

# IMAGINING SANTA ANA

Engaging Community through the Arts & Humanities

Sue Cronmiller & Dr. Manuel Gomez



We are gathered on ancestral Ohlone Land.



The creation story panel of the Ohlone Mural. The world they created was made on Mount Diablo by Coyote, Eagle and Hummingbird.

# The Poets of El Sol: A Collaborative Poem



# THE ART of COLLABORATION: a brief history

## *El Sol Academy + UC Links + California Humanities*

- 9/11/2001 El Sol Academy, the first dual language immersion charter school in Santa Ana, opens to low income, Latino students in grades k-1.
- 2003- 2011 UCI Poetry Academy begins in 3<sup>rd</sup> and gradually expands to 8<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms + after school. Primary focus: online and print publications.
- 2011 Awarded **California Humanities** grant for ***Poetry for Democracy*** middle school project.
- 2016 Award winning El Sol Academy now serves over 900 families with education, health and nutrition services. Cronmiller, Gomez and Daviss found El Sol Conexión to engage the entire school & community through the arts and humanities.
- 2018 Awarded **California Humanities** grant for youth-focused ***Imagining Santa Ana*** public humanities program after two years of research and development, networking and building the identity of El Sol Conexión.



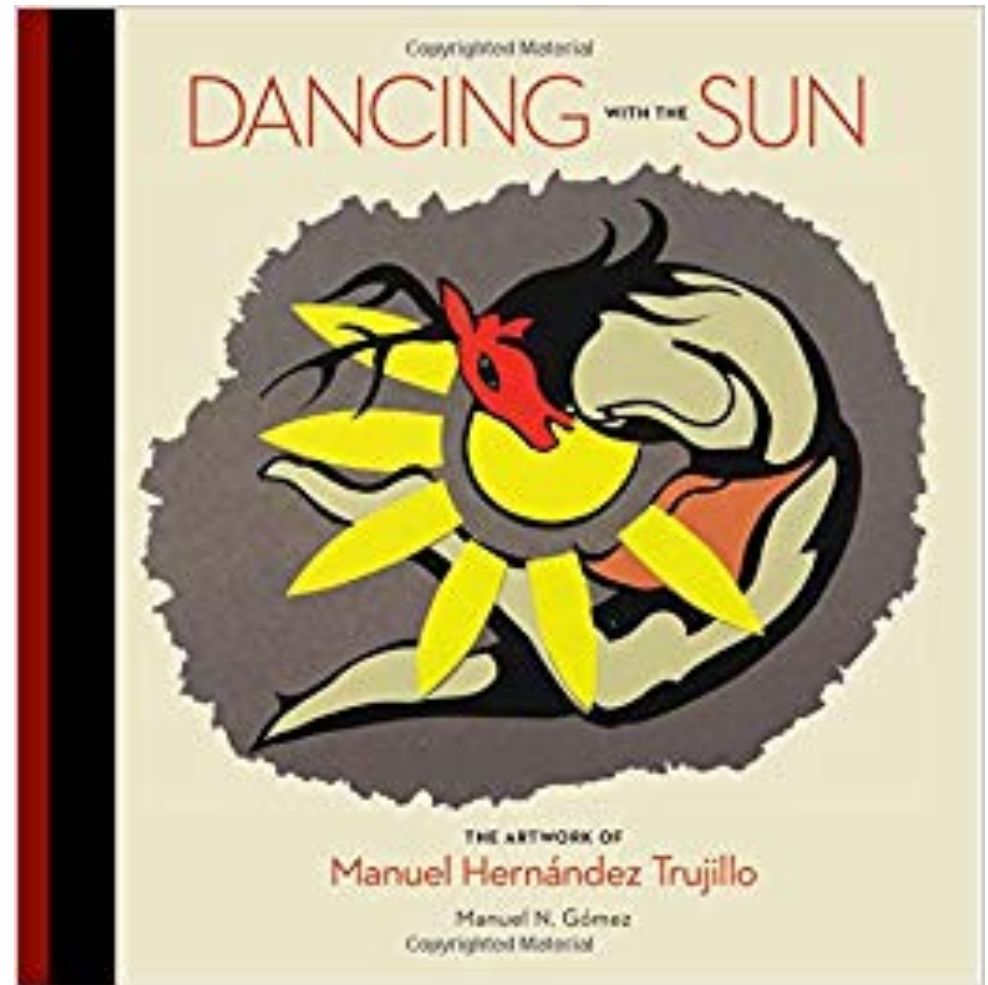
## IMAGINING SANTA ANA

- **IMAGINING SANTA ANA** is a two- year series (2018-2020) of public humanities events and programs *by* and *for* the whole community offered through **El Sol Conexión**, the school's new center for arts and culture.
- **IMAGINING SANTA ANA** honors and celebrates the cultural heritage and artistry of Santa Ana's Chicano community. All events in the series will feature local artists and culture bearers in conversation, co-creation and collaboration with faculty, students and alumni of El Sol Academy and UC Irvine.
- **IMAGINING SANTA ANA** is a partnership between El Sol Conexión, UC Links and California Humanities.
- Coincides with the city of **Santa Ana's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Documentary  
Screening/Release  
October 2019  
at EL SOL through  
**IMAGINING  
SANTA ANA**

panel presentation by  
Dr. Manuel Gomez, the film makers  
and El Sol students

in collaboration with the producers at the  
**Santa Ana City Library**



# Community Mural Project

August 2018- March 2019

## Workshop for Community Arts

Santa Ana Artists  
Adriana Alexander, UCI MFA  
Isidro Perez aka "Chilo" Cal Arts



## Community Mural Collaboration:

Students in After School survey the community to ask what they want to see in the mural and help choose images for overall Mural Design.





# Community Painting Days

Weekends  
Fall, 2018





# FALL 2018: Middle School POETRY Workshops

## Focus: Chicano Art & Culture

Fridays 9am -2pm in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Unit: Broken to Pieces

Lesson based on [Broken to Pieces by Fabian Pavon](#)

And SMART History videos Kahn Academy

### ***Instructors: Sue Cronmiller and the UCI Undergraduates***

*The video poem Broken in Pieces begins with an image of the Aztec Coyolxauhqui Stone Sculpture from the Templo Mayor. This sacred Aztec artifact is a powerful symbol of being “broken.” The myth associated with Coyolxauhqui and the stone’s use and placement in the Templo Mayor are described in this Smart History Video. View and listen to the video on Coyolxauhqui Stone while taking notes – listening for factual knowledge and understanding...and taking notes of words you find powerful— words that have an effect on you...words that resonate. You are making a list of phrases and words for your poetry word bank...a collection of broken pieces you will put back together in your own way.*

## Kahn Academy Videos- SMART History

Coyalxauhqui

Coatlicue

Templo Mayor

Olmec Mask

The Sun Stone

The Double Headed Serpent

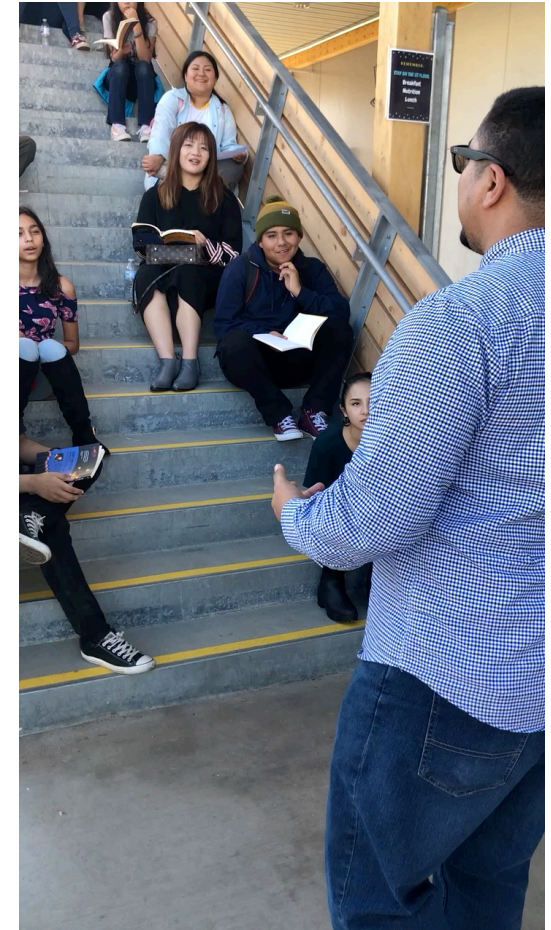
Aztec Feathered Headdress

WINTER 2019  
WHOLE NEW PROGRAM  
**Chicano Art & Culture**

Saturday  
January 19  
10-2pm

SPECIAL Guest Appearance:  
**Fabian Pavon**

**Collaboration** with teachers & staff to  
promote through class visits, flyers and calls  
to parents & UC Links faculty and  
Undergrads



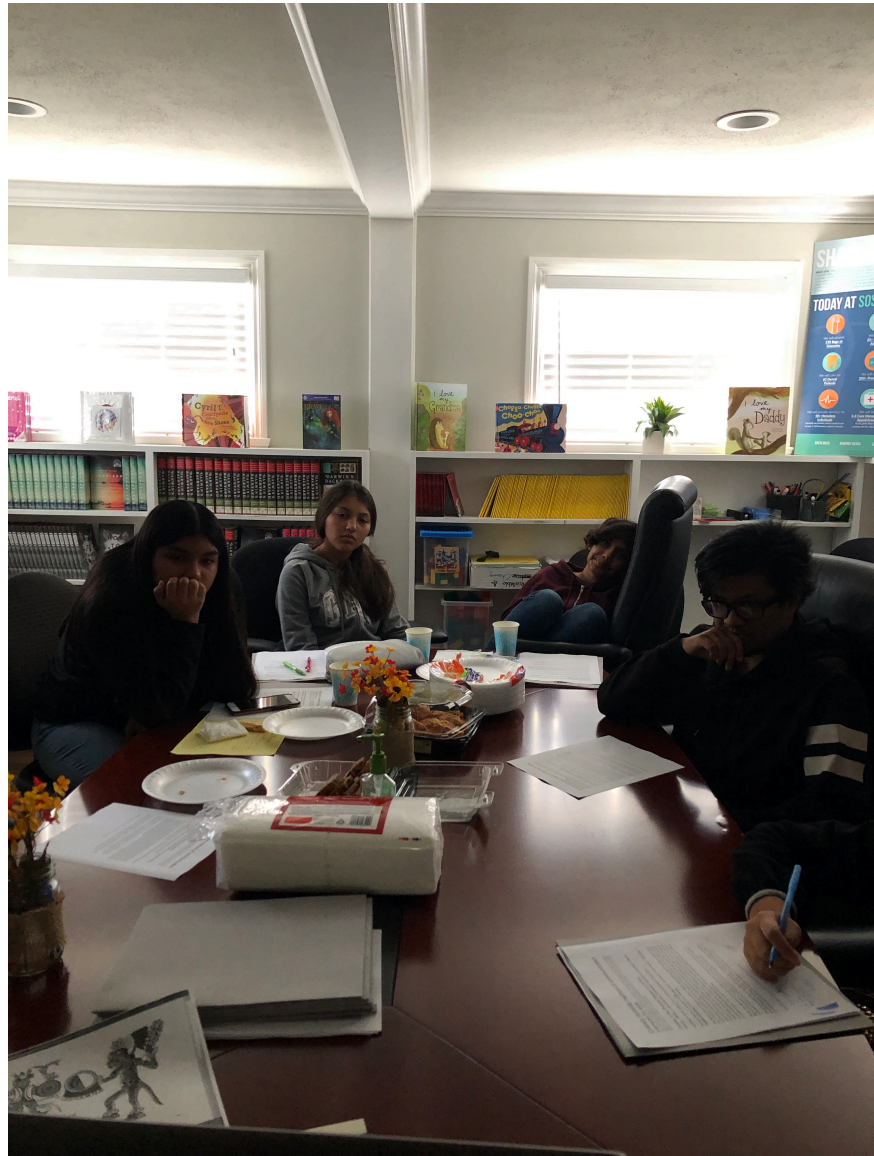
New Poetry Program  
Deepening and Extending Fall Workshop Content  
Chicano Arts & Culture  
SATURDAYS 10-2pm

- Student participants self-selected from Fall middle school workshops
- Graduate Seminar Style
- Guest Speakers and Artists – Fabian Pavon, Dr. Manuel Gomez, Moises Vazquez, David Vazquez
- In depth content, discussion, writing, revision, performance practice
- Linked to Imagining Santa Ana

# SATURDAY Feb 9

## Writing the Collaborative Poem

Together, combing over Aztec  
codexes, art texts, notes,  
poems, stories, myths and  
videos for ideas, images and  
language.

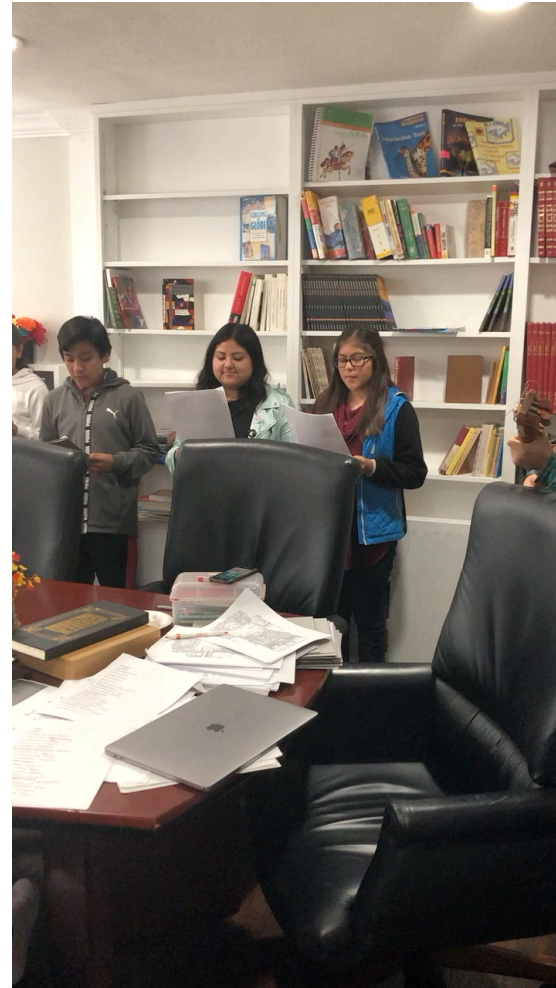




# Saturday Feb 23: Practicing for the Big Event



# Collaborative Revision/ Performance Vision, Plan & Practice



Collaborating with Artists, Teachers & Staff  
Rain in the  
forecast!

It helps to have  
a project  
EVERYONE  
loves.





# IMAGINING SANTA ANA MURAL BLESSING & DEDICATION MARCH 2, 2019

Over 250 people came out to celebrate with us  
IN THE RAIN!



# Nahuatl Cantos

Promoting the Upcoming  
Nahuatl Language  
and Culture Classes  
for El Sol students &  
Community

local artists and  
culture bearers  
Moises & David Vazquez





El Sol Poets  
& Ugs

Interactive  
Photo  
Station



El Sol Folklorica  
first time as  
Aztec Danzantes

Dance Instructor  
Bertha Munoz  
jumped at the chance!



# El Sol Conexión = Community Change Agent

- FIRST EL SOL celebration of Chicano/Mesoamerican Culture
- FIRST EL SOL celebration of local artists, poets, culture bearers as co-instructors and performers
- Invested collaboration with El Sol teachers, staff & community
- Empowered undergraduate experience – inspiring, learning and sharing
- Public presentations/performance by youth participants with adult leaders
- Youth in co- creation and direction of conversation/content
- UC Links/UCI Poetry Academy fully embedded in school culture
- Responsive: Introducing Chicano Studies in elementary and middle school : decolonizing curriculum/community identity (Ballet Folklórico to Aztec Danzantes and Nahuatl Classes and 7 more public events to come.)
- EVERYONE LOVED IT – healing and uplifting



Julietta  
Maldonado

225+ likes on the  
El Sol Conexión  
Facebook Page



## Poetry For Democracy Update January, 2019

On Twitter: Wanda Austin, Interim President, USC, with El Sol Poet, Krystal Gallegos



“With Krystal Gallegos, a USC sophomore majoring in International Relations, who also happens to be a first-gen college student. In a few weeks, she will lead a USC delegation to Princeton for a conference focused on first-gen, lower-income students. Fight On! #USCFirstGen”



# Art Heals



Fall 2018

## UC Links Program at El Sol Academy

- In Class Poetry Workshops – Focus Chicano Art & Culture
- 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms
- Community Mural Project – UC Links After School Collaboration with Workshop for Community Arts and El Sol Conexión.

You can't see it in my eyes....

