Journey Through Our Heritage  |  Year End Summary 2012/2013
Welcome! Nawah! Hau Kola! Bienvenidios! Jambo! Cualli Tlaneci!

Welcome to Journey Through Our Heritage (JTOH) one of the nation’s most innovative and unique multi-cultural educational programs sponsored by Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver) Department of Chicano/Chicana Studies and Department of African/African American Studies. JTOH partners MSU Denver students with local high school students and engages them in a year long program whose goal is to enhance current public school curricula in the areas of African/African American, Native American, Mexicana/o, Red Bones, Métis, Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies. The grand finale of the year is an academic “knowledge bowl” between/among participating high school teams. JTOH also participates in numerous community events and works with the Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts, an organization called to spread the Gospel primarily to the some 5000 kids that can be found on every street corner, trailer park and parking lot in their neighborhood in Denver on a year round basis. Among many partnerships, JTOH also partners with Sisters of Color United for Education, the Colorado Folk Arts Council and provides educational experiences through exciting cultural concerts though the Aurora Fox Theatre.

Our Mission:

Journey Through Our Heritage promotes self empowerment, develops leaders and engages students with community leaders and organizations in order to increase cultural and historical knowledge bases through involvement in healthy competition, rigorous academic study and community service via the use of history, creative & cultural arts, and language.

Our Impact Goals:

- To expose K-12 students and university students to indigenous values, traditions, practices and visual/performing arts.
- To support high school partnerships with university student mentors who lead students through rigorous interdisciplinary competition designed to challenge and inspire young minds through Chicana/o Studies and alternative curricula.
- To facilitate the infusion of cultural and historical contributions of Latinas/os and other predominant ethnic groups, resulting in the success of all students.
- To create a formal connection between MSU Denver students in the Chicano Studies program and GED/high school students state-wide.
- To embrace and promote diversity by broadening participating high school teacher's ability to teach a more culturally inclusive curriculum.
- To engage, collaborate and work with communities by building relationships with program administrators, community organizations, schools and potential partners who desire to participate in the program.
- To partner with non-profit organizations to increase our community impact through emphasizing collaboration and promoting cultural awareness through events and volunteer work.
Outcome and Results for the 2012-2013 School Year

Journey Through Our Heritage through MSU Denver

- JTOH employed 18 Metropolitan State University of Denver work study students for the fall and spring semester of 2012/2013 and 8 volunteers for work in local high schools and office organization.
- JTOH Team logged a total of 6572.00 hours, aiding special events on and off campus, special events co-sponsored by JTOH. Students participated in planning committees, volunteer coordinating of events, data entry, website building, financial budgeting and tracking, graphic design, tutoring, mentoring and community service learning.
- JTOH has recruited 8 area high schools to participate with the JTOH high school program: ACE Community Challenge School, Alameda High School/ Indian Education, Escuela Tlatelolco, La Academia, Lincoln High School, Program of American Indian Youth Leaders (PAIYL), The New America School Denver, Sheridan High School.
- Of the eight high schools there were 8 teams assembled and 110 participants, 12 Metro mentors and 13 teachers involved in the program this year. This year we gave 18 stipends to high school seniors for graduation and encouragement to pursue higher education.
JTOH Student Organized Events and Partnerships 2012-2013:

• JTOH Competitive Events

Each of the following events is worth up to a maximum of 500 points or partial points for all high school teams. The JTOH hosted eight high school teams during the season.

September 29th, 2012 - JTOH: Welcome Back Ceremony @ the Center for Visual Arts

The Journey Through Our Heritage Welcome Back Ceremony is the initial event of the JTOH season every fall. This is an introductory occasion where the High Schools, Teachers and MSU college mentors gather to kick off the new school year. In the fall of 2012 for the first time the event was held at the MSU Denver Center for Visual Arts. This venue provided the community an opportunity to view the nationally acclaimed photo journalist exhibition “Return of the Corn Mothers”. This opportunity to attend the event at the CVA also allowed the JTOH teams to connected with the Santa Fe Art District and to experience the another aspect of the MSU Denver campus. JTOH University mentors helped coordinated the entire event, built the community altar and created the programming for the entire six week run of the exhibition.
December 9\textsuperscript{th}, 2012-St. Cajetan’s Journey Through Our Heritage: Cultural Expressions

The Journey Through Our Heritage Cultural Expression event took place on December 9, 2012. It provided an opportunity for the High School teams to compete against each other as they expressed their artistic talent and creativity through the arts. The six minute presentation created by the teams included a mural piece, spoken-word poetry, music, singing, dance as well as skit that about a Corn Mother and was assessed by a panel of MSU Denver Chicana/o Studies, African/African-American Studies professors and members of the MSU Denver Latino Art Club. This event empowers students to express their talents while showcasing their knowledge about historical and contemporary issues surrounding women.

February 28\textsuperscript{th}, 2013 - JTOH Literary Journal Deadline via email jtoh2011@hotmail.com
Traditionally the JTOH teams cap off the year with a knowledge bowl. This year the Jeopardy Style Competition was reinvented as the Tlatchli Games. Each of the eight JTOH teams was required to master four content areas: the Southwest United States, Mexico, Africa, and our theme category for the year, Corn Mothers. The information contained in these study guides is core information that the JTOH program feels is important for high school and college students to know about their indigenous cultural identity. The guides involve memorization of facts such as how many countries are in Africa, how many states are in Mexico, and how many indigenous tribes live in the United States.

The Tlatchli Games began with a field day type experience where high school teams gathered and were able to interact with each other at five different stations. Each station represented an indigenous cultural game that helped develop fit bodies, strong minds and healthy respect for each other. After the games, the “jornada” (journey) continued with a written test that included multiple-choice, true false and essay type questions based on the study guides. The tests were administered in real college class rooms. Afterwards a dinner banquet was provided for all students and their families.
May 9th, 2013 - JTOH Awards Ceremony at the Tivoli Commons Auraria Campus

The Mauricio Saravia Award Ceremony was grand finale of the 2012-2013 Journey Through Our Heritage season. Students were awarded trophies for the following in numerous categories, including Cultural Expressions, Poetry Anthology, Best Mural, Community Service and Ancillary Achievement Awards. Over 25 trophies were awarded to the high school teams.

As a tribute to the hard work and dedication of the teams, Pulitzer Prize nominee and national acclaimed author, Victor Villaseñor was the keynote speaker for the event. Villaseñor message to the students was to use their creative minds and talents, to be “geniuses” with a vision to create a future were their dreams come true. Copies of his signed books along with cash stipends were given to 18 graduating seniors.
• JTOH Special Events

Summer 2012:

June 4th – July 15th, 2012 - La Alma Summer Camp: Metropolitan State University of Denver in partnership with Judy Montero and Denver Parks and Recreation

The La Alma Summer Camp is held every summer for children ages 8-12. The La Alma Summer camp is designed to provide underprivileged youth, particularly within the Lincoln Park neighborhood, the opportunity to experience a summer camp environment while educating them about the diverse culture of their community. The program lasts for five weeks and is completely free. The summer club runs from 10 am until 3pm Monday-Thursday and endeavors to enlighten children from the community about their indigenous heritage and stewardship of the earth.

Activities include yoga, drawing, crafts, swimming, Aztec dance, field trips and gardening. Values concerning honor, respect, generosity, kindness, and accountability are stressed. Each day a new value is picked out by the students that we exemplify all day long. So, if someone pushes a club mate (these are young children, after all) he or she might be asked how that relates to honoring their neighbor. The end goal of this program is to create in the children the realization that they are all a part of a much larger picture. The summer program is run entirely by JTOH college students.
Fall 2012 Semester:

August 22nd - 24th, 2012 - MSU Denver Welcome Week at the Tivoli Commons
September 20th – November 3rd, 2012 - Return of the Corn Mothers:
Gallery Exhibition @ CVA

Return of the Corn Mothers, a nationally acclaimed photo journalist exhibition, that originated at MSU Denver in 2006, had been traveling the United States for the past five years. The show came home on September 20 to the Center for the Visual Arts. The JTOH college team programmed six weeks of workshops; panel discussions, tours and art meet and greet events around the show. Over 3,000 people attended the various events.
The exhibition also featured interactive workshop stations where visitors were able to record their own Corn Mothers Stories and create artwork using recycled materials. The opening panel discussion shed light on the traditional and ceremonial practices of sweat lodges, tipi meetings, ceremonial peyote, child birth, limpias and ceremony as practiced by women from numerous spiritual traditions, including Native American Church, African American Gospel, Ifa, Peyote Way Church, and others. The Center for Visual Art (CVA) is the off-campus art gallery of Metropolitan State University of Denver. Over 10 community organizations were organized by the JTOH team to participate in the six weeks of programming, including master folk artist Rita Wallace. The project is currently at the Pima Community College of Tucson through Aug. 29th 2013.
September 2nd, 2012 - Student Org Fair, student involvement/tour, Tivoli Commons
September 15th-16th, 2012 - Auraria Campus Fall Festival, Tivoli Commons
September 15th, 2012 - Hispanic Heritage Celebration, Tivoli Commons

October and November Dia de los Muertos and Other Events
October 6th-7th, 2012 - 2nd Annual JTOH Community Art Show, CHAC Art Gallery
October 10th, 2012 - MSU Denver Campus Immigration Awareness Day
October 23rd-24th, 2012 - Richard T. Castro Distinguished Visiting Professorship with Devon G. Peña

JTOH Volunteer Mentors Danica Schmitt and Tim Anstine meet with Devon G. Peña

Continuing a 15-year history of bringing renowned Latino and Latina scholars, artists and community leaders to Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSUD), this year's 2012 Richard T. Castro Distinguished Visiting Professor featured lifelong environmental-justice advocate Devon G. Peña. The theme of this year’s professorship, Oct. 23-24, was “Sacred Water y Tierra Sagrada.”

Journey Through our Heritage team from the Chicana/o Studies Department at MSUD assisted in set up of the event, creation of the Corn Mother interactive component, escort professors and gathered other materials needed to host the event.
November 1st, 2012 - Chicano Arts and Humanities (CHAC)
Dia de Los Muertos Celebration

JTOH President Karissa Garcia (center) and JTOH Mentors at CHAC Dia de Los Muertos

JTOH college team members partnered with seven other campus organizations from, MSU Denver, Community College of Denver and University of Colorado at Denver, to celebrate Day of the Dead, on Thursday, November 1, 2012. Over 250 participants attended the free cultural event. The theme was Corn Mothers, Remembering Our the Women. This educational event featured a panel discussion by professors from the Institute of Women’s Studies, Integrative Therapies, African studies, Chicana/o Studies and the English Department. There was an open invitation to bring photos of loved ones to place upon the community altar. Healers from several different traditions, (Aztec, Mexica, and Lakota) hosted a group blessing to honor all participants and museum patrons. An Aztec candle light processional for the beloved departed also took place. Free atole, sugar skulls, face painting and traditional music rounded out the event. In the keeping with the community collaborative efforts another celebration was held at the CHAC Gallery where local artists exhibit their artwork in commemoration of loved passed spirits.

November 2nd, 2012 – Dia de los Muertos at St. Cajetan’s, Auraria Campus
**Spring 2012 Semester:**

February 17th, 2013 - Black World Conference at the Auraria Campus
March 3rd, 2013 - Woman’s World Conference at the Auraria Campus
March 19th, 2013 - Latino Leadership & Cesar Chavez Tribute:
   JTOH President Karissa Garcia awarded
March 31st, 2013 - Cesar Chavez Marcha and Latino Summit

![Latino Leadership Summit Spring 2013](Image)

Traditionally, the Latino Leadership Summit is a tri-institutional celebration (CCD, MSU Denver & UCD) that commemorates civil rights leader and founder of the United Farm Workers of America, Cesar Chavez and his non-violent philosophy of pursuing the elusive goal of social justice and ultimately, peace. The customary “March for Peace & Justice” around the Auraria Campus was student-lead by Cesar Chavez Peace & Justice awardees, Karissa Garcia and Jay Jaramillo. JTOH college team members also helped to program the event by organizing participants from Aztec Grupo Huitzilopochtli, Café Cultura, and other community organizations.
This year’s Lalo Delgado Poetry Festival was milestone memorial to the late poet Lalo Delgado. The JTOH college helped to revitalize the festival by inviting in various community organizations and MSU Denver Departments to participate. The addition of the English Department, Women’s Studies, and African Studies ensured that the festival was able to reach a larger audience base. The Festival began with a blessing ceremony by The Huitzilopochtli Aztec dancers followed by Dr. Luis Torres welcoming in national poets, professors, community members and classes from the Auraria campus. Over 200 people attended the festival compared with 30 from the previous year.
April 25th, 2013 – MSU Denver Health and Wellness Expo

JTOH Mentors at a booth on the Auraria Campus promoting Health and Wellness

JTOH student organization presented the first annual Health and Wellness Expo. The focus was to highlight health issues surrounding diverse populations by promoting sports, healthy diet and fitness. The event was held on April 25th, 2013 at Auraria Campus Lawrence Street Park. Over 20 vendors participated, including the GI Forum, Auraria Health Clinic, Cross Fit, Servios De La Raza, various fraternities and sororities, mental health organizations and others. Activities included a bone marrow drive registration, health bag give away, cultural entertainment, and Out Door Adventure obstacle course.

April 28th 2013 - La Raza Youth Conference - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the MSU Denver Campus
May 3rd, 2013 – JTOH Cinco de Mayo Celebration

JTOH Mentors, Students and Family gather in the Tivoli Commons

The Cinco de Mayo Celebration on Auraria Campus is a tri-institutional celebration to celebrate Latino culture by connecting students with their historical roots. Cinco de Mayo traditionally commemorates how the Mexican militia in Puebla, Mexico triumphed against the odds of the invasion by the massive French army lead by Napoleon III, on May 5th, 1862.

JTOH college students helped organize the event and helped artist, Leticia Tanguma create the signature event mural that was inspired by revolution leaders: (From left to right) Benito Juarez, Emiliano Zapata, Cesar Chavez, Che Guevara and Frida Kahlo The theme of the 2013 Auraria Campus Cinco de Mayo celebration was “In-lak’ech” (Tu eres me otro yo-[you are my other me) which displays mutual respect and unity of cosmic people through the “mestizaje”, mixture of cultures. A young Chicanito is depicted wearing a shirt displaying The Dream Act while holding a sacred luminario of la Virgen de Guadalupe.
• MSU Denver Department of Chicana/o Studies in Partnership with Colorado Folk Arts Council

Mudra Dance at the Aurora Fox Theatre

Aurora Fox Cultural Concerts Series 2012-2013
November 7th, 2012 Tribute to Native American Culture- Huitzliopotchli Aztec Dancers, Seven Falls Dancers
December 12th, 2012 Celebrate the Holidays– Cleo Parker Robinson Dance
February 20th, 2013 Celebrate Black History Month– Cleo Parker Robinson Dance
February 27th, 2013 Celebrate Classical Indian Dance- Mudra Dance
March 6th, 2013 Celebrate World Storytelling Day in this Tribute to Storyteller Pat Mendoza
April 17th, 2013 Celebrate National Poetry Month- Hannah Kahn Dance Company, Molina Speaks and Asia Jazz Project
May 1st, 2013 Celebrate Cinco de Mayo- Ballet Folklorico, Fiesta Colorado
and El Centro Su Teatro *2 Shows

Community College of Aurora Cultural Series 2012-2013
September 25th, 2012 Hispanic Cultural Month – Mariachi America de Jesus Diaz
February 28th, 2012 Black History Month– Grand By Design, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance
**Student Anthology:**
JTOH produced a professionally edited anthology of student essays on the significance of culture and history. These reflective writings were bound into a booklet and distributed to all students. In addition this year’s anthology includes poetry and art from JTOH High School Students and MSU Denver JTOH mentors. This literary journal represents not only a student’s expression through art or poetry but also an example of how publication is conducted through reviewing, editing and creating quality work for print.
High School Partnership Information and Demographics:

The Journey Through Our Heritage program inherently emphasizes indigenous students; however, it also embraces participants from other groups. Furthermore, the schools recruited in this year’s program do have high concentrations of Chicanos/as, Mexican-Americans, and Latinos/as.

School Partnership Goals

Journey Through Our Heritage developed two main goals when the program applied for funding last year.

1) To encourage the inclusion of indigenous history and culture into mainstream curricula of the high schools.
2) To create a direct connection to a college or university for high school or GED students. With positive role models to emulate.
3) To empower students in high school to able to make positive choices about their future, to avoid negative stereotyping and to encourage positive engagement with the community.

These goals were met by partnering nine JTOH Metro work study students with each of the nine high schools. Each Metro mentor spent time at the high schools working in a classroom setting as tutors; they conducted after school team building workshops for the JTOH competition events and helped to host all of the events.

These activities not only introduced our JTOH curriculum into the schools but helped forge a strong bond between our mentors and the high schools. In order to meet these goals the program utilized the expertise of university professors, administrators, teachers, authors, community members, the business community, and university mentors.

Demographics and Statistical Data

The ten year history of the JTOH program has been highly successful in many ways. One of the most important challenges facing the JTOH was how to produce concrete evidence of its success. This summary will provide a glimpse into the demographics and information of high schools which the JTOH program is able to partner with and enhance. Since Dr. Renee Fajardo’s leadership under the JTOH program from the years 2010-2013 we have compiled information on the progress of the program.
Demographics of High Schools in Partnership with JTOH

ACE Community Challenge
Charter School
Principal: Eloy Chavez

Contact Info:
948 Santa Fe Drive
Denver, CO 80204
Phone: (303) 436-9588
Fax: (303) 436-0919

Sponsoring Teachers:
Maureen King, Sara White
Phone: 720-690-2800, 720-429-7700

JTOH Mentor:
Michael Diaz-Rivera
Luis Morales

Alameda High School / Indian Education
Title I School
Principal: Susie Vanscoyk

Contact Info:
1255 S Wadsworth Blvd
Lakewood, CO 80232-5406
Phone: 303-982-8160
Fax: 303-982-8161

Sponsoring Teachers:
John Sullivan, Thompson Williams, Leroy Sainz
Phone: 303-982-8160

Statistics*:
2.3 % Native American
8.6 % Asian
2.5 % Black
59.4 % Hispanic
27.2 % White

JTOH Mentor:
Maili-Lai Rael, Jessica Madrid, Damaris Santos

Escuela Tlateloco
Title I School
Principal: Rudionna Garza

Contact Info:
2949 Federal Blvd.
Denver, CO 80211
Phone: 303-964-8993
Fax: 720-401-3355

Sponsoring Teachers or Contacts:
Monica Garcia
Email: monica@escuelatlateloco.org

Statistics*:
51.9% White
31.7% Latino
15.6% Other Race
11.1% Black
3.7% Two or more races
2.2% American Indian
0.8% Vietnamese

JTOH Mentors:
Jay Jaramillo
Cell: 720-620-6203
Email: jjaram22@msudenver.edu
La Academia @ Inner City Parish  
Principal: Charlene Ramirez  
Contact Info:  
910 Galapago Street  
Denver, CO 80204  
Phone: 303-629-0637  

Sponsoring Teacher or Contact:  
Charlene Ramirez  
303-629-0632  

JTOH Mentors:  
Jazmine Porras, Jesus Rodriguez, Karissa Garcia, Stephanie Porteous

Lincoln High School  
Title I School  
Principal: Josefina Petit Higa  
Contact Info:  
2285 South Federal Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80219-5433  
Phone: 720-423-5000  
Fax: 720-423-5098  

Sponsoring Teacher:  
Mark Delgado, Jocelyn Palomino  
Work: 720-423-5253  
Statistics*:  
4.3% White  
1.7% African American  
90.3% Latino  
1.3% Native American  
2.5% Asian  

JTOH Mentors:  
Diana Chavez, Alejandra Lara  
Cell: 720-939-1654  
Email: dchave53@msudenver.edu

The New America School Denver  
Title I School  
Principal: Mike Epke  
Contact Info:  
601 E. 64th Ave.  
Denver, CO 80229  
303-991-0130  
Fax: 303-252-9254  

Sponsoring Teacher:  
Jaime Aweida  

JTOH Mentor:  
Bianca Dominguez  
Cell: (720) 329-9473

Sheridan High School  
Principal: Michele Kelley  
Contact Info:  
3201 W. Oxford Ave.  
Sheridan, CO 80236  
Phone: 720-833-6747  
Fax: 720-833-6833  

Sponsoring Teachers:  
Kate Sorenson, Christen Rogers de Reyes  

JTOH Mentor:  
Lisa Rosales, Nicole Pasillas
Aurora Fox Cultural Concerts Series 2012-2013

The JTOH program reached out to 2463 Denver Metropolitan area students through collaboration with the Colorado Folk Arts Council (a non profit 501 (c) 3), through the 17th annual Cultural Concerts on Colfax series. This concert series features multicultural performance groups from numerous disciplines including Native American Pow Wow dancers, African drummers and Aztec dancing, the internationally recognized Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Company and Michael Heralda (who holds current exhibits at the Smithsonian Museum for his series Aztec Stories). The primary goal of the concerts is to expose students to the rich and vibrant cultural heritage of the performing arts both in Colorado and Nationally. The JTOH mentors were able to present information about Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver) and the JTOH program the concerts with partnership with the Aurora Fox Theatre. Through this partnership we hope build a strong MSU Denver and JTOH presence in the schools state wide as well as strong partnerships with local artists, dancers and musicians.

Mentoring

The JTOH mentors from MSU Denver were responsible for mentoring 110 individual competitive team members from eight high schools for a total of 1762 student contacts initiated by JTOH mentors. A total of 1879.5 hours were put in by MSU Denver JTOH mentors coaching and mentoring team members. The teams attended events on and off the MSU Denver campus. Each team member received a participation medallion for their efforts in the competitions. Through the partnering and establishment of core volunteers JTOH was able to reach many students and expand the influence of JTOH partnering with Pagosa Springs High School in Pagosa Springs, CO (276.5 miles from Denver!).

![Chart showing data]
JTOH Partnerships with Non-Profit Organizations:

Colorado Folk Arts Council
The Colorado Folk Arts Council (CFAC) was organized in June of 1968 by a group of culturally active individuals to represent organized groups of various elements of Folk Arts (music, dancing, crafts, etc.) that would be a clearing house of information, distribute information and sponsor workshops and other events of orientation and understanding of people and cultures. The CFAC was incorporated as a non-profit organization on July 28, 1969 in the State of Colorado.
2890 Newland Street Wheat Ridge, CO 80214-8036 (303) 232-5542 http://www.colofolkarts.org
Sisters of Color United for Education
In 1991, Sisters of Color United, was established as a nonprofit organization with the vision of advocating for health equity and improved quality of life. Our organization’s goals are to improve peoples’ health, wellness, and quality of life by educating families about healthy lifestyles and increasing their access to health services by removing language and cultural barriers. SISTERS host the oldest Promotora de Salud program in Colorado. Promotor/a de Salud is a health promotion and harm reduction education and advocacy program. Although only recently recognized by the Center for Disease Control as a best practice for its effectiveness in Latino communities, Promotoras de Salud are well known throughout Mexico and Central America as front line community health workers. Our health promotion and harm reduction education utilizes a unique and culturally relevant holistic curriculum – Mind, Body, Spirit – and empowers participants to access meaningful healthcare and support services through community activism, advocacy, information exchange, referrals, and art as social justice.
W. 8th Ave Denver CO, 80204 (303) 446-8800 Fax: (303) 446-8799 http://www.socue.org

Chicano Humanities Arts Council
The Chicano Humanities & Arts Council (CHAC) was founded in 1978 by a group of visual and performing artists. The organization was established as a place where Chicano/Latino artists were provided with a venue to explore visual and performance art and promote and preserve the Chicano/Latino culture through the expression of the arts.
772 Santa Fe Drive Denver, CO 80204-4429 (303) 571-0440 http://www.chacweb.org

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Studio
Cleo Parker Robinson Dance is an international, cross-cultural, dance-arts and educational institution rooted in African American traditions and dedicated to excellence in providing instruction, performances and community programs, for intergenerational students, artists and audiences. Guided by a vision of dance as the universal language of movement that celebrates performance, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance is committed to honoring diversity and inclusiveness throughout the global community.
119 Park Avenue West Denver, CO 80205-3209 (303) 295-1759 http://www.cleoparkerdance.org

Library People
Library People is a statewide, not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping libraries with library collections, services and programs through grants, technical assistance, connections, and advocacy. Library People work toward quality library service for Colorado residents by providing advocacy, support, and coordination of service projects to enable libraries of all types, especially small and rural libraries, to meet community needs.
(303) 938-8766 http://www.librarypeople.org

Denver Woman's Press Club
The Denver Woman's Press Club honors its heritage, functioning as a stimulating gathering place for people in literary, journalistic and media endeavors by promoting the cultivation of friendship and providing moral support to members; encouraging through educational and philanthropic means the pursuit of writing.
1325 Logan Street Denver, CO 80203-2308 (303) 839-1519 http://www.dwpconline.org
Grand Design Inc.
Grand Design is dedicated to preserving and keeping alive, primarily the performing arts of African Americans, yet inclusive of other cultural performing arts; to provide entertainment and brassier the awareness of the public and an appreciation by the public through performances, concerts, presentations, visual art exhibits and cultural awareness training for the benefit of the residents in Aurora and the metropolitan area.
http://www.grandbydesign.org

Boys and Girls Club of Metro Denver
Since 1961, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver has been helping kids from tough neighborhoods in the Denver area stay out of trouble, stay in school, and succeed in life. The organization owns and operates eight safe neighborhood branches where kids can spend time after school and during the summer.
2017 West 9th Avenue Denver, CO 80204 (303) 892-9200 http://www.bgcmd.org

Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts
The Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts is called to spread the Gospel primarily to the some 5000 kids that can be found on every street corner, trailer park and parking lot in their neighborhood in Denver. Their strategy to do this is through the formation of the Mauricio Saravia School of the Arts. By combining state-of-the-art technology and the passion of dedicated staff and volunteer teachers and a dream of inspiring future generations to engage their culture and leave their mark via drama, dance, photography, film-making, musical instruments, graphic design, voice, poetry, etc.
4201 W. Kentucky Ave., Denver, CO 80219 (303) 949-4674
http://www.joncompassionministries.org/ministries/mauriciosaraviaacademy.html

Only One Inc.
Only One Inc. was established by David Young in 1989 with the motivation and dedication towards creating social change. This non-profit implemented a program that addresses health prevention because of the high rates of diabetes, cancer, STDs and issues around health and food habits among the Chicana/o, indigenous and Mexican communities. Only One Inc. works with the community to teach about sex education, alcohol, curanderismo and cultural awareness. In order to enhance their health, first individuals have to value themselves and have a sense of self. That is why teaching youth about culture is very important. In 1991, recognizing the significant need for HIV prevention in the Latino community, Only One worked closely with leaders from the Chicano/Latino communities to establish HIV prevention/service programs in Denver. In 1998, the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment contracted with Only One Inc. to assess the HIV prevention needs of the Native American Urban community in the Denver/Boulder Metro Area. Based on the findings of that assessment the Wapia Project, a prevention project targeting Native American Youth was initiated. Only One continues to provide year-round projects and activities for the Chicano, Mexicano, and Native American communities with a commitment to improving the well-being of its consistency.
(720) 980-9639
Mana Pottery Studio
Over the last six decades, deep in the heart of Aravaipa Valley in southeastern Arizona, Mana Pottery has been producing unique and stunning American Southwestern art. Multi-colored, hand painted renditions of desert life on handcrafted earthenware provides an inspiring visual feast in the context of everyday functionality. The workmanship that goes into each piece is the meditation of three artists: Immanuel (Mana) Trujillo, who has been making visionary art for sixty years, and Anne Zapf and Matthew Kent, who have been making Mana Pottery for 30 years.  
30800 W. Bonita Klondyke Rd., Wilcox, AZ 85643  http://manapottery.com

Casa Mayan
Auraria Casa Mayan Heritage, an organization dedicated to preserving the history of Auraria and the legacy of the Casa Mayan restaurant. The organization was founded by Gregorio Alcaro and Trinidad "Trini" Gonzalez, descendants of Ramon and Carolina Gonzalez Alcaro, a Denver architect who was 10 years old when the displacement happened, said the ceremony and memorial "represent a milestone in the way the campus has worked with the community and formed relationships." His cousin, writer and lecturer Trini Gonzalez, added, "Good morning, Aurarians. Welcome home."  
(303) 388-5174, tghuss@comcast.net

Casa de la Esperanza
Casa de la Esperanza (House of Hope) a 32-unit residential community owned and operated by the Boulder County Housing Authority in the City of Longmont. The Casa de la Esperanza (Casa) Resident Services Program offers an "after-school" program and academic center which provides educational and recreational services to Casa residents, allowing them greater access to opportunity and success by promoting higher education and computer skills and computer access.  
1520 South Emery Street, Longmont, CO (303) 485-6287

GrowHaus
The GrowHaus is an indoor farm, marketplace and educational center in Denver’s Elyria-Swansea neighborhood. Our goal is to provide healthy, affordable food for the surrounding community and raise awareness about issues of food justice and sustainability.
http://www.thegrowhaus.com/

JTOH Awards and Grants 2012/2013

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<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Metro State University Work Study</td>
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Journey Through Our Heritage Program Staff:
Department Chairman of Chicana/o Studies Department and
Associate Professor at Metropolitan State
University of Denver:

Ramon Del Castillo, Ph. D.

Ramon Del Castillo is currently Associate Professor and Chair of the Chicana/o Studies Department at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He possesses a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology and Mexican American Studies from the University of Northern Colorado. His Masters Degrees are in Social Science and Public Administration and a Ph.D. from UC Denver.

Dr. Del Castillo is a past columnist for the Rocky Mountain News and a current columnist for El Semanario. His critical essays cover the plight of the Chicana/o in American society. His awards include the prestigious Colorado State Division of Civil Right’s Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award (1998); the “Spirit of Tlatelolco Award,” (2005); the Latino and Latina Student Law Association Community Humanitarian Award (2005); the Cesar Chavez Peace and Justice Committee’s Founders Award (2008); the Rodolfo “Corky: Gonzales Civil Rights Award (2009) the Espiritu de Aztlan Award from Metro University (2010.)

Ramon is published in his discipline. His poetry publications/books include: Tales from a Michoacano; Broken Concrete; From the Corazon of a Bato Loco; and When the Owl Can’t See at Night; Chile Colorado, a CD with three local poets and a storyteller used in the Chicana/o Studies Department curriculum; poetry unit in El Alma de la Raza curriculum, used in Denver Public Schools; and Cantos Al Sexto Sol: An Anthology of Aztlanahuac Writing; Cool Salsa edited by Lori M. Carlson and Encyclopedia Chicana.

Office Administrator: Mercedes Salazar

Regis University Denver, Colorado
M.S.M., Master of Science in Management Leadership 1995,
B.S.B.A. Bachelor of Science in Business Administration 1990 Certificate in Spanish 1974 Attended University of Mexico City

Mercedes assists the department Chairs, Faculty and Students in the Chicana/o Studies Department with the main focus of the retention and success of students completing their education. She manages the budget and prepares course schedules, through the Metro Banner computer system. Mercedes participates in staff meetings and supervises work study students. She assists in the planning of the following activities; Richard T. Castro Distinguished Professorship, Corky Gonzales Annual Symposium, Cesar Chavez, Corn Mothers Project, Journey Through Our Heritage and the Lalo Delgado Poetry Festival. As the Fiscal Manager of these events she maintains an accurate budget, by contacting the caterers, entertainment, speakers, room reservation and obtaining visual equipment and supplies for the event.
Journey Through Our Heritage
Program Coordinator:

Dr. Renee Fajardo

Dr. Fajardo has long been an advocate of children’s and family rights. Her work with art education, literacy, and community programming have crossed all borders and boundaries. The former director of the Crossover Project, a nonprofit cultural arts education program, Dr. Fajardo has organized summer camps for at risk children, implemented high school cultural workshops, and helped provide cultural programming to thousands of students in the past 15 years.

As a board member of many cultural-nonprofit organizations throughout the state of Colorado, Dr. Fajardo has extensive knowledge of cultural, ceremonial, and community traditions of numerous indigenous people. Her own Chicana/Native American (Picuris Pueblo) and European roots allow her to be sensitive to the many nuances that face today students of color.

A Denver native and graduate of the University of Nebraska, she is also a freelance writer specializing in the South West. She has published articles dealing with subjects ranging from the migrant farm worker crisis in America to the importance of cultural art in impoverished neighborhoods to profiling success stories of immigrant families who own their own businesses.

She is also the co-author of the Holy Mole Guacamole Tummy Tale series with Carl Ruby, a series of four children’s books on food, culture, and family. She co-produced the Return of the Corn Mothers exhibition, a Colorado Endowment for the Humanities Award recipient for 2009, along with master photographer Todd Pierson. She strongly believes that community is family and through our connection to our past and ancestral ways we can empathize with others in a compassionate way.