

Our Buena Gente Make A Difference!

Since closing our spaces in late March 2020 due to COVID-19, the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center continues to survive with all staffmembers working from home, and MujerArtes' women working on staggered schedules creating clay artwork. Our building projects—Lerma's, the Giovanni's grocery store, Museo del Westside and the elevator shaft at San Pedro are all slowly continuing with renovations.

Like other cultural arts organizations, the Esperanza experienced a loss of revenue when our cultural programming ground to a halt. We also suffered a 20% cut from funds that had been awarded to us by the City's art funding process that is now in jeopardy for 2021. Still, we vow to creatively continue with our cultural programming, our community connections and work for social justice!

Our community of supporters have come through for the Esperanza with donations during these trying times. One-time donations and monthly donors have

provided us with a consistent base of funds to build on. We especially invite Voz readers to consider becoming Monthly Donors to help us sustain our work. There are 3 ways to sign up to become an Esperanza Monthly Donor:

- Our Automatic Bank Withdrawal Program is the most beneficial option for Esperanza as there are no processing fees. Send a voided check to 922 San Pedro Ave. and we'll use the routing & account numbers to sign you up!
- Or, you can sign up on our website via PayPal using a credit card at www.esperanzacenter.org/donate;
- Or, mail in your donation monthly to 922 San Pedro Ave., SA 78212.

Because the Esperanza is a grassroots organization, we rely on community members for support. Your generosity keeps us moving forward into the future! Muchisimas gracias, y adelante con esperanza! Black Lives Matter!

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GRACIAS FOR DONATIONS MADE IN MEMORY OF RAY Mc DONALD AND JESSE BENAVIDEZ—MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

ALSO, ADDITIONAL THANKS TO GRACIELA SÁNCHEZ, GLORIA RAMÍREZ, SUSAN GUERRA, SUSANA SEGURA AND OTHERS WHO REQUESTED THAT DONATIONS GO TO THE ESPERANZA IN HONOR OF THEIR BIRTHDAYS.

AND, MIL GRACIAS TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WHO WORKS DILIGENTLY TO CONTINUE RAISING FUNDS FOR THE ESPERANZA PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER

Notas Y Más
July/August 2020

Community meetings and art events are currently on hold due to COVID-19. Check websites, FB or call for virtual meetings and arts programming in July/August, 2020.
www.esperanzacenter.org

What could have been

*For Officer Brian Encina,
 Citizen Sandra Bland and our system*

If this anger at her
 and all she images,
 if fear for my ego-invested badge,
 this uniform, my being what I am,
 had just let her go with a ticket,
 respectfully given,
 case closed.
 If this death was by me
 and not another...
 having given in to despair
 letting go the fragile threads of hope
 for another sunrise, another day
 and said yes to life, yes to myself.
 If our system, this culture,
 immersing us in arrogance and despair
 could just stop it.

—Tom Keene August 14, 2015

when history repeats itself, -in honor of BLM

we are here again, which means we
 never left.
 we tried to move on, but the chain only
 let us go so far.
 we did feel some relaxation,
 some approximation
 of what we imagined freedom to be.
 we did rest at times and bask in the sun.
 we are here again, which means
 we never left.
 i am telling myself the same
 bedtime stories.
 i am rubbing the same worries from my
 eyes
 and the wounds around my ankle
 have calloused.
 each day feels like the day before
 or the day after

and i am losing track of the years.
 what happens to a dream deferred,
 to a raisin in the sun?
 what is dried and withered hardens to
 stone
 and whether it bleeds tears or
 blood is unknown.
 what is dried and browned to seed
 germinates new life and sprouts new
 creeds.
 —Yon Hui Bell

