



ETHNIC STUDIES CONFERENCE

**IN COMMUNITY!
A CELEBRATION OF PEOPLE**

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

El Camino College

May 13-16, 2024

Flex credit is available for faculty and staff.



El Camino College, 16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506, 1-866-ELCAMINO, WWW.ELCAMINO.EDU
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CAMPUS MAP

LOCATIONS

Administration.....	D-2
Art & Behavioral Science.....	C-2
Art – North.....	C-2
Art Gallery.....	C-2
Arts Complex.....	C-2
Baseball Field.....	A-1
Behavioral & Social Sciences Building.....	C-2
Bookstore.....	B-1
Basic Needs Center.....	B-1
East Dining Room.....	B-1
Campus Theatre.....	D-2
Center for Applied Technology (CAT).....	B-1
Central Plant.....	B-2
Chemistry.....	D-1
Communications.....	C-1
Community & Continuing Education.....	C-3
Construction Technology.....	A-2
Distance Education Center.....	C-1
Facilities.....	A-1
Gymnasium.....	B-2
Haag Recital Hall.....	D-2
Humanities.....	D-1
Industry/Technology Education Center (ITEC).....	D-1
Learning Resources Center.....	C-2
Library (Schauerman).....	D-2
Life Science.....	D-1
Marsee Auditorium.....	C-3
Math Business Allied Health (MBAH).....	D-2
Murdoch Stadium.....	B-2
Music.....	D-2
Natural Science.....	D-1
North Field.....	B-2
North Gym.....	C-2
PE & Athletics Field.....	B-2
PE South.....	C-2
Physics.....	D-1
Planetarium.....	C-1
Police.....	D-3
Pool Classroom Building.....	C-2
Sand Courts.....	C-3
Softball Field.....	B-3
Social Science.....	C-3
South Gym.....	C-3
Student Activities Center (COMS 100).....	C-1
Student Health Center.....	C-1
Student Services.....	C-1
Special Resource Center.....	C-1
Warrior Welcome Center.....	C-1
Tennis Courts.....	C-3



INTERACTIVE MAP
www.elcamino.edu/map

LEGEND

- = Under Construction
- ♿ = Accessible Parking

PARKING

Parking Lot A.....	D-1
Parking Lot B.....	D-1
Parking Lot C.....	B-1
Parking Lot D.....	B-1
Parking Lot E.....	A-1
Parking Lot F.....	B-2
Parking Lot H.....	B-3
Parking Lot J.....	D-3
Parking Lot K.....	D-3
Parking Lot L.....	D-4

PROGRAM
DAY ONE: MONDAY, MAY 13th



9:45 am-11:10 am: Alternative Spring Break Student Panel

Location: Social Justice Center: Communications 204

PROGRAM
DAY TWO: TUESDAY, MAY 14th



8:00-9:25 am: Professor Martin Leyva
Lived Experience as Education: Finding One's True Identity
Location: Distance Education Center: Library 166



9:45 am-11:10 am: Filmmaker Maximina Juson
One Person: One Vote?: Documentary film about the electoral college
78 minutes with Q and A
Location: Distance Education Center: Library 166

PROGRAM
DAY TWO: TUESDAY, MAY 14th

11:30 am-12:55 pm ETHNOMUSICOLOGY PROGRAM with Q and A
LOCATION: HAAG AUDITORIUM



Emcee: Dr. Simeon Pillich



Asano Taiko



Brenda Lee Eager



RedBoy Productions



Conjunto Hueyapan

PROGRAM
DAY TWO: TUESDAY, MAY 14th



1:15-2:15 pm Michele Vargas, Filipino Dance
Location: Social Justice Center: Communications 204: Student Services Plaza



2:30-3:55 pm Dancer and Choreographer Rachel Hernandez
(Orixa, Samba, and Reggae)
Location: Social Justice Center: Communications 204: Student Services Plaza

PROGRAM
DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 15th



9:45 am-11:10 am:

Keynote Speaker: José Angel Gutiérrez

Ethnic Studies: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

Location: Haag Auditorium



11:30 am-12:55 pm: Armando Vásquez-Ramos

Session 1: *Ethnic Studies in Local Area High Schools*

Location: Social Justice Center: Communications 204

1:15 pm-2:40 pm: Armando Vásquez-Ramos

Session 2: *Revisiting DACA*

Location: Social Justice Center: Communications 204

PROGRAM
DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 15th



6:30 pm-7:15 pm: Anatola Araba
Artist, Futurist, and Award-winning Filmmaker
Short Film: *Afro Algorithms* (13 minutes) and Q and A
Location: Haag Auditorium



**7:30 pm-8:45 pm: Presentation and Performance by the
Garifuna American Heritage Foundation United (GAHFU)
and Special Guests**
Location: Haag Auditorium

PROGRAM
DAY FOUR: THURSDAY, MAY 16th

EMPOWERED SELF-CARE

Location: Social Justice Center: Communications 204:Student Services Plaza



9:45-11:10 am

Dr. Melanie Lindsay (co-keynote)

The Meaning and Practice of Abolitionist Self-Care

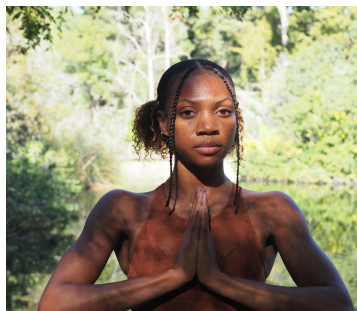


11:30-12:55 pm

Dr. Anita Revilla (co-keynote)

Heal from Academic Spirit Murder?:

Ethnic Studies and Activism as Spirit Protection and Restoration



1:15-2:15 pm

Shaunai Wilkinson

Empowered Yoga and from Dr. Amina an Ode to Rosa Parks, Civil Rights Activist and Yogi

PROGRAM
DAY FOUR: THURSDAY, MAY 16th



2:30-3:55 pm: Rony Castellanos, M.Ed. (He/They)
I Am Not Your Good Immigrant: Un-(Docu)-Queer: Now What?

Location: Social Justice Center: Communications 204

PROGRAM
DAY FOUR: THURSDAY, MAY 16th

4:15-4:30 pm: PROSE and POETRY Session
Positionality and Intersectional Identities: El Camino College Students
Location: Social Justice Center: Communications 204



Jamila Zaki: El Camino College Student: *Introduction to Ethnic Studies*
Personal Narrative: *The Beauty In Me*



tommy oneil: El Camino College Student: *Introduction to Ethnic Studies*
Original Poem: *superbloom*

PROGRAM
DAY FOUR: THURSDAY, MAY 16th

4:30 pm-5:40 pm: PROSE and POETRY Session
Positionality and Intersectional Identities: Race, Class, and Gender
Location: Social Justice Center: Communications 204



Ebony Gilbert: Television writer, playwright, and author
Woman (An Original Poem)
Sankofa (An excerpt from a play set for production 2024-2025)



Penelope Lowder: Playwright, screenwriter and novelist
She Shot Me (excerpt)



Amina AmXn: Playwright, Writer, Photographer, Quilter, Afro Futurist, and Scholar
Dear Black WomXn (An Original Poem)

PROGRAM
DAY FOUR: THURSDAY, MAY 16th

6-8:45 pm: FINAL PROGRAM AND CLOSING REMARKS
AFRICA'S GIFT

*African Diaspora Culture: Ethnomusicology,
Indigenous Sounds, Movement, and History with Q and A*

Location: Haag Auditorium



6 pm-6:15 pm

Introductions and Rayshawn Reed

El Camino College Student:

Original choreography/hip hop dance entitled:

A Time before You Left



6:15 pm-7 pm Dr. Amir Whitaker:

Presentation: *Ethnomusicology and Culture across the African Diaspora*

PROGRAM
DAY FOUR: THURSDAY, MAY 16th

FINAL PROGRAM AND CLOSING REMARKS
AFRICA'S GIFT

*African Diaspora Culture:
Ethnomusicology, Indigenous Sounds, Movement, and History with Q and A*
Location: Haag Auditorium

NADIA CALMET
Art – Education,
Culture and
Performing Arts



7-7:45 pm Nadia Calmet, ARTivist, Afro Peruvian Dance and Drumming
Cultural Resistance through Art



7:45-8:30 pm Djembe Jan and Daunte KINGTAE Fyall
West African Dance and Drum

8:30-8:45 pm Q and A and Closing Remarks

BIOS in Alphabetical Order



Araba, Anatola: With the mantra “imagination is the greatest tool of humanity,” Anatola Araba is an artist, futurist, and award-winning filmmaker who pushes the boundaries of storytelling by fusing art and technology. Raised in the heart of New York City, Anatola graduated from the prestigious New York University, Tisch School of the Arts. She is on a mission to inform, inspire, and reimagine the world as it could be.

Her renowned film, "Afro Algorithms," is a visionary 3D animated short about artificial intelligence and bias. The project garnered numerous awards across the globe and has made history as the first science fiction short film to be sent to the Moon by Space Blue as part of NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services initiative.

As the founder of Reimagine Story Lab, Anatola is pioneering a new era of diverse and world-class immersive experiences by directing a cutting edge virtual museum on a mission to imagine and catalyze a sustainable future. Her films and interdisciplinary artworks have exhibited at world renowned institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, the Lincoln Center, Art Basel, the Museum of Moving Images, and more.

She has partnered with the likes of Snapchat, Google, and Mozilla to tell innovative stories. Her writing has been published in ELLE and Harper's Bazaar. Her work has been featured in Vogue and the Wall Street Journal.

Anatola believes that solutions to humanities greatest challenges, from climate change to growing inequality, can be sparked through the transformative power of stories in the same way that leaders at the forefront of space exploration have attributed their original source of inspiration to the possibilities first imagined by science fiction. Anatola has spoken for the United Nations, Unity for Humanity Summit, Afrotech, and many leading Universities. She has shared the stage with luminaries like Malcom Gladwell and Elizabeth Gilbert, and has interviewed distinguished talent including The Matrix's Carrie-Anne Moss, Tommy Hilfiger, and Kerry Washington.



Asano Taiko U.S: Asano Taiko U.S. is a full-service taiko (Japanese drum) facility located in Torrance, California offering a walk-in store on-site taiko maintenance and repair, and hands-on taiko classes. Asano Taiko U.S. is home to Los Angeles Taiko Institute (LATI), a full-time taiko school offering courses to both beginner and advanced players. Taught by professional taiko performers, classes are offered every day of the week. A hub for advanced taiko pedagogy, the institute offers 12-week courses, multi-day intensives, and one-time workshops on a wide range of taiko arts.



Eager, Brenda Lee: Singer Brenda Lee Eager is known for her energetic live shows, her powerful vocals, and playful sense of humor. She has a wide range of musical influences, and her music blends elements of pop, soul, jazz, and R&B.

She has toured extensively with a variety of legendary artists, such as Ray Charles, Teena Marie, Gladys Knight, Lynn Anderson, Graham Nash, Donnie Hathaway and Roberta Flack, as well as Diana Ross.

NADIA CALMET
Art – Education,
Culture and
Performing Arts



Calmet, Nadia: Nadia Calmet is a professional Peruvian Folk Dance Artist, specializing in Afro-Peruvian Dances. She has more than 25 years of experience participating in cultural exchanges with organizations in more than thirty countries as a cultural representative of Peru.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Tourism and Hospitality with studies in Public Policies for Vulnerable Populations, as well as in Arts Therapy and Intercultural Education and Child Development. She also has a degree in Community Art from Cal State University, LA.

Nadia was a member of the Millennium Theater Group (Kimba Fá - Peru). She has worked as a choreographer and soloist for the legendary singer Eva Ayllon. In 2015 Nadia participated in the Peruvian delegation with the production "PERU: Pachamama" organized by the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Additionally, she engaged in cultural exchanges with organizations such as Conjunto Folklórico Nacional in Cuba, Familia Ayala in Puerto Rico. She is a script writer, choreographer and artistic director of more than 20 Peruvian musicals in different cities such as: Lima, Seattle, Utah and Los Angeles.

She is the main initiator of the "Afro-Peruvian Cultural Day" in Los Angeles, CA a first for the city. She has given lectures at several universities in the United States, such as: Connecticut University, Purdue University, Indiana University, UCLA, YALE among others. She is also the founder and Artistic Director of the performing arts company the "*Afro-Peruvian Experience*" in Los Angeles which allows her to continue to vindicate, embody, and give visibility to the cultural diversity of Peru.

Currently, Calmet works as a dance teacher and specialist in the African diaspora dances, as well as creating curricula for multicultural arts education programs in the city of Los Angeles. Calmet has just published his first bilingual children's book entitled *Cajón, Cajita y Quijada*. Website: <https://nadiacalmet.com/>



Conjunto Hueyapan: Founded in 1973 by Professor Fermín Herrera, Conjunto Hueyapan emerged from the Department of Chicana/o Studies and during its 40-year history has represented the Department and the University in community events, conferences, and concerts throughout the U.S. and Mexico. Its many performance credits include: Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City, the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, the Center for World Music in New York City, the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Los Angeles Music Center, the Filene Center of Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts in Vienna, Virginia, President Reagan's 1985 Inaugural Ball; the Hollywood Bowl, the Greek Theatre in Hollywood, the Tucson International Mariachi Conference, the “Encuentro de Jaraneros” in Tlacotalpan, Veracruz, the “Encuentro de Huapangueros” in Amatlán, Veracruz, the Festival of American Folklife in Washington, DC, “Siempre en Domingo” Television Program from Mexico City. Members have been guest performers in concert tours or CD recordings with Conjunto Medellín de Lino Chávez, Linda Ronstadt, Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano, Mariachi Sol de México de José Hernández, Ixya Herrera, Los Lobos, the rock-en español group, Jaguares, and British vocalist, Thea Gilmore. Some of their music can be heard in feature films such as *La Bamba*, *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*, and *Nacho Libre*. The group’s CD’s, *Conjunto Hueyapan de la Familia Herrera*, Vols. 1-2 were released in 2003 and 2004.



Photo Credit: Amina AmXn

Fyall, Daunte. Daunte KINGTAE Fyall: Born in Frankfurt, Germany and raised in Washington DC, Daunte “KINGTAE” Fyall is a passionate dance instructor, performing artist, and motivational speaker. Daunte travels around the world enriching our communities with the healing energy and power of Traditional West African Dance.

His Roots began with the World-Renowned Assane Konte, Founder/Artistic Director of Kankouran West African Dance Company of Washington, DC. As a senior company member, Daunte’s performance venues/credits include: The Kennedy Center of Washington DC, the Trinidad & Tobago Emancipation Festival, The Smithsonian Museum of Washington DC, and The White House of the United States of America, to name a few!

Daunte has also participated in hundreds of hours of continued education with West African Masters. He was awarded the privilege of studying and performing with dance pioneer Debbie Allen at her prestigious dance academy located in the heart of Los Angeles. His performance credits with Mrs. Allen include: *Debbie Allen's: Hot Chocolate Nutcracker* and performing at *Debbie Allen's: All-Star Gala*. Daunte can also be seen displaying his talents in projects with Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, and in a music video with five-time Grammy nominated R&B Artist: Khalid. Last but not least, Daunte was also a principal dancer in the hit comedy sequel film starring Eddie Murphy in *Coming 2 America*!

As founder and president of artistic direction at DAANSEKOU Cultural Arts Collective in Los Angeles, CA, Daunte and his amazing team of community leaders host traditional West African dance fundamental classes while curating safe spaces for communities to obtain cultural knowledge of West Africa.



Garifuna American Heritage Foundation United (GAHFU) and Special Guests

The mission of GAHFU is to serve the Garifuna-American, Caribbean-American and Central American community in the greater Los Angeles and Long Beach area, the United States and abroad through cultural education programs, outreach, advocacy and social services programs.

To empower and educate the people about the rich history and values of Garifuna culture by preserving and disseminating its culture in order to re-acculturate the new generations of Garifuna Americans. To create innovative educational programs that motivate, expand knowledge, promote its culture in general, enhance Garifuna awareness for opportunities and foster Garifuna identity. GAHFU believes that having an appreciation of one's own culture sets the stage for developing partnership with people who come from culturally diverse backgrounds.

Websites: <https://www.gahfu.org/> <https://garifunaresearchcenter.org/>



Gilbert, Ebony: Television writer, playwright, and author Ebony Gilbert began her career writing weekly articles about minority youth for the Miami Herald. After receiving her MFA in Screenwriting from Loyola Marymount University, she co-wrote and directed the award-winning play *Complex[ion] Woman*, and in 2017, Gilbert was selected as a Film Independent’s Project Involve Writing Fellow. In 2018, Gilbert was named “Writer to Watch” by WeForShe. The following year, she began her writing career in television, working on CW’s *Batwoman* for three seasons before writing and co-producing on an Amazon TV series. Her graphic novel, *Billie Holiday*, was named one of the Best Travel Comics by Book Riot in 2022.

Gilbert started her company, Dirt-Stained Roses, in hopes of merging community activism with the arts and has awarded scholarships to over 20 students. Under her company, she debuted *ships a comin* and has won numerous awards, including Best Animated Short and Best AfroFuturism Award. As a Board Member of the Black Critical Media Conference, Gilbert advocates for the importance of Black representation in media.

In 2023, Gilbert debuted her award-winning film, *ifine (beauty)*—a documentary exploring the skin bleaching epidemic in Sierra Leone, Africa. The film won Best Short Documentary at the Pan African Film Festival, Freetong Film Festival, Morehouse Human Rights Film Festival, and San Antonio Black International Film Festival and was nominated for Best Documentary at the Africa Movie Academy Awards and Outstanding Short Doc at the 2024 NAACP Image Award. Gilbert is currently developing and running a Screenwriting Program for underserved youth.



Gutiérrez, José Angel: José Angel Gutiérrez is an attorney and former professor at the University of Texas at Arlington. He was a founding member of the Mexican American Youth Organization (MAYO) in San Antonio in 1967, and a founding member and past president of the Raza Unida Party, a Mexican-American third party movement that supported candidates for elective office in Texas, California, and other areas of the Southwestern and Midwestern United States.

He has been elected and appointed to public office since 1970. He has served as an elected Trustee and President of the Crystal City Independent School District (1970–1973), Urban Renewal Commissioner for Crystal City, Texas (1970–1972), County Judge for Zavala County, Texas (1974–1978, re-elected 1978–1981), Commissioner for the Oregon Commission on International Trade (1983–1985), Administrative Law Judge for the City of Dallas, Texas, and member of the Dallas Ethics Commission (1999–2000).

Gutiérrez has received many honors including being named as one of the "100 Outstanding Latino Texans of the 20th Century" by *Latino Monthly*, January 2000, and "Distinguished Texas Hispanic" by *Texas Hispanic Magazine*, October 1996. He received the Distinguished Faculty Award from the *Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education* in June 1995, and the National Council of La Raza's Chicano Hero Award in 1994.



Hernandez, Rachel: Rachel began her professional studies in Salvador, Bahia. She has had the privilege to study with Mestre King, Jose Santos, Rosangela Silvestre, Vera Passos, Nildinha Fonseca, Matias Santiago, as well as at the Escola de Dança, Balé Folclórico da Bahia, and UFBA. She is skilled in Afro-Brazilian dance, Modern and Ballet. Rachel danced with mestre Kings Grupo Genisis, Balá da Mata, Fusion Dance Company, Ballet Santa Barbara, Marina Magalhes, and in the legendary production Saurê. She works for the Children's Creative project and LA's BEST Program introducing Afro-Brazilian dance to scores of elementary school children. She has choreographed for Ballet Santa Barbara, Viver Brasil and ballet folclorico do Brasil, Amalkoba (nationally), as well Capoeira Batuque Japao in Japan internationally. She has developed her signature Afro-Brazilian dance classes and Extra Ancestral Workshops, which are taught throughout LA County. She currently choreographs the dance component of Extra Ancestral and plays percussion with Bloco Obini.



Humphrey, Amina: Amina AmXn (aka Dr. Amina) is an agrarian, artist, teacher, scholar, ethnographic researcher, Black feminist, Critical Race Theorist, Pan Africanist, African Diaspora Activist, BIPOC book activist, and MANIFESTER. And she is the recipient of the Fulbright Award twice. She is the Founder of the BLACK! Critical Media Literacy Conference: Awareness! Action! Advocacy! in the African Diaspora.



Juson, Maximina: Maximina Juson is an award-winning filmmaker and founder of HUMovies based in Los Angeles. Her debut feature film, "One Person, One Vote?" is a National Endowment for the Humanities grant recipient that world premiered at The 2024 Pan African Film Festival, taking home the Programmer's Award for Best Documentary Feature. Maximina Juson was Consulting Producer (and Additional Camera) for *Mama Bears*, a documentary exploring the transformative experience of conservative, Christian mothers who decide to accept their LGBTQ children, which premiered at SXSW in 2022—a short version of the film was commissioned by the ACLU and won an Emmy for 2019 Outstanding Documentary Short and two Webby Awards. In 2018, she produced *Harlem Rising* for The Harlem Children's Zone. The documentary, drawing upon 30 years of archival footage, is a history of the organization's efforts to "break the cycle of generational poverty" for Harlem families. Juson also shot, produced and directed a video web series for The Washtenaw ID Project, an organization that helps disenfranchised communities and individuals obtain a valid government-issued ID in Washtenaw County, Michigan.



Leyva, Martin: Martin Leyva is a formerly incarcerated Chicano scholar, and current doctoral student at UCSD department of Education, he has Masters of Arts in Sociological Practice from Cal State San Marcos; he holds a BA in Liberal Arts/Psychology from Antioch University and is a CAADE Certified Drug and Alcohol Treatment Counselor. He has a strong passion for social justice and human rights issues. He has spoken and shared at multiple venues including universities throughout California and the American Society of Criminology. He has led trainings on Best Practices for Working with Formerly Incarcerated Individuals, Emotional Intelligence, and Spiritual Self Care & Healing. He is well known for his abilities with gang intervention/prevention & mediation skills and helping those with drug and alcohol issues.



Lindsay, Melanie: Dr. Melanie Lindsay earned her master's and Ph.D. in Cultural Studies from Claremont Graduate University. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Master of Arts degree in Social Science from California State University, San Bernardino. Her research focuses on the importance of activism and abolition of forms of self-care. She positions her current research at the intersection of class, gender, race, and sexuality. She developed a concept called abolitionist self-care through a close reading of selected works of Audre Lorde, Maya Angelou, and Patrisse Cullors. Her research draws from primary sources, including published and unpublished materials. She utilized materials from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and the Lesbian Herstory Archives in New York to conceptualize the importance of abolitionist self-care. Through this project she asked whether the performative works of three Black feminists can yield a notion of self-care. If we examine their thinking as expressed through their writings, their performances, and activism, would we be able to locate a practice that robustly sustains lives often lived under conditions of duress? Her research was animated by an interest in how Black feminist intellectuals enact their practice ethically and, how the literature of self-care, which has, in recent decades, has come to be understood as a commoditized experience of individualistic wellness. Dr. Lindsay was the recipient of the 2021 Transdisciplinary Dissertation Award, Grace Berry Award, and Friedman Grant. In December of 2022, Dr. Lindsay was hired as the first full-time professor of Ethnic Studies at Moreno Valley College. Dr. Lindsay is an educator determined to impact the next generation of scholars.



Lowder, Penelope: Penelope Lowder is a playwright, screenwriter and novelist. Her play, *West Adams*, was the L.A. Times Critic's Pick for 2020. Her other works include *Water*, *The Follicle Prison War*, *15 Minutes*, *Reaching Autonomy*, *And So We Supped*, *The Third Day*, *A Drop of Sun*, *Show Me To Shondas* and *Honest Sam*. Her commissioned monologue for *Pathway To The Ballot Box* at Historic Huguenot Street debuted in the spring of 2020. Her films, "15 Minutes" and "4Closure" have been screened at the Women of African Descent Film Festival in New York as well as Indie Film Festivals.

Recently her work, *She Shot Me* was chosen for the Voices of the Rebellion and her 10-Minute play *Casserole* was chosen to be performed at Meet Cute. Her novel, *Three Seconds of Hell*, about her father's days in an African-American motorcycle club in the 1950's south was released in 2017 by World Stage Press.

Ms. Lowder is a University of Southern California alumni, a current member of Center Theatre Group Writer's Workshop, and Skylight Playwrights Lab, SkyLAB. She is a former member of Guy Hanks and Marvin Miller Screenwriting Fellowship, Los Angeles Theater Center Playwrights Workshop, Skirball-Kenis Writer's Workshop, and the Robey Playwright Workshop.



Nicholson, Janet (Jan) L: She/Her/They is an artist, percussionist, educator, and cultural wellness advocate in the Communities she has served for over 30 years. A native Angelino of Southern California, Jan aka “Djembe Jan” is a lifetime student of the drum. She uses the creative process as a tool for self-healing, reconnection, cultivating awareness, and personal empowerment.



oneil, tommy: El Camino College Student: *Introduction to Ethnic Studies*

tommy oneil is a Los Angeles born musician, artist, union worker, activist & parent. Since receiving their GED in 2001, they have worked a union job for nearly two decades which inspires much of their art that is centered around workers' struggles. They have a passion for social justice and dream of a world of collective liberation. A new world is possible.



Pillich, G. Simeon: Dr. Simeon Pillich's professional work includes roles as a consultant on musical style and culture to the film industry and as a sought-after session musician on the bass. A musician since the age of 5, he has recorded or performed with such artists as Chuck Berry, Nell Carter, Ry Cooder, Alice Cooper, Melissa Etheridge, John Hiatt, Al Jarreau, Eartha Kitt, and the Stylistics; played on Broadway and in national tours for *Rent*, *The Wiz*, *Grease*, *The King and I*, and other shows; performed on the soundtracks of more than a dozen movies, and served for six years as host of "The Global Village" on KPFK-FM. A member of the International Assn. for the Study of Popular Music and of AFM Local No. 47, he also has taught at Chapman University, Cal State San Bernardino, the University of La Verne, and UCLA.



Photo Credit: Amina AmXn

Raymundo, Rony: Rony Eduardo Castellanos Raymundo, M.Ed. Pronouns: He/Él/They/Elle
Representation: Rony is of Guatemalan descent and identifies as nonbinary. Rony's Topic: *I AM NOT YOUR GOOD IMMIGRANT: UN-DOCU-QUEER: NOW WHAT?* Program Director, Latinx Cultural Resource Center, California State University, Dominguez Hills. La Casita at Latinx Cultural Resource Center (LCRC) 1000. E. Victoria Street, LSU 110 ***Visit our New Casita! Carson, CA 90747.



RedBoy Productions: RedBoy Productions is a Native American Family Dance Group maintained by Native American artists and educators serving Orange County. Since 2010, we have been dedicated to educating the general public about Native American culture and traditions through song, storytelling, dances, theater, workshops, art, crafts, and other cultural forms of expression.



Reed, Rayshawn: El Camino College Student and Dancer

Rayshawn Reed is a dancer whose expertise is hip hop and other various dance genres from the African Diaspora. Dancing is a very important part of Ray's life, and he hopes to spread the message of joy, happiness, and resiliency through his dance. This original piece entitled *A Time before You Left* is to celebrate the life of his grandfather who transitioned. Through dance, Rayshawn articulates that our deceased are never forgotten or gone but live in us . . . and for Rayshawn, this is praise and thanksgiving for his dear grandfather through the art, story, movement, and spirit of dance.



Revilla, Anita: Dr. Anita Revilla, a Feminist and Chair of the Chicana/o Dept. at CSULA is interested in speaking. <https://www.calstatela.edu/academic/cls/faculty-staff>. Bio: Dr. Anita Tijerina Revilla is an activist scholar and Professor who joined the department in fall of 2019. Her research focuses on student movements and social justice education, specifically in the areas of Chicana/Latina, immigrant, feminist and queer rights activism. Her expertise is in the areas of Jotería (Queer and Latinx) Studies, Chicanx Education, Chicana/Latina Feminism, and Critical Race/Ethnic Studies. After receiving her bachelor's degree from Princeton University and master's degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, she earned her doctorate from UCLA Graduate School of Education in Social Sciences and Comparative Education with an emphasis in Race and Ethnic Studies. She is working on a book about feminist, queer, and immigrant rights activism in Las Vegas and Los Angeles titled, *Muxeristas y Jotería: From Los Angeles to Las Vegas and Beyond*. She is also a visual artist that specializes in painting Muxerista and Queer community.



Vargas, Michele: Michele is the former Dance Director for the Kalinangan Dance Troupe (KDT), a Filipino folk dance group based in Montreal, Canada. With over 30 years of dance experience, she currently teaches Polynesian dancing at the Westchester YMCA.

From a young age, Michele learned about the various dance styles from the Philippines as her parents thought it was the best way for her to learn about her roots. Some of the first dances she learned were waltzes that showcased the Spanish influence on Filipino culture. As she grew up, Michele continued to perform at local community events and eventually taught younger generations about Filipino culture through dance. In 1997, KDT traveled to Europe to perform at the Festival Folklórico de los Pueblos del Mundo de Extremadura in Almendralejo, Spain where they showcased different styles of Filipino dance. They were joined by groups from around the world showcasing cultural dances from Senegal, Mexico, Lithuania and more.

In college, Michele developed a love for martial arts and was introduced to the Filipino martial arts: Arnis, Escrima and Kali. As she learned these fighting methods, she discovered that some Filipino dances incorporated very similar movements to what she was learning. Dances like Sakuting and Maglalatik were actually a way for Filipinos to learn Filipino martial arts during colonial times when it was banned. Michele's passion for dance has introduced her to the world, and she continues to pass on her knowledge through dance by teaching at the local YMCA.



Vásquez-Ramos, Armando: Professor Vázquez-Ramos has been promoting educational opportunities for the Chicano/Mexican and Latino population for more than 50 years. He has taught on Chicano/Latino education, history, immigration, politics, public policy, and U.S.-Mexico relations for the CSU Long Beach Chicano and Latino Studies Department, where he is also Coordinator of the California-Mexico Project.

As an innovator and immigrant rights advocate for decades, in 2014 Professor Vazquez-Ramos also established the California-Mexico Dreamers Study Abroad Program, a precedent-setting model which has allowed over 160 Dreamers the opportunity to study abroad in Mexico through 6 travel-study classes, and returned them legally to the U.S. through DACA's Advance Parole provision.

But most significantly this pilot project has pioneered a method that enabled Dreamers to adjust their legal status through marriage, and receive permanent resident visas upon return, as a model for other colleges and universities to replicate this opportunity for their students, and could enable thousands of Dreamers to return to their birthplace to meet their families, discover their homeland and study as adults.

On October 18, 2014, Prof. Vazquez-Ramos convened the Campaign to Promote Ethnic Studies (CPES) Summit at CSULB, with El Rancho USD Board President Dr. Aurora Villon and CSU San Bernardino's Dr. Enrique Murillo. Through the CPES, he established the Long Beach Ethnic Studies Program with a 5-year funding commitment by the Long Beach Unified School District Superintendent, for up to 12 ethnic studies classes with CSULB credit per semester at all six LBUSD comprehensive high schools.

As the program's administrative coordinator, he has grown the program to provide 15 Saturday College classes at LBUSD, the El Rancho USD and the Norwalk-La Mirada USD.



Photo Credit: Amina AmXn

Whitaker, Amir: Dr. Amir Whitaker is a culturalist, activist, civil rights lawyer, and founder of the non-profit Project Knucklehead. Amir has traveled to over 20 countries tracing the influence and music of the Afro-diaspora. In the process, he has taught workshops on Hip Hop and Beatmaking in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Jamaica, Guatemala, and other countries. He is the co-founder of the Afro Unidad, a cultural movement that united Afro-descendants around the world through art and justice. Dr. Whitaker is also a published author and his *Encyclopedia of Afro-Diaspora Music* compiles over 200 styles of Afro music across the Americas. His research also focuses on the criminalization of Afro culture and the drum throughout history and can be viewed at www.afrounity.org. Amir received his doctorate in Educational Psychology from USC, law degree from the University of Miami, and Bachelors from Rutgers University. He currently works as a lawyer for the ACLU of SoCal and previously worked as a researcher at UCLA.



Wilkinson, Shaunai: Shaunai is a yoga instructor from Los Angeles. Entering college she first attended Portland State University to study sociology. After a few shifts and a transfer, she earned a Bachelor's in fashion merchandising from CSU Long Beach. On paper her journey may seem random, but every choice she's made has been intentional, bringing her to where she is today. She's always held an interest in the study of people, from analyzing their shopping habits to understanding how past experiences influence personality development. Connection and understanding are at the root of her values.



Zaki, Jamila: El Camino College Student: *Introduction to Ethnic Studies*

Jamila Zaki is currently majoring in journalism. She is an artist who loves to dance, write, create, and share lifestyle content. She enjoys photography. Jamila believes everyone has a story worth sharing and being heard.