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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



November Newsletter

As we bring November to an end, the settling of crisp air and season of gratitude, it's a great time to reflect on the vibrant community and exciting opportunities we've been building.

At the Confluentcenter, we're thankful for the creativity and collaboration that have shaped our journey, and we're thrilled to continue sharing inspiring events and projects with you. Keep reading to explore what's coming up and join us as we celebrate this season of connection and reflection!

Fun Fact



Did you know we celebrated a birthday during Confluentcenter's grand opening in 2012? Yup, we celebrated Program Coordinator, Maria Telles! Telles played a role in managing CCI's administrative office personnel, programs, and activities when we first opened our doors. We are thankful for the beginning work she did to set us up for the success we've built today!

Events & Opportunities

Conversations on the Border



Sunday, December 1st,
2-4 pm

COMPLEX exhibiting artist, **David Taylor** in conversation
with **Susan Briante, Javier Duran, & Dora Rodriguez**



Defacing the Monument, Author
Professor of Modern Languages



Confluence Center, Director
Professor of Latin American Studies



Salvacion, Director
Advocate, Survivor, Educator

1110 s 6th Ave



PIDGIN PALACE ARTS

Pidgin Palace Art's presents: Conversations on the Border

Join artist **David Taylor** for a compelling conversation with **Susan Briante, Javier Duran, and Dora Rodriguez**, exploring important themes around the U.S.-Mexico border.

Susan Briante is a professor of creative writing at the University of Arizona and the author of *Defacing the Monument*. In this recent work, Briante explores the act of witnessing and writing about migration, reflecting on documentary poetics and the power dynamics that shape our understanding of those without the "correct" documents. Her work challenges the conventional archive and offers a critical look at how we document and tell stories of suffering.

Javier Duran, PhD, is a Professor of Latin American and Border Studies at the University of Arizona and the founding director of the Confluencer for Creative Inquiry. A native of the Arizona-Sonora desert region, Dr. Duran specializes in cultural studies along the U.S.-Mexico border and is currently working on projects related to border culture, human security, migrancy, and Indigenous Humanities. His work

addresses the interdisciplinary nature of border issues and explores the impact of U.S.-Mexico cross-border collaborations.

Dora Rodriguez is a survivor of El Salvador’s civil war, and her harrowing journey across the Sonoran Desert in 1980—where she was one of only thirteen survivors—propelled her into activism. Dora's story has become a symbol for the sanctuary movement in Tucson, AZ. As the Director of Salvavision, a nonprofit that supports migrants and deportees, Dora is dedicated to raising awareness about the harsh realities migrants face in the desert and advocating for transformative change to the immigration system. This event is free and open to the public—don’t miss this insightful discussion on the border experience and the role of art, activism, and storytelling.

WHEN: Sunday, December 1

TIME: 2:00 pm

WHERE: Pidgin Palace Arts (1110 S 6th Ave.)

[MORE INFO](#)

The Campus Sustainability Fund (CSF) supports sustainability projects at the University of Arizona that promote environmental, social, and economic resilience. This opportunity is open to student and campus community leaders. CSF offers funding for both large-and small scale initiatives that align with the University's sustainability and climate goals. Annual Grants, range from \$5,000 to \$100,000, are awarded each year to projects that demonstrate innovation and information, visit the [Office of Sustainability website](#) to learn more.

[APPLY HERE](#)



**Campus Sustainability Fund
ANNUAL GRANTS**

Lead a sustainable project on campus!

- ◆ \$5,000 - \$100,000 per project
- ◆ First-time grant applicants and students, staff, and faculty, are all encouraged to apply!
- ◆ Attend virtual Office Hours to get started this week
- ◆ Applications open November 18 and close January 26, 2024

Interested in applying?

All details on our website at <https://sustainability.arizona.edu/csf>



Students building a water basin and native plant garden

 THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY
**CAMPUS
SUSTAINABILITY FUND**

Support asylum seekers throughout Sonora, Mexico

WINTER SUPPLY DRIVE

Priority Items:

- **WINTER CLOTHING:** (High need for men's clothing) Baseball caps, beanies, NEW underwear and socks, tennis shoes, Long sleeve shirts, gloves, Jackets/hoodies, pants/leggings
- **COLD WEATHER OUTDOOR SUPPLIES:** Ponchos, blankets and emergency blankets
- **HYGIENE:** Toilet Paper, hand-sanitizer, toothbrushes, toothpaste, travel sized shampoo, soap (bar and liquid), maxi pads, diapers any size
- **BACKPACKS AND DRAW STRING BAGS**
- **SHOELACES**

Join Fronteridades Fellow Juanita Sandoval and the Run for the Migrants Fundraiser along with Salvavision collect supplies for asylum seekers in the borderlands of Arizona and Sonora.

DROP OFF AT

Confluence Center 1133 E. Helen St, Tucson, AZ 85719	Marshall Building Suite 200 University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721
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To donate financially to Venmo: @Salvavisionaz
<https://salvavision.org/donate>

Follow us @runforthemigrants @salvavisionaz

Center for Latin American Studies

confluentcenter for creative inquiry

In collaboration with the [Center for Latin American Studies](#), we are working together to support asylum seekers throughout Sonora, Mexico, with a Winter Supply Drive!

As we embark on the holiday season, [Run for the Migrants](#) and [Salvavision AZ](#) will be hosting a winter clothing and item drive through the Confluentcenter. The items collected will benefit migrant shelters in Sonora and deported asylum seekers directly at the border.

We are in need of warm clothes and items for all ages, but there is a particularly high demand for men's clothing and hygiene products. Many asylum seekers and migrants come from warmer climates and are not prepared for the cold weather. Additionally, when people are deported, they are often returned with nothing but a ziplock bag containing their few belongings. We share a common vision of providing humanitarian aid and promoting migration with dignity across borders.

If you don't have clothes to donate, please consider contributing through the Run for the Migrants Amazon wishlist or by sending a donation via the Salvavisionaz Venmo account @salvavisionaz.

Donations can be dropped off at the Confluentcenter on the University of Arizona campus (1133 E. Helen St., Tucson, AZ 85719). Your generosity will help provide warmth and dignity to those in need this holiday season.

November Recap

Reflecting on November, it has been a month filled with meaningful engagements and celebrations.

We are grateful for the success of the **Mellon-Fronteridades Undergraduate Internship program**, with **28 applicants** expressing their interest in contributing to important work. As we move toward announcing the second cohort in the Spring, the excitement continues to build.



Confluentcenter's Director Dr. Javier Duran participated in the first Border Forum of the Arizona - Sonora Mega Region.



Photo Left to Right (Javier Duran, Director of the Confluentcenter and Professor of Latin American Studies; Karla Vargas, Senior Assistant of the International Organization for Migration (IOM); Marcos Moreno Báez, Consul General of Mexico in Nogales; José Israel Ibarra)

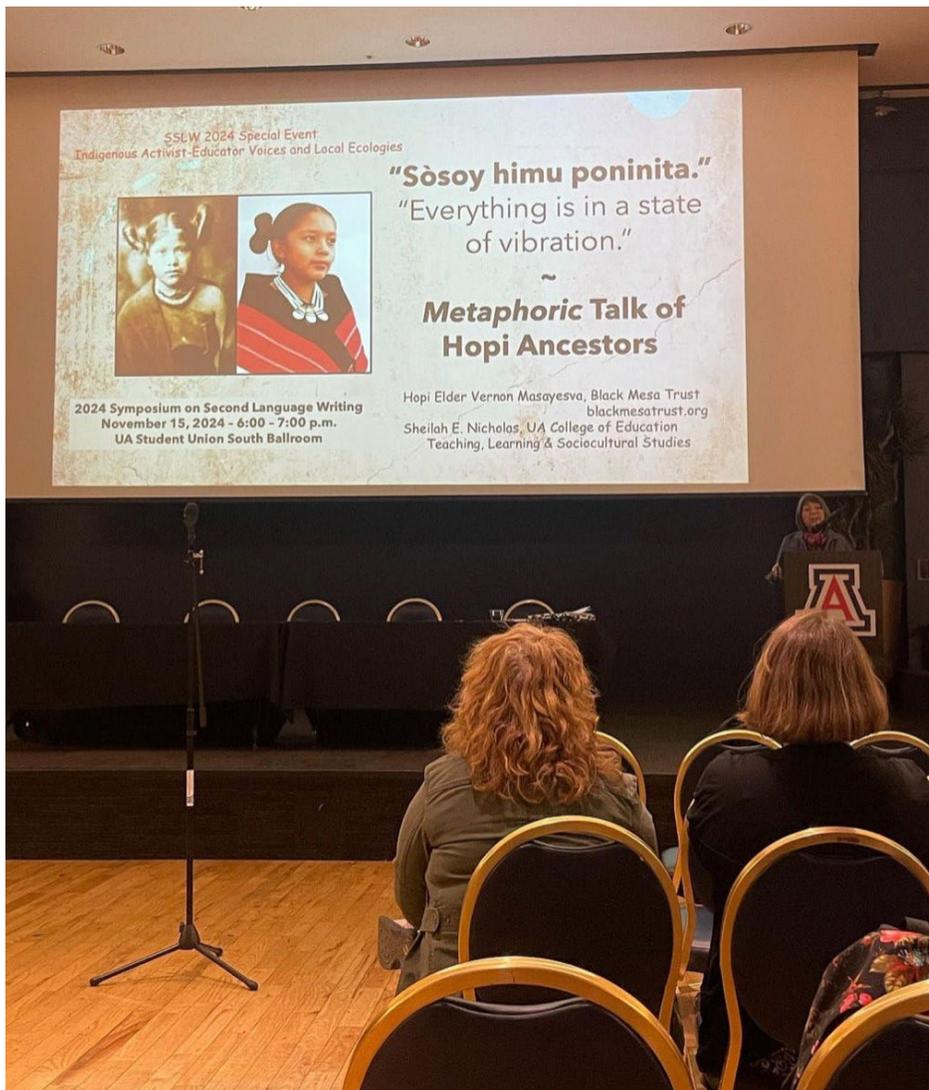
Dr. Duran's participation in the [First Border Forum of the Arizona - Sonora Mega Region](#) in Nogales,

Arizona was a highlight that sparked important conversations to explore key issues and challenges facing the Arizona-Sonora Mega Region.

Dr. Duran spoke on a panel along with fellow colleagues about economic impact of migrants in the border communities. This productive conversation brought interesting and insightful discussion among each panelists respective backgrounds on understanding how migrants contribute to the economy in the U.S.-Mexico border region.

This roundtable was made possible by the Wilson Center, the Mexico Institute, the Arizona-Mexico Commission, the Consulado de México Nogales and the many other sponsors, organizations, colleges, universities, and community leaders that came together to make this forum happen.

Cosponsored Events



Indigenous Activist-Educator Voices and Local Ecologies

We attended the Indigenous Activist-Educator Voices and Local Ecologies panel with elder Vernon Masayesva and Professor Sheilah E. Nicholas. They both shared their experience of their ancestral Hopi lands as ecological/educational activists and language/literacy educators. This event provided the audience with an understanding of the traditional Hopi language, and storytelling of the land through an activist and educator lens.

La Peña del SurCo

Last Friday's Peña featured performances by El SurCo, Grupo Arizona, and several talented local artists, bringing the community together through vibrant Latin American music. The next Peña will be on December 6th! If you'd like to perform or contribute to one of these events, feel free to get in touch!



Stay Connected

We take pride in bringing people together within the Tucson community and beyond. We encourage you to stay connected with us by following our social media, subscribing to our newsletter, and visiting our website. The best part is that you can access all of this through our linktr.ee.

As we look ahead to the rest of the year, we invite you to stay engaged, explore new opportunities, and continue being part of the vibrant community we're building together. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Share this with a colleague or friend that you think may be interested in the opportunities and events the Conflucenter has to offer!



conflucenter for Creative Inquiry



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Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.