

DHF YOUTH HONOR LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY FOR DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

With COVID-19 safety precautions and a limited showcase, Arte Americas hosted this year's Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead celebration in Fresno, California. This holiday is traditionally celebrated on November 1 and 2. According to History.com, the holiday is a blend of Mesoamerican ritual, European religion and Spanish culture that is said to reunite the living and dead as the gates of heaven are opened at midnight on October 31 where spirits can rejoin their loved ones for 24 hours. Folks will create ofrendas or offerings to honor their departed loved ones that have passed. These altars are typically decorated with bright yellow marigold flowers, photos of the departed, and the favorite foods, drinks, and hobbies of the folks who are being honored.

With COVID-19 safety precautions and a limited showcase, Arte Americas hosted this year's Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead celebration in Fresno, California. This holiday is traditionally celebrated on November 1 and 2. According to History.com, the holiday is a blend of Mesoamerican ritual, European religion and Spanish culture that is said to reunite the living and dead as the gates of heaven are opened at midnight on October 31 where spirits can rejoin their loved ones for 24 hours. Folks will create ofrendas or offerings to honor their departed loved ones that have passed. These altars are typically decorated with bright yellow marigold flowers, photos of the departed, and the favorite foods, drinks, and hobbies of the folks who are being honored.



With COVID-19 safety precautions and a limited showcase, Arte Americas hosted this year's Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead celebration in Fresno, California.

This holiday is traditionally celebrated on November 1 and 2. According to History.com, the holiday is a blend of Mesoamerican ritual, European religion and Spanish culture that is said to reunite the living and dead as the gates of heaven are opened at midnight on October 31 where spirits can rejoin their loved ones for 24 hours. Folks will create ofrendas or offerings to honor their departed loved ones that have passed. These altars are typically decorated with bright yellow marigold flowers, photos of the departed, and the favorite foods, drinks, and hobbies of the folks who are being honored.



The Dolores Huerta Foundation (DHF) Youth Organizers form their curriculum with a critical lens on history and systems of inequity therefore it was deemed appropriate to partake in this cultural celebration while simultaneously including a tribute to the LGBTQIA+ community for the LGBT History Month. As a result, an altar by the DHF Youth members was created to honor the lives that were lost, due to violence and hate, at Pulse Nightclub, in Orlando, Florida. On June 12, 2016, 49 people and wounded 53 more in a mass shooting. This tragedy shook the LGBTQIA+ community and was later named one of the deadliest incident in the history of violence against queer people in the United States. Hate has no place in this world, we extend our hearts to the families affected and to the folks who continue to battle being themselves in today's world.

DHF Youth members' thoughtfulness and empathy inspires us to fight for a more just society for them to further grow within. During the past year, anti-queer legislation has been targeting and harming folks across the country. Due to this, we've partnered with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to combat these measures of discrimination, such as by barring or criminalizing healthcare for transgender youth, barring access to the use of appropriate facilities like restrooms, restricting transgender students' ability to fully participate in school and sports, allowing religiously-motivated discrimination against trans people, or making it more difficult for trans people to get identification documents with their name and gender. For a more detailed list of the laws that were introduced and the active ways civil rights lawyers are fighting back against these injustices, please visit www.aclu.org.

DHF continues to advocate for equity to ensure people have the right to live, love and live free of violence and hate. As we build grassroots movements at the intersection of race, class, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status, we hope that we can count on your support in the movement by either volunteering, donating or spreading the word of our grassroots organizing, advocacy, leadership development, and a public relations strategy to inform narrative change.

THE PANDEMIC IS NOT OVER, WE MUST CONTINUE TO PROTECT THOSE MOST VULNERABLE!

The Dolores Huerta Foundation (DHF) Education Department alongside the support of the Vecinos Unidos® chapter members, continue to provide our most underserved communities the support they need to feel assured and safe from COVID-19. The pandemic highlighted a factor we've known all along, it is that Central Valley essential workers - farmworkers, janitors, grocery store employees - are on the front lines constantly risking their lives for us. They are often working outdoors in conditions of poor air quality, extreme heat, unsafe working conditions and are statistically most likely to be working alongside someone with COVID-19. As a result, the Dolores Huerta Foundation staff makes it a priority to protect and empower these communities through every opportunity we possibly can. Most recently, DHF participated in seasonal community events throughout the Central Valley where they distributed information about the COVID-19 vaccines, provided masks, hand sanitizer, and further resources and information that may benefit their situation or of those they may know. These vulnerable professionals are not likely to receive PPE from employers therefore access to such can save lives. We are proud to announce that through DHF's participation in these fun and safe county-wide events has offered over 1,200 families free resources to keep themselves and their loved ones safe.

Additionally, DHF is a proud partner within the United Against COVID-19 Coalition, where as we have helped organize 36 vaccine clinics throughout the Central Valley & Antelope Valley. Each vaccine clinic is strategically placed in the communities that have been hit the hardest by the pandemic and furthermore lack the accessibility to such resources to protect themselves from the deadly virus. A total of 3,600 people and counting have received their COVID-19 vaccine and are now proudly a part of the solution to end the pandemic.



THE FIGHT FOR EQUITABLE & INCLUSIVE MAPS CONTINUES



The Dolores Huerta Foundation, in partnership with community leaders and other organizations, has come together to form the Equitable Maps Coalition and have painstakingly created Equitable Maps and districts that comply with the Voting Rights Act.

Through your support, the Dolores Huerta Foundation has been able to mobilize folks in the Central Valley to provide public comments at countless Board of Supervisors Redistricting meetings, target hard to hit communities through door-to-door canvassing, and educate folks at key community events to ensure that everyone understands what is at stake for the next ten years. The Kern Equitable Map Coalition came out in force to fight for fair maps.

Dozens of community members gave comments whereas meetings lasted for over 2 hours! It was so beautiful to hear from every community in Kern to come to a universal agreement, especially in the most misrepresented and underserved communities. Meanwhile, in the Fresno and Tulare county redistricting hearings, some of the same hard-right reactionaries challenged the EMC community map. DHF, partnering organizations and concerned community members fought an uphill battle as some misinformed right-winged individuals, unfortunately, mistook these maps to have a hidden agenda, when they are in fact well within the Voting Rights Act law. Additionally, each area has gained tremendous community support for the EMC maps.

The Dolores Huerta Foundation Vecinos Unidos® chapter members are actively engaging in the crucial redistricting process on all governmental levels including at their local school districts. The Education committee, a sub-focus group founded through the Vecinos Unidos®, have provided 15 board comments to Parlier Unified School District and Bakersfield City Schools district asking for a transparent, community-led process. Vecinos Unidos® continue to meet on a weekly basis to discuss their community needs and shape a map that will provide equitable representation.

Lastly, we'd like to thank each of you for your continued support! We invite you to join us in DEMANDING redistricting commissions to adopt equitable maps at assembly, senate & congressional levels. Demand that your elected representatives know where your community is and what is important to you and those in your community by giving public comments at your local redistricting hearing. For more information, please contact Eliana at ehoneycutt@doloreshuerta.org or visit www.wedrawthelinesca.org

