



SAN ANTONIO MIDPOINT GATHERING

On March 24th and 26th, AAW was thrilled to gather virtually with the 21 AAW Artists from San Antonio and the Borderlands Region, along with their partner organizations, for a celebration of their work halfway through the term.



AAW SAN ANTONIO COUNTY ARTISTS: T'BOW ORLAN GONZALES | TANESHA SUMERSET PAYNE | AZUL BARRIENTOS
MARY AGNES RODRIGUEZ | IRENE CHAVEZ GALVAN | MADDIE RAMOS

AAW SAN ANTONIO PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS: CARVER COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER | THE ESPERANZA PEACE
AND JUSTICE CENTER | THE PUBLIC THEATER OF SAN ANTONIO | ARTS IN PLAY | CORAZON SAN ANTONIO |
SAN ANTONIO AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY ARCHIVE AND MUSEUM | DOMESTICAS UNIDAS | EASTSIDE
CLUBHOUSE | BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF SAN ANTONIO | HISTORIC WESTSIDE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION AND THE
WESTSIDE PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

The implementation of Artists At Work in San Antonio is made possible by the support of The John L. Santikos Charitable Foundation Fund of the San Antonio Area Foundation. Artists At Work is produced and administered by THE OFFICE performing arts + film with generous support from the Mellon Foundation.

AZUL BARRIENTOS

THE ESPERANZA PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER |
DOMÉSTICAS UNIDAS

Azul Barrientos is using music as a means of healing, self-expression, and storytelling in partnership with Domésticas Unidas (DU), a group of women working towards the empowerment of domestic workers in San Antonio and the surrounding areas.

Many of DU's members are immigrants who have experienced low pay, long hours, sexual and psychological abuse in their workplace. An immigrant herself with a lineage of domestic labor and a powerful storytelling talent, Azul initially intended to work with DU to produce one corrido, a traditional Mexican piece of musical storytelling. Through regular meetings with DU, Azul has found that, due to the trauma they have experienced, many women struggle to express themselves creatively. The group is currently working together to write a song that collectivizes the struggle and incorporates healing rhythms into a chorus that can be sung by every woman.

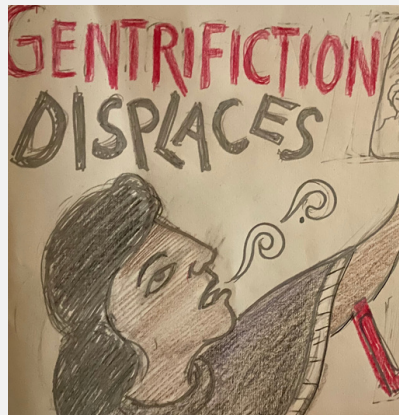


MARY AGNES RODRIGUEZ

THE ESPERANZA PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER | HISTORIC
WESTSIDE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Mary Agnes Rodriguez is working with the Historic Westside Residents' Association on their Dignified Housing Campaign to produce artwork and imagery that is reflective of the community and the vision of a right to dignified housing for all. The graphics and illustrations that Mary Agnes creates will be included in zines, posters, and general informational resources regarding residents' rights related to evictions, code compliance and demolitions.

Having personally struggled with access to safe and secure shelter, Mary Agnes is inspired to participate in this campaign and depict the struggles and celebrations of her community. She explains, "Because our community has been neglected financially for many years by our city, our people have learned to be very resourceful and I love recording this resourcefulness in my artwork that will be part of this campaign." By creating recognizable imagery related to the Dignified Housing Campaign, Mary Agnes is preserving the history of her community and teaching the importance of housing as a human right.



IRENE CHAVEZ GALVAN

THE PUBLIC THEATER OF SAN ANTONIO | ARTS IN PLAY

Irene's project is a one act play titled "Las Comadres de Morales Street" that is focused on two older women who are at the center of a changing neighborhood on the westside of San Antonio. Irene has partnered with Seniors in Play, a program founded by actor Tony Plana that "utilizes performing arts to develop senior citizens' well-being and maintain cognitive health." Through regular conversations with different groups of seniors around San Antonio, Irene was inspired by the story of the Edgewood ISD Veterans Group who, during the Vietnam war, lost the highest proportion of men in the nation. She has been joining them for several R.O.M.E.O. (Retired Old Men Eating Out) lunches and has listened to their stories of camaraderie and the issues they are facing now as San Antonio West-side residents. Incorporating themes related to the issues of gentrification, health inequities, and trauma, Irene is sharing light on the experiences of seniors in San Antonio and highlighting untold stories in our community that will culminate in a performance in the Fall of 2023.



MADELINE RAMOS

THE PUBLIC THEATER OF SAN ANTONIO |
CORAZON SAN ANTONIO

Partnering with Corazon, a local day center and resource for unhoused people in San Antonio, Madeline is promoting community and civic engagement through art expression as a form of harm reduction. She has been working closely with the harm-reduction segment of Corazon while conducting regular arts workshops for the unhoused population of San Antonio. Having experienced housing instability and challenging social circumstances in her youth, her goal is to help support peer-leadership and empowerment in the community, as well as reduce stigma and reframe thoughts on homelessness and drug-use in a way that is supportive and humanizing. In the fall of 2023, Maddie will collect and display the art made in her workshops in order to uplift and empower this community.



TANESHA SUMERSET PAYNE

THE CARVER COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER |
SAN ANTONIO AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY ARCHIVE
AND MUSEUM(SAAACAM)

Tanesha Payne is building on her partnership with the San Antonio African American Community Archive and Museum (SAAACAM) to explore and document the history of Black resistance through her dance practice. She will be examining the racial dichotomies of labels given to examples of civil disobedience and nonviolent resistance.

"I see the world in movement and color," explains Tanesha, who was inspired to pursue this work after hearing the live account of a woman's experience at the San Antonio lunch-counter sit-ins of the '60s. Her research will culminate in a community event to highlight and preserve these histories through an artistic lens.

T'BOW ORLAN GONZALES

THE CARVER COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER |
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

In collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club's Eastside Clubhouse, T'bow is using his vast experience in music to build community, provide inspiration, and allow for exposure to the healing power of music for the youth of San Antonio. T'bow explains that the Boys and Girls Club kept him "out of trouble" as a kid on the Eastside of San Antonio and would like to use his time with AAW to "give back." As T'bow approaches his 50th anniversary of working in music, he will engage youth in his community to learn the techniques of percussion instruments including drums, bells, hand-made shakers, and more. He will be conducting classes for youth and families at the Eastside Clubhouse throughout the Summer of 2023.

