

COMMUNITY ARTS GATHERING March 14-18, 2015 - PRESENTERS AND ACTIVITIES

Alma Angelina Yanes Leyva - *Recycled Tires*

Tuesday, March 17



using recycled tires.

A workshop learning how to use recycled materials to make useful things – turn old tires into pots, swings, figures for gardens, parks or home. Leyva encourages the artistic education and culture of recycling so that people in the community may have the opportunity to learn and teach others this type of work.

Alma Angelina Yanes Leyva is based in Puerto Penasco, Sonora, Mexico. She offers workshops for making pots, vases and hand crafts

Arizona Commission on the Arts - *Write Competitive Grants*

Monday, March 16



An interactive, hands-on workshop to help artists learn how to effectively find and approach funding opportunities and how to prepare strong grant proposals. Participants will strengthen their grant writing toolkit, gain insight into the grant review process and through a mock panel discussion, discover and discuss the elements of a successful grant application.

One of 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies, the Arizona Commission on the Arts supports a statewide arts network. The agency is governed by a 15-member Governor-appointed Commission and a professional staff grounded in the arts. Our staff includes practicing artists, skilled administrators and education specialists who serve in local and national arts leadership roles. This session presented by Alex Nelson, Director of Arts Learning, and Kristen Pierce, Organizational Services Coordinator.

<http://www.azarts.gov/>

Artists Marketplace

Sunday, March 15, Tuesday, March 17

An opportunity for presenters and participants to sell their artwork at the Gathering. Throw up a table and show off your work. Artists are responsible for sale and oversight of their own artwork. We will have tables available for our out of town guests. And information will be provided about leaving your artwork behind to be sold in our local art shops including the Chamber of Commerce Gift Shop, South of the Border, and Art Stop Gift Shop.

Carina A. del Rosario - *Passport Office and Series*
Sunday, March 15, Monday, March 16, Wednesday, March 18



Passport Office and Series is an interactive art installation accessible to all Gathering attendees. A temporary “passport office” will display artistic passports that are already part of the project and engage in conversation about race, identity and discrimination. Attendees may also participate by posing for a portrait and completing a re-imagined “passport application.”

Born in the Philippines, artist and photographer Carina A. del Rosario is currently based in Seattle, Washington. She collaborates with non-profit organizations and educational institutions to help illustrate issues such as poverty, education, health and civil rights.

<http://cadelrosario.com/>

Carlos Daniel Soto Espindola - *Centro Ecológico Comunitario de Bahía Adair (CECBA)*
Monday, March 16



Presentation on an alternative for educational tourism within protected areas in the North of Sonora for the rescue of ancestral traditions, protecting the environment and especially the respect for human rights.

Our team is made of ejido members, biologists and volunteers where we all bring our work, ideas and dreams hoping that in the near future more people of our community will join us in this great experience which is the search of a sustainable living.

The Cultural Arts Coalition - *Thoughtful Warrior Program*
Sunday, March 15



This arts for human development and social justice program focuses on the *whole person*, targeting the skills of communication, team work, critical thinking and decision making, which are essential for meaningful contributions to any group. Pro-social skills also enhance youth capacity for self-determination toward finding their “fit” in a community and place of work. An interactive session by the CAC facilitation staff will hopefully stimulate others to utilize their community arts model leading to community building/sustainability, self-determination and social justice concerning many educational and social challenges in our cities and neighborhoods.

Dr. Melanie Ohm, co-founder of the Cultural Arts Coalition, is a vocalist/musician working with arts for facilitation and human development. Judy Butzine, MSW, Director of the Cultural Arts Coalition, is a community arts facilitator working with multidisciplinary- integrated sequential developmental / community arts processes.

<http://artsCARE.org/cac.intro.shtml>

Joan Baron - PLACE
Saturday through Wednesday, March 14-18



Participants will set out with interdisciplinary practitioner & environmental artist Joan Baron to uncover and recognize the unique history within the physical terrain of Ajo, Arizona. We will explore our connectivity to the land, the people and the choices we have before us to protect and preserve. Our collective insights will be translated into unique creative interventions using art as the tool to record our discoveries. Joan's socially engaged arts practice explores this intersection of nature, history and culture. A new awareness about

Place will emerge that will embrace the unique diversity of the people in the context of history. Funded in part by a collaboration with The Arizona-Sonoran Borderlands Project, Arizona State University.

For over 30 years, Joan has worked within a dynamic world where her passion for understanding issues surrounding food justice, food security, memory and the importance of storytelling help to define her practice of sustainable community building through bridging the arts and humanities.

www.joanbaron.com

José Torres-Tama - Performance Voices across Borders Project
Sunday, March 15, Tuesday, March 17



The performance "ALIENS, IMMIGRANTS & OTHER EVILDOERS," explores the anti-immigrant hysteria gripping the United States. Torres-Tama's performance will be set up against a backdrop of black and white photographs which the artist has developed to document the immigrant day laborers' struggles in post-Katrina New Orleans. A presentation titled, "Art & Social Change: The Artist as Provocateur" will feature arts projects developed to cultivate the voices of the persecuted immigrants. A workshop will be conducted on the Mexico border side to cultivate the stories of migrants through a performance

process that offers the participants a nurturing space to explore the personal story as an oral tradition of indigenous people.

Ecuadorian-born José Torres-Tama is an NEA award recipient for his genre-bending performances and a Louisiana Theater Fellow. As a writer/poet, performance and visual artist, he explores the underbelly of the American Dream mythology, the Latino immigrant experience, and New Orleans Creole culture.

www.torrestama.com/

Karen Sucharski - Every Picture Tells a Story
Saturday, March 14



Bring a photo from your dusty album or scrapbook into the light by transforming it into a piece of art created with locally sourced found objects from Ajo's wealth of thrift stores. Learn collage and assembly techniques and exhibit your finished work at a gallery-style opening in Ajo's local re-sale store. No artistic experience necessary; for 10 years and up!

Karen Sucharaki is a poet, visual artist, and ceramicist. She manages the Clay Studio on the Curley School community arts campus in Ajo, Arizona.

Kimi Maeda - *Bend*

Monday, March 16, Tuesday March 17



Performance combining sand drawings and archival film footage that tells the true story of two men who were interned in a Japanese American relocation camp during World War II. Workshop addressing specific challenges that their communities face, participants will make sand drawings that begin by illustrating the challenges, but can be transformed into images of desired outcomes.

Kimi Maeda is a theatre artist based in Columbia, SC whose intimate visual performances cross disciplines and push boundaries. Her *ephemera trilogy* is a collection of sand drawing and shadow performances that deal with memory, home, and trans-cultural identity.

<http://kimimaeda.com/>

Logan Phillips, Verbo•bala Spoken Video - *Sonoran Strange*

Monday, March 16



Sonoran Strange is a multi-media performance piece presented in the round by Verbo•bala Spoken Video. Comprised of bilingual spoken word poetry, video projection, and performance art, *Sonoran Strange* is a highly unique and engaging theatrical experience; a poem cycle about the Arizona Sonoran borderlands, as told through the stories of historic, ironic, and sometimes ludicrous characters and events.

Logan Phillips works to create new opportunities for the intersection of poetry and social justice. Based in Tucson, Arizona, Phillips is a bilingual poet, performance artist and DJ touring his art throughout the U.S., Latin America and beyond.

www.SonoranStrange.com

The Lopez Band

Tuesday, March 17



The Lopez Band began twenty years ago and many talented musicians have been members. The band has performed at numerous events all over the Tohono O'odham Nation, Arizona, and south into Mexico. The Lopez Band today consists of Dennis Lopez, Daniel Lopez (Son), Russell Alvarez (Cousin), Jayden Lopez (Grandson), Anthony Moreno (Cousin), Patrick Ignacio (Son-In-Law) and an old friend Jeremy Tashquinth.

Los Cenzontles Performing Ensemble

Sunday, March 15



Los Cenzontles will present a lecture/demonstration of live Mexican music and dance and short film screenings about the vital role that traditional and vernacular cultural arts play in issues around the evolution of identity, acculturation and engagement. Followed by a performance in the evening.

The Los Cenzontles Ensemble consists of Eugene Rodriguez, Lucina Rodriguez, Fabiola Trujillo, Marie Astrid Do-Rodriguez, and Emiliano Rodriguez.

www.loscenzontles.com/

Marc David Pinate - Ajo Memory Project Phase 2: Redemptive Remembering
Tuesday, March 17



An interdisciplinary, site specific performance based on oral histories of Ajo residents. Gathering attendees will be asked to help generate audio and choreography to infuse into the final performance.

Marc David Pinate is a theatre artist, musician and educator based in Tucson, Arizona where he is currently the resident director at Borderlands Theater Company. His site specific and community based work strives to rewrite the narrative of people and places as a step to co-creating a better reality.

www.marcdavidpinate.com/

Maribel Alvarez, Southwest Folklife Alliance – Keynote Speaker, Opening Session
Saturday, March 14

"This kind of heat beats the bullshit right out of you:" The Border as Reality Check

Lies, assumptions and hyperbole tend to distinguish talk about the border region, no matter from what end of the political spectrum the talk emerges. Fantasies of good and evil are projected unto the landscape that separates two nations in the Sonoran Desert. Yet, a preponderance of ordinary knowledge and ordinary living practices carried on by residents of the borderlands constitute a horizon of "truth-making" against which such fantasies are constantly measured. Art-making against such a background can exploit the unique advantage of revealing new levels of authenticity and relevance.

marla von ettenberg - Exquisite Desert
Monday, March 16



This collaboration is based on the Surrealist inventive parlor game, called "Exquisite Corpse," in which the whole reveals itself through the cooperation of the individual parts. Participants will explore personal identity, connection to "place" and ultimately how the landscape has influenced one's culture, traditions, shelters, costumes and food.

Marla von Ettenberg is a practicing visual artist, jewelry designer and graphic artist currently based in Ajo, Arizona. Her work is exhibited nationally.

Mel Ortega – Apache Mountain Spirit
Monday, March 16

The film *Apache Mountain Spirit* is a story about the legend of the crown dancers and runs parallel with a modern story, produced for the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and shared on PBS as an example of Native tribes telling their stories and sharing it with the Nation. Hear from a member of the film crew and watch the 55 minute film.

Mel is a news journalist and documentarian. His involvement in this film sparked his interest in using video to show what good things are happening in his tribe. He is the producer, director and technician of Tohono Communications –helping people get their message out through technology.

Michael B. Schwartz - Community Arts Movement
Saturday, March 14, Tuesday, March 17



Two part overview of the Community Arts Movement asking for input from participants. Part 1 presents the *Brief Historical Overview of the "Community Arts" movement in the USA 1915 - 2015*, and Part 2 asks participants to imagine where we would like to be in 20 years.

Michael B Schwartz is a visual artist whose creative practice includes the production of public art, murals, paintings, drawings, and writings in addition to teaching. Currently he serves as the Director of the Tucson Arts Brigade, as a field agent with the USDAC and as lead-artist on a series of studio and public arts projects.

Norma Gomez, Ballet Folklorico de Ajo
Saturday, March 14, Sunday, March 15



Ballet Folklorico has been a part of Ajo tradition for over 30 years. Learn how to dance Ballet Folklorico - La Raspa style in the workshop session. Open to beginners and any level of experience. Watch the dancers perform on Sunday.

Norma Gomez serves as the Director of Ballet Folklorico de Ajo. She has worked as an advocate for over 25 years, and is the mother of 3, grandmother of 15½ and great-grandmother of 2.

Oliverio Balcells - Aztec Calendar
Sunday, March 15



This project will teach the participants the true meaning of the Aztec Calendar or Piedra del Sol based on oral tradition. Create your own art piece and participate on a collaboration on a 6' x 6' piece based on the Aztec Calendar structure.

Oliverio Balcells is a scholar of the ancient Mesoamerican cultures, photographer, painter and self-taught musician. A native of Guadalajara Mexico, he is currently based in Tempe, Arizona. He creates Mexican contemporary social art, drawing much inspiration from his extensive travels throughout his home country.

<http://oliveriobalcells.com/>

Open Space
Saturday through Tuesday, March 14-17

Open Space is time reserved in the schedule for Gathering participants to decide how to use it - propose a workshop or discussion, finish a conversation started at a presentation, improvise a dance, basically activate this space to use how you are inspired. Participants will be given the chance to claim a time and space and name and introduce their topic. Open Space will also include small group facilitated discussion on the themes and issues raised throughout each day's sessions. This is an opportunity to go deeper in your connection with others at the Gathering.

Open Studios

Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, March 15, 16, and 17

Drop in on the wood shop and clay studio to work on your own project or art piece. Reservations requested at registration.



Sergio Ricardo Monjaraz Gonzalez - *Metal and Sand*

Monday, March 16, Tuesday, March 17



Workshop and exhibition of wrought iron, mixed with wood, rock and elements of our desert. Includes an introduction about what kind of influence the Tohono O'odham culture has had on the work and the way the artist is trying to help to preserve it.

Ricardo Monjaraz is based in Puerto Penasco, Sonora, Mexico. He has been a welder and blacksmith artist for 10 years, with recent incursions into sculpture and painting.

Southwest Folklife Alliance - *Ethnographers Toolkit for Artists - The Ethnographic Method and Community Art Practice*

Tuesday, March 17

In this session you will learn and practice the basic skills of cultural analysis that are part of the anthropologist/folklorists toolbox as a means of creating vital, dynamic and relevant community art projects: observing, documentation, recognizing cultural competencies and building social capital. Concepts like "creative placemaking" and "asset mapping" are currently in circulation as new benchmarks for engaging in community art practices nationwide. In this workshop we will examine the core assumptions and skills that support this kind of work. We will explore how and why an investigation of folklife can enhance your work on culture and community. If you are interested in sharpening or acquiring basic skills in cross-cultural learning and documentation and mixing ethnographic research as part of your practice as an artist, join us in this lively conversation and hands-on workshop led by two of the country's most experienced thinkers and practitioners in this field.

Workshop lead by Dr. Maribel Alvarez, Executive Program Director Southwest Folklife Alliance/UA Assistant Professor, School of Anthropology and Leia Maahs, Program Manager Southwest Folklife Alliance.

Street Art Happening

All days, all hours



Grab a piece of the wall- we plan to enliven an alley between two historic warehouse buildings in the center of town. With over 300 feet of wall space we will divvy it out as designs come in. Painting to take place any time of day or night, with programs and audience interaction happening throughout.

Tay and Val - *Dreams Unlimited @SONORAN*

Saturday, March 14, Wednesday, March 18



Interactive multimedia presentation – sharing inspiration, hopes and dreams – via media films, photos, live-music, spoken word performances and traditional oral storytelling; presented by storytellers Tay and Val, in collaboration with local artists. This will be followed with a Dream Mural made up of Dream Portraits of community members. Tay and Val will roam through the gathering spaces and invite people to write their dreams on their

hands to be photographed. Concurrently, these dream portraits will be assembled into a Dream Mural in a public space, so that people can view its work-in-progress.

<http://about.me/taynval>

Toni Cubillas, Cultural Crafts Group - *Building Community through Cultural Crafts*

Tuesday, March 17



Join a group of women to make cultural crafts – cascarones and clothespin crosses. The Cultural Crafts Group has been meeting in Ajo for six years, creating culturally based crafts projects, mostly Mexican in tradition, to gift to different organizations and to sell to raise funds for community events. Stop in and see community arts in action and learn how to make a cultural craft to keep or donate back to the community.

Yvonne Montoya, Safos Dance Theatre - *Color the Mural*

Sunday, March 15



“Color the Mural” is two-year a participatory arts project and collaboration between *Safos Dance Theatre* and the House of Neighborly Service in south Tucson. Community members voted on the theme and design of the mural and painted the mural during a series of community paint days. A site specific dance theatre performance will feature pieces inspired by the mural.

Yvonne Montoya is the director of *Safos* where she works as lead choreographer, directs all arts education programming, and is responsible for all day-to-day artistic and administrative responsibilities for the organization. She is the visionary and director of “Color the Mural.”

www.safosdance.org