

Climates of Inequality

Fall 2022

Join the UIC Latino Cultural Center for a series of online conversations with environmental and climate justice leaders from across the country this fall. Their work reveals frameworks and strategies to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change and environmental pollution on communities of color, indigenous, and low-income earners. Students in the Environmental & Climate Justice course* will facilitate the conversations.

Join us as we hear from **Branda Gutierrez Mora** from Foodlink for Tullahoma County and **Kassandra Hill** from the San Joaquin Valley Matricular Council for Agroecology. They will share their efforts to support food sovereignty and Land Back efforts including frameworks of agroecology and permaculture, Indigenous wisdom, and place-based solutions beyond capitalism that bring health to the land, relatives, and all our relations.

WHEN: TUESDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2022
TIME: 5:00pm - 6:00pm CST
WHERE: VIRTUALLY, RSVP: go.uic.edu/COIS

Auto-captions available

Co-sponsored by Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) Program, Social Justice Institute, Department of Anthropology, CIMAS, Freshwater Lab, Great Cities Institute, Lila Ganes, Hispanic and Latino Studies Program, and Latino Leadership Support Program

Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino Cultural Center LVEUO Humanities Action Lab ALIANZA AMERICAS Sustainability Fee

unEARTHing Creativity

Presented by the UIC Latino Cultural Center

Earth ARTivism Fest is an interactive open art studio with various Chicago artists and creative environmental justice organizations sharing their work. Come engage with creative ways to grow, resist, and reimagine climate and environmental justice. Support local artist vendors! Bring your own shirts/bag to print on!

Free and open to everyone!

WHEN: THURSDAY APRIL 20, 2023
TIME: 1:00pm - 3:00pm CST
WHERE: LATINO CULTURAL CENTER LECTURE CENTER B2

Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino Cultural Center For access needs or questions, email lcc@uic.edu or call 312.996.3095. SUSTAINABILITY AT UIC

NO PLACE TO GROW

Presented by the UIC Latino Cultural Center

What happens when migrated farming traditions intersect with the "urban growth machine"?

No Place to Grow follows a group of Latinx farmers who find themselves representing a movement to save the last green space centered within a neighborhood facing gentrification in Santa Cruz, California.

Join us for a virtual film screening followed by a brief discussion between leaders of the UIC Heritage Garden and the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO).

WHEN: WEDNESDAY APRIL 12, 2023
TIME: 3:00pm - 4:00pm CST
WHERE: VIRTUAL ZOOM RSVP: GO.UIC.EDU/CC412

Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino Cultural Center For access needs or questions, email lcc@uic.edu or call 312.996.3095. Free and open to all audiences.

Radical Research from BIPOC Scholars at UIC

Presented by the UIC Latino Cultural Center

Join us as *Bridge to the Faculty* (B2F) scholars share their experiences and respective research with the UIC community. Through an intersectional lens, these scholars reveal the complexity and specificity of their contemporary research and how the lives of those in the margins are impacted.

WHEN: WEDNESDAY APRIL 19, 2023
TIME: 3:00pm - 4:00pm CST
WHERE: VIRTUALLY on Zoom, RSVP: go.uic.edu/B2F19

Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino Cultural Center UIC DIVERSITY UIC Biological Sciences

MAFAPO

¿QUIÉN DIÓ LA ORDEN? MADRES DE LOS FALSOS POSITIVOS DE COLOMBIA WORLD TOUR 2022

Presented by the UIC Latino Cultural Center, the UIC Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies and the Northwestern University Department of Spanish and Portuguese

Join us for a special conversation with mothers of victims of state violence in Colombia.

The association of Mothers of victims of the "False Positives", MAFAPO, was created in 2010 to denounce the murders of more than six thousand young men by the Colombian army to present them as guerrillas killed in combat. They call for the truth to be revealed about those responsible for the murders, the location of many of the victims, and guarantees of justice, reparation, and non-repetition by the Colombian State.

Learn more about the #MAFAPOWorldTour campaign to raise awareness within the international community about these State crimes. The campaign is gathering support from humanitarian, social and political organizations for the struggle of the mothers of the victims.

Program will be presented in Spanish with English interpretation.

WHEN: WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2022
TIME: 3:00pm - 4:30pm CST
WHERE: LATINO CULTURAL CENTER LECTURE CENTER B2

Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino Cultural Center Hispanic and Italian Studies UIC Department of Spanish and Portuguese Northwestern University

Getting our Flowers

Healing & Mutual Aid

Presented by the UIC Latino Cultural Center and the Women's Leadership and Resource Center

Join us for a flower arrangement workshop led by **Lucy Angel Camarena**, cofounder of *Flores Campo Santo*, a floral company located in Chicago's La Villita neighborhood that centers cultural traditions.

Through this workshop participants will explore concepts of community, wellbeing, and mutual aid.

WHEN: THURSDAY APRIL 13, 2023
TIME: 12:00pm - 2:00pm CST
WHERE: LATINO CULTURAL CENTER LECTURE CENTER B2

RSVP: go.uic.edu/flowers
 Supplies provided while they last

Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino Cultural Center Women's Leadership and Resource Center

WHOSE WATER?

WATER AFFORDABILITY PANEL

Presented by the UIC Freshwater Lab and the UIC Latino Cultural Center

Join us as we learn from water affordability experts from Detroit People's Water Board and Chicago water affordability activists as we view and discuss the film *"Whose Water?"* which chronicles the movement for safe and affordable water and sanitation across five drastically different regions in the United States.

Panel Discussion 2pm - 4:30pm CST
 The pre-film panel discussion will include *Whose Water?* filmmaker **Kate Lary** and will be moderated by **Detraugh Parker**, Associate Director, Elaviva Energy

"Whose Water?" Film Screening & Discussion 5:30pm - 7:30pm CST
 Through the stories of communities fighting for safe, affordable water and sanitation, the film examines the industrial and governmental systems that prevent so many people from accessing the basic necessity of life and health. Concrete solutions to address this unprecedented human rights crisis.

WHEN: TUESDAY MARCH 28, 2023
WHERE: IN-PERSON, LATINO CULTURAL CENTER LECTURE CENTER B2

Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino Cultural Center For access needs or questions, email lcc@uic.edu or call 312.996.3095. All audiences are welcome.

Noche de Poetas

ROOTS OF A REVOLUTION

Presented by the UIC Latino Cultural Center

Join Mexican Students de Acción (MeSA), Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS), and Native American and Indigenous Student Organization (NAISO) this Spring 2023 Semester for an **OPEN MIC!**

Don't miss out on the remarkable talented poets as they share their own poetic words on this month's theme: **"Feeding the revolution towards anti-colonial futures."**

Leading the night will be our featured poet: **Lucy Magdalena Flores**

Opening Questions:

- What does liberation look like to you?
- What fuels your activism/revolution?
- What are ways to avoid becoming the oppressors in the fight for liberation of all peoples?
- How does education play a shaping how we understand revolution and liberation?

WHEN: THURSDAY APRIL 27, 2023
TIME: 5:30pm - 7:00pm CST
WHERE: LATINO CULTURAL CENTER LECTURE CENTER B2

Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino Cultural Center For access needs or questions, email lcc@uic.edu or call 312.996.3095. Free and open to all audiences.



2022 · 23 year at a glance

The Latino Cultural Center received funding from the Humanities Action Lab; Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; National Science Foundation for Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs); U.S. Dept. of Education Hispanic Serving Institution STEM: Title III, Part F grant; USDA Forest Service International Programs; and UIC Sustainability Fee.

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UIC Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino Cultural Center

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our mission is to engage the UIC campus and local communities to deepen understanding of the diverse cultural heritages and identities of Latinxs, issues affecting their lives, and creative solutions they are using to improve community life

During the 2022-2023 academic year, the Rafael Cintrón Ortiz Latino Cultural Center (LCC) reasserted its commitment to support the academic, professional, and personal growth of our students through engaged co-curriculum opportunities that center Latinx experiences and recognize diversity as a resource for collective action. Our programs and initiatives draw on the assets of cultural heritage and the power of art and storytelling to engage and support individuals and communities to advance environmental and social justice.

The LCC continues to fulfill this commitment through public programs presented with local and national community leaders, artists, and faculty; mural tours and environmental and social justice dialogues, grant-based research, two undergraduate internship programs, and advocacy alongside students and local partners. **This annual report covers Summer 2022 through Spring 2023 and highlights major new projects and developments during that period.**

★ The **Chicago Latinx Voices on Environmental & Climate Change Racism** is a research project under the Crossing Latinidades Humanities Initiative funded by the Mellon Foundation. This participatory action research aims to better understand how Latinx communities have endured, confronted and/or adapted to systematic environmental injustices and extreme climate events in Chicago and the metropolitan area. It uses visual ethnography to obtain data through the creation of personal maps/artworks and written descriptive stories. The LCC engaged Latinxs in the research by partnering with local artists and the following community organizations: Alianza Americas, Centro San Bonifacio, Enlace Chicago, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO), and Neighbors for Environmental Justice (N4EJ).

★ The **Connecting Environmental/Climate Justice (ECJ) and Social Justice Dialogues Initiative** was revamped to focus on ECJ and its connection to im/migration, labor, and health (including COVID-19) as a way to highlight the disproportionate impact of environmental harms and systemic inequities on BIPOC communities. These facilitated group discussions incite students to explore these issues and to connect how their field of study and future careers can advance sustainable environmental and social justice practices.

★ The **Pollinator Mural** is part of the Heritage Garden’s “Engaging Diverse Audiences in Monarch Conservation” effort and was developed in collaboration with Yolocali’s Street Art and funded by the USDA Forest Service International Programs. The mural depicts the threads and opportunities for pollinator conservation including the monarch amidst urbanization and pollution. The mural is located on the northwest side of the UIC Latino Cultural Center (Lecture Center B2).

★ The **Diversity Community Engagement Program (DCEP)** had its inaugural cohort of interns placed across the CCUSC in the Fall of 2022. The goal of this internship is to provide UIC undergraduate students, from any College, a flexible for- credit and paid internship program that will help them develop vital professional skills and community engagement best practices. The DCEP interns joined the Lead.Create.Change interns in using visual ethnography and mapping tools to document how Latinxs across Chicago experience environmental challenges.



the LCC engaged with 6,113 students, faculty, staff, community members and the broader Chicago community

The LCC:

Presented 38 public programs
Facilitated 71 environmental and climate justice (ECJ) dialogues and mural tours
Led 2 internship programs with 18 student interns
Worked on research with 1 graduate assistant
Employed 3 student educators
Collaborated with 23 community schools & organizations
Collaborated with 11 UIC student organizations

What participants attended:

1,393 attendees at LCC public programs 23%
1,300 environmental and climate justice (ECJ) dialogues and mural tours 21%
1,461 gallery space visits and used as study space 24%
1,350 guest hosted for meetings/events via space reservations 22%
609 additional guests via programs held at community partners' locations 10%

The LCC was established in 1976 and is one of seven Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change (CCUSC) at UIC. These centers provide intercultural engagement to increase understanding of diversity through collaborative efforts. The CCUSC report to the Office of Diversity in Academic Affairs. Information on the CCUSC can be found at www.diversity.uic.edu/community/ccusc.

LCC Team photo: (Left to Right) Sarita Hernandez, Heritage Garden Program Director; Alonzo Zamarrón, Graphic Designer; Dr. Rosa M. Cabrera, Executive Director; Jocelyn Munguía Chávez, Program Coordinator (until 2023). Nadia Sol Ireri Unzueta Carrasco, Heritage Garden Educator (until 2023); Lauren De Jesus, Senior Civic Engagement Educator; Jorge Mena Robles, Associate Director; and Natalie Ayala, Civic Engagement Educator.

Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJ) Dialogues and Tours

UIC Courses & Seminars	Participants
Summer Semester 2022	
UIC Heritage Garden Interns	15
UIC CIM2AS (Faculty & Interns) x2 sessions	16
Fall Semester 2022	
CHEM 222: Analytical Chemistry x4	93
ENGL 161: Academic Writing II: Writing for Inquiry and Research	24
EPSY 150: Human Development and Learning Academic Success x2	24
ED 151: College Connect I x3	69
CI 475: Teaching of Natural Sciences	10
SJ 201: Theories and Practices of Social Justice	20
UIC Open House	23
ANTH 309: Writing Culture	14
Intercultural Connections UIC	12
Urban Planning and Public Policy Fellowship	20
BLST 262: Black Performance	28
LALS 102: Introduction to Latino Studies x3	54
ANTH 595: How to be a Graduate Student x2	16
Spring Semester 2023	
LALS 497: Community Research Internship	9
EPSY 150: Human Development and Learning Academic Success x2	25
CHEM 305: Environmental Chemistry	9
BLST 274: The Politics of Blackness in Latin America	22
CHEM 222: Analytical Chemistry x4	52
UIC Climate and Health Institute	14
LALS 495: Latino/a Urban Inequalities	16
CI 470: Language, Culture, and Learning in Urban Classrooms	30
UIC Sustainability Internship Program (SIP) x2	23
LALS 102: Introduction to Latino Studies x3	48
UIC Heritage Garden Interns x2	21
CIM2AS (Faculty & Interns)	12
Tours	
L@S GANAS – Connecting STEM and Cultural Heritage Dialogues	91
Heritage Garden – Classroom Engagement and Workshops	13
Heritage Garden Tour	194
Self-Guided Virtual Mural Tour Inquiries	20
General Public & Community Organizations – Tour & Dialogue	251
LCC Archive Visit	12
Total	1,300

supporting student success through artistic practices and cultural responses to social & environmental conditions



public programs series & initiatives

The Latino Cultural Center's programs and initiatives draw on cultural heritage as an asset to address contemporary issues, connect social and environmental justice, and build partnerships across diverse students and communities for positive social change.



Environmental and Climate Justice (ECJ) Dialogues and Mural Tours

Facilitated by LCC staff and Student Educators. Reference page 2 for participant breakdown.

ARTivism

Parent Leaders for College Initiative. September 14, 2022. Presenter: Enlace Chicago. **Share what you know - Drawing for Environmental Justice.** January 31, 2023 and April 5, 2023. Lead artist: Móni Pizano Luna. February 1, 2023. Lead artist: Delilah Salgado. April 25, 2023. Lead artist: José Rosa. **Valentine's Prints for Queer Love & Communal Care.** February 14, 2023. Presented with the Gender and Sexuality Center. Lead artists: Marimacha Monarca Press. **Getting Our Flowers - Healing & Mutual Aid.** April 13, 2023. Presented with the Women's Leadership and Resource Center. Lead artist: Lucy Angel Camarena. **Unearthing Creativity Fest!** April 20, 2023. Featured various Chicago artists and creative environmental justice organizations.

Zona Abierta (Open Zone)

Climates of Inequality series. September 6, 2022. Presenter: Frank Ettawageshik. October 18, 2022. Presenter: Claudia Navarro. November 15, 2022. Presenters: Brenda Gutierrez Mora and Cassandra Hishida. **MAFAPO: ¿Quién dio la orden? Madres de los Falsos Positivos de Colombia – World Tour 2022.** November 16, 2022. Presented with the UIC Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies and the Northwestern University Department of Spanish and Portuguese. **The Language of Femicide in Mexico: Sensationalizing, Weaponizing, and Fixating.** December 1, 2022. Presented with the Engaged Humanities Initiative and the Honors College. Presenter: Lorena Nava. **Radical Research from BIPOC Scholars at UIC series.** February 15, 2023. Presenter: Dr. David López-García. March 8, 2023. Presenter: Dr. Gabriela Nunez Mir. April 19, 2023. Presenter: Dr. Ignacio Escalante Meza.

Civic Cinema

"Whose Water?" Film Screening. March 28, 2023. Presented with the Freshwater Lab. Facilitated by Kate Levy and Briana Parker. **Water Affordability Panel.** March 28, 2023. Presented with the Freshwater Lab. Panelists: Briana Parker, Sylvia Orduño, Nicole Hill, Brenda Santoyo Gomez, Iyana Simba, and Oliver Cicioria. **No Place to Grow.** April 12, 2023. Facilitated by the UIC Heritage Garden Student Group & the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO).

Noche de Poetas (Poetry Night)

Burning Down Borders – Hariq Las Fronteras. September 20, 2022. Featured Poet: Melissa Castro Almandina. **Roots of a Revolution.** April 27, 2023. Featured Poet: Luz Magdaleno Flores. Presented with Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), Mexican Student de Aztlán (MeSA), Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS), Fearless Undocumented Alliance (FUA), and Native American and Indigenous Student Organization (NAISO) at UIC.

Special Public Programs

LCC Open House. August 31, 2022. **UIC Open House.** September 17, 2022. **Celebrating our Latinidad in Engineering.** October 6, 2022. Presented with the College of Engineering as part of UIC's Latinx Heritage Month. Panelists: Jeyra Rivera Arocho, Ricardo Arcos, and Erick Vaquero. **Day of the Dead 2022.** Presented with UIC student organizations: Zeta Chapter of Delta Psi Alpha Multicultural Co-Ed Fraternity Inc., Eco-Educators, Mujeres en Medicina, Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS), Zeta Chapter of Alpha Psi Lambda National Inc., and Heritage Garden Student Group. **Communal Altar Installation.** October 24, 2022. **Seed Bomb Workshop.** October 27, 2022. **New Outdoor Mural Inauguration.** November 2, 2022. **Finals Week at the LCC.** December 5 to 9, 2022. **LCC Open House.** January 25, 2023. **RealTea Talks – Breaking Generational Gaps.** March 15, 2023. Presented with UIC student organization Mujeres en Medicina. **Gender Euphoria.** March 30, 2023. Presented with UIC student organization Pride at UIC. **Impact of Sleep on Academics.** April 18, 2023. Presented with UIC student organization Zeta Chapter of Delta Psi Alpha Multicultural Co-Ed Fraternity Inc. **Finals Week at the LCC.** May 1 to 5, 2022.

Heritage Garden

Presented with the Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change. **Volunteer Days!** October 14, 2022. October 20, 2022. October 21, 2022. November 12, 2021. **Dia de los Muertos 2022: Heritage Garden Harvest Fest & Seed Bomb Workshop.** October 27, 2022. **Seed Swap.** April 15, 2023.

L@s GANAS

Dialogues are facilitated by LCC staff. Reference page 2 for participant breakdown.

A special thanks to LCC partners and supporters

UIC Campus Units

Anthropology Department; Arab American Cultural Center (ArabAMCC); Asian American Resource and Cultural Center (AARCC); Biological Sciences Department; Black Cultural Center (BCC); Black Studies Department; Campus Advocacy Network (CAN); Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Latinos (CCSL); Chemistry Department; College of Education; Cultural Immersion in Monarchs and Milkweeds Advancing Science Education (CIM2AS); Dept of Gender Women's Studies (GWS); Dept of Hispanic and Italian Studies; Dept of Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS); Dept of Urban Planning and Public Policy; Disability Cultural Center (DCC); English Department; Equity and Inclusion in Engineering Program; Freshwater Lab; Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC); Great Cities Institute; Honors College; Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement; Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services (LARES) Program; Latin@S Gaining Access to Networks for Advancement in Science (L@S GANAS); Museums and Exhibition Studies (MUSE) Program; Native American Support Program (NASP); Office of Diversity, Equity & Engagement; Office of International Services; PAP STEM Initiative; Planning, Sustainability and Project Management Office; Richard J. Daley Library; School of Literature, Cultural Studies and Linguistics; School of Public Health; Social Justice Initiative (SJI); Summer College Seminar; Women's Leadership and Resource Center (WLRC).

UIC Student Organization Co-Sponsors

Delta Psi Alpha Multicultural Co-Ed Fraternity Inc.; Fearless Undocumented Alliance (FUA); Heritage Garden Student Group; Mexican Student de Aztlán (MeSA); Mujeres en Medicina; Native American and Indigenous Student Organization (NAISO); PRIDE at UIC; Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP); Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS); Zeta Chapter of Delta Psi Alpha Multicultural Co-Ed Fraternity Inc.

Community, City-Wide, and Global Engagement

Alianza Americas; Association of Mothers of Victims of the "False Positives" (MAFAPO); Buffalo Grove High School; Calumet Is My Back Yard (CIMBY); Central Valley Agroecology Program Planning Committee; Centro San Bonifacio; Connect Detroit; DePaul University; East Leyden High School; Elevate Energy; Flores Campo Santo; Humanities Action Lab (HAL); Illinois Environmental Council (IEC); Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO); Marimacha Monarca Press; Michigan Welfare Rights Organization; Morton High School District 201; Neighbors for Environmental Justice (N4EJ); Northwestern University Department of Spanish and Portuguese; Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation (SOUL); The Field Museum; United Tribes of Michigan; WeCount! – Florida; West40 Regional Safe Schools Program; Wheeling High School; Yollocalli Arts Reach.



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