

## **For Immediate Release**

### **People of La Junta Announces New Executive Director, Melanie A. Hernandez**

**Presidio, Texas – November 7, 2024** – People of La Junta for Preservation is proud to announce Melanie A. Hernandez as its new Executive Director. A descendant of Reymundo Ornelas Hernandez and Manuela Carrasco, Melanie brings a legacy of cultural preservation and community leadership to her new role.

Melanie, a skilled professional with an extensive background in community engagement and project management, will lead the organization in its mission to preserve sacred sites, foster cultural education, and promote land conservation in the La Junta de los Ríos region. As a granddaughter of the Kolkahéndé Prairie Grass Clan, Melanie’s work will continue the long-standing tradition of honoring her ancestors and protecting their heritage for future generations.

Guided by the principle of “ancient ways modern times,” Melanie is dedicated to integrating ancestral wisdom into contemporary practices. Her approach emphasizes the repatriation of Indigenous culture and the creation of inclusive spaces that honor traditional knowledge while addressing present-day community needs. Through her leadership, she aims to foster connections that bridge cultural divides and promote mutual understanding.

“I am deeply honored to continue the work of my ancestors by leading People of La Junta,” said Melanie. “Together, we will strengthen our efforts to protect the sacred land, educate future generations, and uplift our community’s voices.”

Under Melanie’s direction, the organization will expand its initiatives, including collaborations with Big Bend Conservation Alliance and efforts to establish public spaces and programming focused on Indigenous knowledge sharing.

For more information about People of La Junta and its work, please visit [peopleoflajunta.org](http://peopleoflajunta.org)