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**PRESS RELEASE**

***For Immediate Release***

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**Battle Creek Coalition Welcomes New Co-Executive Directors to Lead Racial Healing Initiatives**

**Battle Creek, MI** - The Battle Creek Coalition for Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (BCTRHT) proudly announces the appointment of Elizabeth Garcia and Tha Par as Co-Executive Directors. Together, they will propel the coalition's efforts to advance racial equity and systemic change in Battle Creek. Join BCTRHT leaders and supporters on May 4, 2024 from 1-4pm at the Battle Creek Regional History Museum to extend a warm welcome to both Co-Executive Directors.

"We are thrilled to have Elizabeth and Tha stepping into the Co-Executive Director roles," remarked Rosemary Linares, current BCTRHT Coordinator. "Their deep community ties and proven dedication to social justice make them ideal leaders for BCTRHT as we enter this new phase of our evolution."

Elizabeth Garcia brings a wealth of experience as an educator, organizer, and racial healing practitioner. With a Bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of South Florida and ongoing studies in leadership and organizational dynamics at the University of Michigan, Elizabeth has been instrumental in BCTRHT's programming and community outreach since 2019.

Tha Par, a founding member of BCTRHT and seasoned social justice organizer and facilitator, holds a Bachelor's degree in sociology and a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan. Tha's extensive experience includes serving as Executive Director of the Burma Center and contributing to various diversity initiatives as a consultant and facilitator.

As Co-Executive Directors, Elizabeth and Tha will jointly oversee BCTRHT's strategy development, operational management, and communication with TRHT initiatives nationwide. Their leadership will focus on fundraising, dynamic programming, and ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of BCTRHT's critical work.

"I am thrilled to work closely with Tha. Our journey began at a training for White Men and Allies, and our relationship has flourished over the years," shared Elizabeth. "We have been each other's accountability partners and it will continue as we step into this shared leadership model. As BCTRHT transforms, we will continue centering our vision of a shared humanity where all can thrive."

**About BCTRHT:** Founded in 2017 with support from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, BCTRHT serves as a catalyst for transformative change in Battle Creek. The coalition collaborates with local organizations to promote racial healing and equity, aligning with the principles of the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation™ framework. For more information about BCTRHT and its initiatives, please visit the [BCTRHT Website](#) or the [BCTRHT Facebook Page](#).

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