

## IEAP Initiative Status Report

Fall 2022



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**Project/Initiative Title:** CME Legacy Mural

**Mission Based Center:** Center for Multicultural Engagement (and connected grant with CIS)

**Lead:** Christy Teranishi Martinez, Director

**Date:** November 30, 2022

### OVERVIEW:

**Purpose:** The Center for Multicultural Engagement (CME) focuses on High Impact Practices that align with its mission to create and sustain a campus climate in and out of the classroom that values and fosters diversity, equity, and inclusion, while promoting racial and social justice. The CME has been working on plans to develop our *Campus Legacy Mural* designed and painted by a southern California-based muralist/artist-in-residence, Myisha Arellano and advised by renowned artist/muralist Yreina Cervantez, professor emeritus, CSU Northridge. In addition, we have been collaborating with the Center for Integrative Studies to embed this project to involve students from interdisciplinary courses, e.g., Chicana Studies, Art, and Ethnic Studies. This aims to support our GI 2025 goals and foster DEIA initiatives. We also aim to address the problem of the lack of student engagement and to develop more culturally relevant focused messaging to support and celebrate students' diverse intersectional identities and foster a sense of well-being and empowerment.

**Goals:** Our overarching goal is to develop a public art project involving the campus community with inspiration from students, faculty, staff, and administrators, representing their intersectional identities, ancestral heritage, and the history of CSUCI. The mural aims to represent broader vision of diversity, including communities of color, gender, sexual orientation, abilities, multi-racial/multi-ethnic histories, and diverse experiences, which intersect and contribute to creating a more just society. The mural will also reflect the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion and access to education, promoting inclusive excellence.

The CME aims to achieve the following goals as we create our CI Legacy Mural:

Goal 1: Represent and celebrate diverse students' intersectional identities, including Chicax/Latinx, low-income, first-generation, undocumented immigrants, adult learners, full-time employees, commuters, and working parents.

Goal 2: Promote curricular and co-curricular activities promoting student success and community building in developing the mural, hearing the voices, inspirations and experiences of diverse students, faculty, staff, and administrators that will be reflected in the mural.

Goal 3: Increase participation in High Impact Practices to promote persistence and increase graduation rates for underrepresented minorities.

**Metrics/Data for Evaluation:** Feel free to connect with [Matt Zivot](#), Director of Institutional Research, for assistance in thinking through how to convert your project or initiative's goals into measurable outcomes.

What metrics are you using to evaluate achievement of this initiative's goals?

*Goal 1 Metrics: Represent and celebrate diverse students' intersectional identities, including Chicax/Latinx, low-income, first-generation, undocumented immigrants, adult learners, full-time employees, commuters, and working parents.*

- We are collecting drawings, stories, and survey data of diverse students to ensure their voices, intersectional identities, emotions, and experiences are represented within the mural.
- After the mural is completed, we can assess the feedback from the campus and broader community whether the mural reflects the intersectional identities, as well the history and culture of the past 20 years of our university.

*Goal 2 Metrics: Promote curricular and co-curricular activities promoting student success and community building in developing the mural, hearing the voices, inspirations and experiences of diverse students, faculty, staff, and administrators that will be reflected in the mural.*

- We are involving students through events and activities working on developing the mural. We will make a list of curricular and co-curricular events and activities linked to courses, and we will obtain students' feedback on how this impacts their engagement and success in their courses, participating in cultural relevant material that support their identities and well-being.

*Goal 3: Increase participation in High Impact Practices to promote persistence and increase graduation rates for underrepresented minorities.*

- We are linking interdisciplinary courses in the Spring 2023 to have students work directly with the muralist throughout the semester and during spring break. We can use course evaluations as a metric for how this impacts their student success.
- We are piloting an interdisciplinary co-teaching opportunity. We will interview the faculty afterwards to hear their reflections on how this endeavor supported and enhanced their teaching effectiveness.
- We are integrating student and community engagement in this project. Yreina

Cervantes and Myisha Arellano will provide a talk in the spring semester on how murals and public art are an advocacy tool, empower students, enrich the community, and provide a form of communication and a voice for undocumented immigrants. We will do an evaluation of their presentation to get feedback from the students and community.

What data will be necessary for determining impact?

Qualitative and quantitative data will be collected to determine the impact on students, the campus, and the broader community through surveys, qualitative responses, illustrations, and interviews.

How and when are these data being collected?

In the Spring 2022, we collected data from the various CSU campuses as well as quantitative data from a CI campus survey on the value and importance of public art at CSUCI. In Fall 2022, we collected qualitative data from students and drawings and illustrations of how this mural can represent their diverse intersectional identities as students on campus.

In Spring 2023, we will conduct qualitative interviews, an evaluation survey, and compile data on the courses from faculty and students participating in the co-curricular activities and events interlinked with the mural development.

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## STATUS

**Progress:** We have made excellent progress on our mural. Here is what we have accomplished so far:

- September 2022 to Present: We have been working with our muralist, Myisha Arellano developing a timeline of expectations, list of needs/wishes, and a budget.
- October 7, 2022: We attended the Fall CI Physical Master Plan meeting with David Carlson, our campus engineer to get approval for our project and hear possible locations and concerns for developing our campus legacy mural.
- October 14, 2022: The CIS and CME met for a brainstorming session to discuss possible ways to collaborate and connect faculty, linking interdisciplinary courses to work with Myisha Arellano in developing the mural over the Spring Break.
- October 19, 2022: We met with David Carlson, Myisha Arellano, Christy Teranishi Martinez, Jennie Luna, Veronica Guerrero, Kem French, Helen Alatorre, Bethany Banuelos to walk around campus to view possible locations for the mural. We identified two possible sites but were leaning towards the Student Union Building. We notified Helen Alatorre and asked her to bring it to the ASI Board meeting for a vote.
- October 19, 2022: Myisha Arellano came to our Transfer Event and met with Dr. Teranishi Martinez's PSY/CHS383 class. We spent two hours with students getting their inspirations and ideas for how the mural can reflect their intersectional identities, the university, and the history of the indigenous peoples/farm workers that occupied this land. It was very empowering for the students to meet the

muralist and be able to contribute to this public art piece that made my students feel proud and empowered (reflected in their journal entries).

- November 7, 2022: We got The ASI Board of Directors voted unanimously in support of hosting the mural on the Student Union stairs.
- We emailed David Carlson a list of logistic questions regarding scaffolding, insurance, and storage information, and are awaiting his response for muralist Myisha Arellano to finish developing her detailed budget.
- December 7, 2022: The CIS and CME will meet again to determine which faculty and interdisciplinary courses will be linked, to provide students with an interdisciplinary educational experience to learn about the importance of public cultural artwork and obtain hands-on experience working with Myisha Arellano to develop the mural over the Spring Break.
- The CME has been in continuous email contact with Myisha Arellano and scheduled her second visit to CI at the end of January.

### **Formative Assessment**

**Initiative-focused prompt:** What problems have you encountered? What feedback would be useful to you at this point?

There have been no problems so far. We just have had slight difficulty getting a hold of the Physical Master Plan engineer, David Carlson, to get our questions answered. However, it may be due to the holiday or his busy schedule. I reached out to the AVP of HIPEE, Veronica Guerrero, and she said she can help assist me in getting our questions answered.

**Institution-focused prompt:** From what you have experienced thus far, should this initiative be considered for permanent funding, if/when recurring funds were to become available? Why?

If recurring funds are available, we should consider setting aside permanent funding for diverse culturally relevant murals and public artwork on campus. Every time I return to visit my alma mater, UC Santa Cruz, the beautiful sculptures, murals, and artwork, bring back nostalgia, fostering my identity and sense of belonging, representing my UCSC experiences, relationships, and community.

**Evaluation:** What have you learned thus far? Include data used to inform this evaluation.

I've learned that "it takes a village" to create something meaningful and worthwhile. We are all coming together to create this beautiful piece of art, and it will reflect our mission and history of our CSUCI community and all those who came together to create this great university. It will also draw people to our campus from the surrounding communities and perhaps potential students will consider attending our university, feeling like it represents their own cultural identities.

**Other:** Is there anything else about this project or initiative that you would like to add? (e.g., Have new questions or opportunities come up through your experience in leading it?)

Through this experience I have connected with people across the campus such as the Physical Master Plan Committee, ASI, AVP of HIPEE, Director of CIS, and various interdisciplinary faculty

who have all contributed to the development of this mural. In addition, I have connected with a very talented community member, Myisha Arellano who will bring together our community experiences and voices through creative expression. I'm excited to see how it all comes to fruition.