

# CALLI

the art of **XICANX PEOPLES**

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## STUDENT CONVERSATION GUIDE

*Calli* is a word from the Nahuatl language that means “home.” Use this guide to discuss how Xicana/o/x artists explore their Indigenous roots to tell stories about building their home through social justice, healing and hope.

## LAND & PLACE

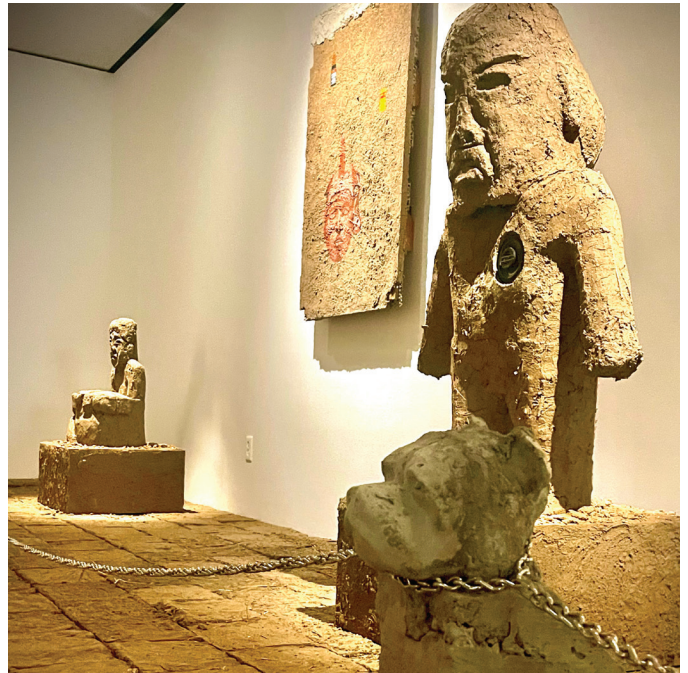
### > SUGGESTED SPOT: **INDIGENOUS REVITALIZATION**

As you enter the gallery, rafa esparza has created an installation using adobe, a material and practice that has been passed down in his family from Mexico. For many communities, adobe holds a sacred connection to the land. For esparza, using adobe connects him to his family, his ancestral homeland, and culture.

Artist Consuelo Jiménez-Underwood uses geographical imagery and cultural symbols in *Everything All at Once*. This artwork talks about immigration and the creation of borders across the Americas, which is home to Indigenous plants, animals, land, and peoples.



**Compare and contrast the materials in these two artworks. How do the artists use materials to tell a story of their “home” and their communities? What role does the land play in each of these stories?**



**TOP ARTWORK:** rafa esparza, *Dispatches de Abajo*, detail, 2024. Adobe installation.

**BOTTOM ARTWORK:** Consuelo Jiménez-Underwood and The Butterfly Effect, *Everything All at Once*, 2024. Mixed media.

# IDENTITY & ART ACTIVISM

> SUGGESTED SPOTS: **SELF-NAMING: XICANA/O/X** AND **SPIRITUALITY & MATERIALITY**

Due to colonialism, many BIPOC communities fought to define their own identity as part of their social justice and civil rights efforts. Once used as an insult, high school student activists reclaimed the word “Chicano” as an identity of pride and strength during the Xicana/o/x Movement.



Find a poster. How does the poster use identity as a source of empowerment, pride, or cultural reclamation?



What role do names play in shaping our identity? Can you think of a time when you or someone you know reclaimed or celebrated a name or identity?

## WALL OF REMEDIES

> SUGGESTED SPOT: **SPIRITUALITY & MATERIALITY**

We encourage you to take part in the exhibition! Inspired by Botánicas, which are community wellness spaces, visit Felicia ‘Fe’ Montes’ *La Botánica del Barrio* cart and write down a family or cultural remedy or practice that helps you heal and add it to one of the hooks.



What family or cultural remedy or recipe did you share? Did someone else share a remedy or recipe that you learned about for the first time?



What are some ways art can be used to heal our communities?



ARTWORK: Felicia ‘Fe’ Montes, *Botanica del Barrio: Rolling Remedy Cart*, 2016. Social practice artwork.

## ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE

> SUGGESTED SPOT: **CREATION STORIES**

Indigenous creation stories explain how the world was created and can teach us how different cultures connect to the land and to other humans in this universe.

Due to systems of oppression like colonialism and slavery, ancestral knowledge has been threatened and sometimes erased. Inspired by Indigenous beliefs and teachings, many Xicana/o/x artists, like Viviana Paredes, create art that reconnects with their past through traditional foods, ancestral medicines, herbal remedies, songs, and prayers.



How do some artists use ancestral knowledge and origin stories to reflect their experience in this world?



What do you know about your family's history and traditions? Are there any special stories, clothing, foods, or pieces of wisdom that have been passed down in your home through your relatives or ancestors?



ARTWORK: Viviana Paredes, *Ser y Comer*, detail, 2018. Glass, corn seeds, corn husks, wooden fruit crates, market sounds.