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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



## Year-in-Review at the Confluentcenter

# THANK YOU!

As the semester wraps up, we would like to thank everyone who has participated in our events, workshops and symposium. We encourage you to come to our events, connect with us on [social media](#), and spread the work that the [Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry](#) does. We want to reflect on everything we've accomplished this semester.

Here is our year in review:

## SEPTEMBER



### **El Tiradito Wishing Shrine Play**

This play was created by our community partner, [Coalición de Derechos Humanos](#), and was sponsored as a part of our [Fronteridades program](#). The [immersive play](#) explored the years of activism at the Wishing Shrine and looked at the interwoven stories of this place. We were proud to fund this play that connects with our Fronteridades mission of amplifying the often-overlooked narratives at the border region, fostering inclusivity, and storytelling.

## Show & Tell: Tucson Roots: Writing Memory and Community

This event brought together three homegrown Tucson authors, each exploring unique literary terrains. [Featured guests](#) included Dr. Lydia R. Otero, Mele Martinez and Logan Phillips. Dr. Lydia Otero shared their '80s LA memoir, Mele Martinez gave us a taste of "El Molino," and Logan Phillips shared his visual meditations and writings.



## OCTOBER



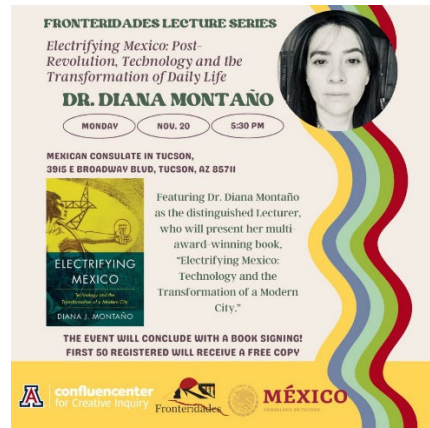
## Show & Tell: FronteriVoces

This event was a collaboration with CCI and LatinX FSA where our 2023 cohort of Fronteridades fellows [showcased their research and projects](#) that focused on the U.S.-Mexico Border. [Participants](#) came from the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, College of Humanities, the College of Education and the College of Fine Arts.

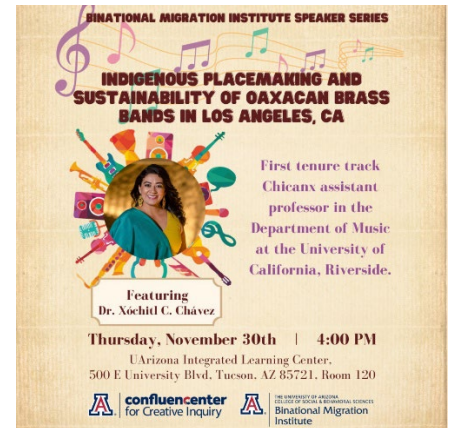
## NOVEMBER



The Place Where Clouds Are Formed exhibition in the Museo de Arte de Nogales, Sonora. This event showcased the work of Dr. Ofelia Zepeda (Tohono O’odham), Gareth Smit, and Martín Zicari to amplify the stories and cultural traditions of the Tohono O’odham through visual art and poetry. They also presented their grantees Su:k Chu:vak Fulwilder (Onk Akimel O'odham, Xalchidom Piipaash, Tlingit, Aleut and Pomo) and Mónica Martínez’s poetry and artwork. "The Place Where Clouds Are Formed" started in 2018 funded by our Fronteridades program.



Our Fronteridades Lecture Series featured distinguished lecturer Dr. Diana Montaño, who presented her multi-award-winning book *Electrifying Mexico: Technology and the Transformation of a Modern City*. Montaño's work delves into the cultural and social aspects of Mexico City's electrification from 1880 to 1960, highlighting the crucial role of everyday people in this narrative.



Binational Migration Institute Speaker Series presents Indigenous Placemaking and Sustainability of Oaxacan Brass Bands in Los Angeles, CA, and a Collective Songwriting Workshop featuring Riverside professor Dr. Xóchitl C. Chávez. Her research shared insights into the longstanding culture of Oaxacan Brass Bands and the workshop led to creating a collective song with our UArizona community.

## DECEMBER



In collaboration with [Coalición de Derechos Humanos](#), community members gathered at Raices Taller 222 to celebrate International Migrants Day and Human Rights Day. [The evening](#) was filled with music, delicious homemade food, community awareness, and a successful toy donation drive that was given to asylum-seeking children at Casa de la Misericordia y de Todas Las Naciones on Christmas Morning.

## JANUARY

In January, we announced our faculty and graduate [Mellon Fronteridades Fellows](#).

We are proud to support the interdisciplinary research of these 12 individuals. Through [Fronteridades](#), the Confluentcenter has built a cohort of scholars, community leads, and organizations working on research and creative endeavors that align with Mellon's Higher Learning Strategies.



Faculty Fellows. Learn more about their research [here](#).



Graduate Fellows. Learn more about their research [here](#).



We also announced the **inaugural** cohort of undergraduate interns, who worked with various community partners. We were excited to expand our Fronteridades program and offer our students more opportunities!

Learn more about the interns [here](#).

The Fronteridades program is supported by a grant through the Mellon Foundation.

We are thrilled to support this group of fellows in their research endeavors and hope our interns gained meaningful experiences interning with some of our partner organizations this semester.

## FEBRUARY

### Show and Tell: Local Perspectives on Migration

We met at the Casino Ballroom to have a conversation about the Local Perspectives on Migration with Isabel Garcia from the Coalición de Derechos Humanos, Dora Rodriguez from Salvavision, Robin Reineke from the Southwest Center and David Taylor from the School of Art. We heard comments and questions from community members.

The conversation surrounded stories, research and creative practices that advocate and elevate the historically overlooked voices of borderland communities.




**STORIES FROM THE BORDERLANDS**


LA VOZ DE MAYO  
**TATA RAMBO**


**SAT. MARCH 2**  
**6 - 8PM**  
**& GALLERY**

419 N 4TH AVE.  
TUCSON, AZ 85705

A conversation with writer Henry Barajas on reclaiming borderlands stories.

 COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES  
Mexican American Studies

 confluencenter for Creative Inquiry

 &gallery  
Frontierlines

We joined Henry Barajas in a conversation about reclaiming our borderland stories. Henry Barajas is an author from Tucson, AZ, best known for his graphic memoir La Voz De M.A.Y.O. Tata Rambo.

# MARCH



The Confluentcenter, in collaboration with the UA Special Collections, held a [two-day symposium](#) highlighting the work of our grantees for our [Reclaiming the Border Narrative digital archive](#).

The archive is housed in Special Collections and includes work from borderland artists, advocates, journalists and culture practitioners who built and activated the digital archive of projects aimed at Reclaiming the Border Narrative, advancing migrant justice and addressing gaps in the archival record.



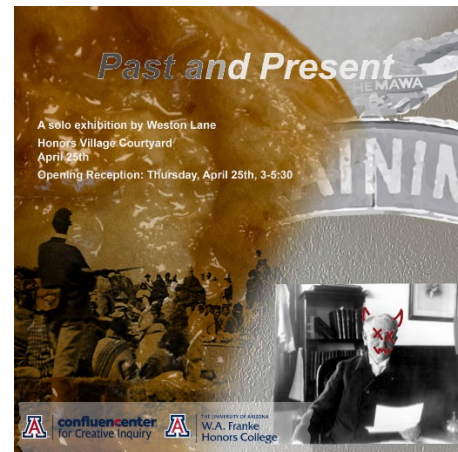
It contains the work of [26 grantees](#) who, with funding from CCI, produced their own border narrative. At the symposium, we were able to amplify and celebrate the work of those grantees.

This project was funded by the [Ford Foundation](#).

[DIGITAL ARCHIVE](#)

## Bridging Borders: Honoring Interdisciplinary Student Talent

In March we also [announced seed funding](#) to a series of workshops by the W.A. Franke Honors College. “Bridging Borders: Honoring Interdisciplinary Student Talent,” began with a Tortilla Press Printmaking Workshop in March. In April we had the second installment, Past and Present: a solo exhibition by Weston Lane. We look forward to the next installment!



## OTHER MARCH EVENTS



We hosted [Dr. Alex E. Chávez](#) through the Binational Migration Lecture Series. He gave a lecture on his research, speaking on the longstanding history of disco and how it amplified space for Latinx communities in Chicago. The



We also cosponsored the [Sex Worker Arts Festival](#), a three day event filled with workshops, panels, and films. Sex worker activists, authors, scholars, performance artists, poets, and filmmakers from around the world



Through a cosponsorship with the Mexican American Studies Department, we hosted Pável Acevedo for a [linocut lab workshop](#). Acevedo, a master printmaker, helped attendees create linocut prints. We also joined Acevedo in another event,

second day, we had an intimate performance where Dr. Chávez played his newest album, Sonorous Presents.

converged on Tucson to educate and entertain.

"Belonging in the Borderlands: A conversation and live screen printing event."

### We Helped Send A Poet To Space

Funding from last year came to fruition, as [we helped send a poet to "space!"](#). We co-sponsored a simulated planetary surface via Biosphere 2's SAM where professional artists were invited to be a part of a week-long mission in March 2024 to explore the value of art in space exploration and produce creative works inspired by the limitations and possibilities of life and culture beyond Earth.

We provided support for the Poetry Center to send Julie Johnson, a poet.



## APRIL



### Latina/x/o Conference

CCI [travelled to Tempe](#) to present our Fronteridades program to scholars and educators gathered to learn more about [Latina/o/x Studies](#). We talked to people from schools all across the country and with people from all over the world! It was a great networking opportunity for our team to share more about the programs and resources we offer as a research institution to faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and community members.

## Fronteridades Graduate Fellow

This month also marked the exhibit of one of our #FronteridadesFellow, graduate student Dugan Meyer. His work "[Infrastructures of Control](#)," captured the many ways border patrol surveils citizens along the US-Mexico border. He also held an informative panel discussion. His work was partly funded by the Conflucenter and we are so proud to see it come to fruition.



[The Place Where Clouds Are Formed](#) is a visual art and poetry exhibit which examines the intersection of spirituality, migration, and current and historical policies that have impacted the borderlands of the Sonoran Desert. The exhibit will be housed at the [Center for Creative Photography](#) until August 31st. It can also be found in the [Poetry Center's Jeremy Ingalls Gallery](#).

## OTHER APRIL EVENTS



### CBP One App: Migrants Speak Webinar

We virtually met with migrants seeking asylum at the border to hear their stories. They talked about the difficulties they faced trying to access the asylum system and shared testimonies about their struggles and the dangers they face while waiting for the opportunity to enter the U.S.



### U.S. Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network's Building Action and Power Summit

We provided funding for the two-day, in-person summit planned and managed by the U.S. Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network. Its goal was to help shape the future of Indigenous data sovereignty and governance in the U.S.

## MAY



## FRONTERIDADES SHOW & TELL

We celebrated our [Fronteridades fellows and interns](#) at the Sosa-Carillo house and we also had the pleasure of hosting [Adolfo Estrada and Richard A. Carranza](#), two recognized mariachi musicians. At this Show & Tell, we gathered in community to commemorate all the work, research and organizations that help reshape the mainstream border narrative.

### FRONTERIDADES



### Las Mushashas Mural Inauguration

We saw the inauguration of the first mural from [Las Mushashas](#), a collective of women artists in Nogales, Sonora at Plaza Miguel Hidalgo. This collaboration was created by the [Galeria Mitotera](#), a community partner of the Confluentcenter.



### 2 Nogales by Hugo Salcedo

Through our partnership with the [Coalición de Derechos Humanos](#), we were able to provide support to internationally acclaimed playwright Hugo Salcedo. The play, 2 Nogales, weaved in direct testimony of asylum seekers in Nogales' shelters who re seeking refuge.

## THANK YOU, FROM US TO YOU.

Thank you for supporting our commitment to community engagement, cross-border collaboration, and the promotion of humanities and creative inquiry! A huge thanks to our Confluentcenter team for their hard work this academic year.

We hope you continue to stay connected and engaged with the Confluentcenter this next academic year!



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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.*