and contemporary Native cuisine. To learn more, visit www.indianpueblo.org and on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @IndianPueblo.

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