ARTEFACTS: SYMBOLS OF LABOR RIGHTS

LA PLAZA DE CULTURA Y ARTES
FROM FARM LABOR TO YOUR FAMILY TABLE
MARCH 4, 2021
LA PLAZA DE CULTURA Y ARTES

MISSION STATEMENT

LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes honors the past, inspires the future, and recognizes the enduring cultural influence of Mexicans, Mexican Americans and all Latinas/Latinos in Los Angeles through transformative exhibitions, programming and educational experiences.
**ARTE-FACTS**

**Artifacts:** Objects with cultural or historical importance

**Arte:** Art
SYMBOLS

- Shapes, signs, or images that represent something else.
- Communicate messages without using words.
- Transcend linguistic barriers.
HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1860's
Chinese Migrants Aide in the Development of CA. Agriculture

1920's-1930's
Influx of Filipino Migrants to US

1920's
Early Labor Rights Organizing

INTERACTIVE TIMELINE
FARM WORKERS ORGANIZE TO ADVOCATE FOR LABOR RIGHTS

1960'S BRACERO PROGRAM STARTED

PRESENT: FIGHT FOR LABOR RIGHTS CONTINUE

HISTORICAL TIMELINE
DOLORES HUERTA, LARRY ITLIONG, 1970S. IMAGES COURTESY OF THE WALTER P. REUTHER LIBRARY, WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY.

PICKETS, AWOC, GRAPE STRIKE, CALIFORNIA, 1966. IMAGES COURTESY OF THE WALTER P. REUTHER LIBRARY, WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY.
UFW, STAFF, ORENDAIN, ITLIONG, HUERTA, CHAVEZ, DELANO, 1969. IMAGES COURTESY OF THE WALTER P. REUTHER LIBRARY, WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY.

UNITED FARM WORKERS OFFICIALS, 1976. IMAGES COURTESY OF THE WALTER P. REUTHER LIBRARY, WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY.
FARM LABORERS HARVEST ROMAINE LETTUCE ON A MACHINE WITH HEAVY PLASTIC DIVIDERS THAT SEPARATE WORKERS FROM EACH OTHER ON APRIL 27, 2020 IN GREENFIELD, CALIFORNIA. CREDIT: BRENT STIRTON/GETTY IMAGES

CALIFORNIA FARMWORKERS HAVE ENDURED HEATWAVES, WILDFIRES AND A PANDEMIC THAT CONTINUES TO SPREAD DURING PEAK HARVEST SEASON FOR ALMONDS AND WINE GRAPES. (PHOTO COURTESY OF UFW/UNITED FARM WORKERS)
TITLE: FLAG FOR HUELGA - RCAF - UFW AFL-CIO
COLLECTION: ROYAL CHICANO AIR FORCE ARCHIVES
OWNING INSTITUTION: UC SANTA BARBARA,
LIBRARY, DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL RESEARCH
COLLECTIONS
SOURCE: CALISPHERE
PERMALINK:
HTTPS://CALISPHERE.ORG/ITEM/ARK:/13030/HB0199493X/
(LEFT) PATCO STRIKE, UFW SUPPORT. IMAGES COURTESY OF THE WALTER P. REUTHER LIBRARY, WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY.

DOLORES HUERTA, PORTRAIT, C. 1970s. IMAGES COURTESY OF THE WALTER P. REUTHER LIBRARY, WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY.
OBJECT NAME: HOE
DATE MADE: 1936
USER: CHÁVEZ, LIBRADO HERNÁNDEZ; CHÁVEZ, CESAR ESTRADA
OWNING INSTITUTION: NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE
PERMALINK: HTTPS://AMERICANHISTORY.SI.EDU/COLLECTIONS/SEARCH/OBJECT/NMAH_694880
IMAGE: STOOP LABOR USING THE SHORT HANDLE HOE, HARVEY RICHARDS, UCSD FARMWORKER DOCUMENTATION PROJECT.

IMAGE (TOP): CLOSE UP SHOT OF FARMWORKER USING SHORT HANDELED HOE IN STOOP LABOR, HARVEY RICHARDS, UCSD FARMWORKER DOCUMENTATION PROJECT.

IMAGE (RIGHT): STOOP LABOR IS NOT STATIONARY, NOTICE THE WORKER MOVING HIS FEET WHILE CHOPPING, HARVEY RICHARDS, UCSD FARMWORKER DOCUMENTATION PROJECT.

IMAGE: FIELD WORK IN ITS MOST BRUTAL FORM, HARVEY RICHARDS, UCSD FARMWORKER DOCUMENTATION PROJECT.
“Every time I see lettuce, that’s the first thing I think of, some human being had to thin it. And it’s just like being nailed to a cross. You have to walk twisted, as you’re stooped over, facing the row, and walking perpendicular to it. You are always trying to find the best position because you can’t walk completely sideways, it’s too difficult, and if you turn the other way, you can’t thin.

I think this is where the employer shows the most contempt for his workers. For example, I think growers use short-handle hoes because they don’t give a damn about human beings, they look at human beings as implements. If they had any consideration for the torture that people go through, they would give up the short-handle hoe. All that stooping is one reason farm workers die before they’re fifty.”

GOV. JERRY BROWN WITH CESAR CHAVEZ AND AIDES AT LA PAZ, THE UFW HEADQUARTERS, IN 1975. PHOTO BY JON LEWIS, FARMWORKER DOCUMENTATION PROJECT
INTERESTED IN HARD WORK
BUT NOT A FAT PAY CHECK
JOIN THE SAFeway BOYCOTT

CONDITIONS THAT NEED TO
BE CHANGED

* 1/4 of FARMWORKERS.
   ARE CHILDREN UNDER 16
* 800 DEATHS per year
   from DANGEROUS PESTICIDES.
* ANNUAL INCOME of
   FARMWORKERS is $2,500
   HIGHER THAN NATIONAL AVERAGE
* INFANT MORTALITY is 125% 
   HIGHER THAN NATIONAL AVERAGE
* MATERNAL MORTALITY is 125% 
   HIGHER THAN NATIONAL AVERAGE

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San Diego, CA 92104
714-281-4013

FARMWORKERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE ORGANIZING AND
STRUGGLING NON-VIOLENTLY TO CHANGE THE CONDITIONS
UNDER WHICH THEY LIVE! ¡YOU CAN HELP!

VENCEREMOS!
(LEFT) NARSİSO MARTÍNEZ, EASY GRAPE 2019.
(RIGHT) NARSİSO MARTÍNEZ, IN THE FRESH 2020.
(LEFT) CHRISTIE TIRADO, TRABAJADORA ESSENTIAL
(RIGHT) CHRISTIE TIRADO, AMERICA’S ESSENTIAL WORKERS.

WHAT OTHER SYMBOLS COMMUNICATE LABOR RIGHTS TO YOU?
• PENCIL
• ERASER
• PAPER (ANY SOLID COLOR)
• PIECE OF CARDBOARD (INSIDE OF A CEREAL OR PACKAGING BOX)
• GLUE OR GLUE STICK
• ANY COLORING TOOLS (CRAYONS, MARKERS, COLORING PENCILS, PAINTS)
• RULER OR ANY STRAIGHT EDGE