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 3rd and gradually expands to 8th 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 150th 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 6th, 7th and 8th 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 Folklorico 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
• 6th, 7th and 8th 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....