



REDWOOD THEATRE COMPANY
SOL Community Arts Program
MEDIA KIT



ADELE DAVALOS MITCHELL
CARMEN MARIA MITCHELL

www.solcommunityarts.org
www.redwoodtheatrecompany.org



SOL Club Community Arts Program

Prepared by
Carmen Maria Mitchell

PROGRAM PROPOSAL 2024

SOL ARTS PROGRAM MISSION

- To provide visual and performing arts opportunities that celebrate and empower students as they develop new creative skills and enhance their artistic experience.
- We will present the arts in inclusive, meaningful and diverse approaches designed to inspire youth to realize their individual talent so that they achieve their greatest potential.



PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Nurturing creativity
- Teaching new visual and performance art skills
- Promoting friendship, art & community
- Encourage potential lifelong interests in the arts



CURRICULUM

- Our intended programmatic impacts will be to advance our students artistically, improve their sense of self-confidence, and deepen their connection to self, peers, and community.
- We will provide foundational knowledge of diverse art forms that are aligned with National Arts Standards.





YOUTH WORKSHOPS

SOL COMUNITY ARTS PROGRAM

PROGRAM OUTLINE

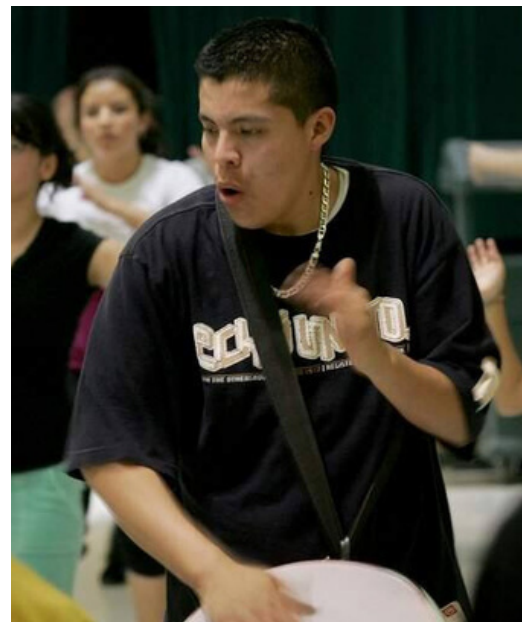
- 8 Week after school program that meets 2 times a week for 1.5 hours.

AGE RANGE

- Middle School & High school

LOCATION

- We hope to offer classes in a designated safe space that celebrates culture and identity where students can explore their creative potential.



POTENTIAL WORKSHOP OFFERINGS

- Hip Hop Dance
- Latin Dance
- Singing & Music
- Acting & Improv
- Painting & Other Visual Arts
- Poetry & Spoken Word
- Inspirational Guest Speakers
- Drumming
- Photography
- Film Production
- Mentorship Programs

INSTRUCTORS

- The SOL Club is committed to providing quality, trained staff and teaching artists.



SOL CLUB HISTORY

SOL COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAM

COOK JUNIOR HIGH

At Lawrence Cook Junior High School, in the Roseland neighborhood of Santa Rosa, SOL was a club that originated on campus as a way of resolving gang violence that had emerged in 1994. SOL club combined honoring cultural heritage, community collaboration and visual art projects to create positive social change.

MRS. MITCHELL

Adele Davalos Mitchell was the founding teacher of SOL Club (Socially Organized Latinos)

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

SOL Club provided a space for creativity, leadership, advocacy and support.

The values of the club were simple... "we make art and we don't fight".

SOL became a family. The club was committed to promoting harmony and honoring culture.



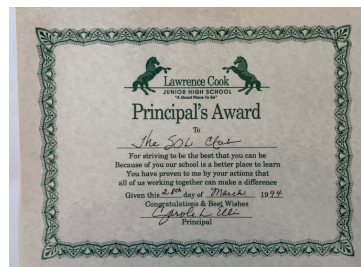
Cook Junior High students listen to a motivational speaker during their lunch break.

students said they worried a fight was inevitable. Instead, they united to form SOL, fueled by newly found clout that helped elect three Latino students to

"Here we're in charge. This is



Photo by Denise Holley
Art instructor Adele Davalos Mitchell talks with aspiring artists at the Latino Youth Leadership Conference held May 14 at Sonoma State University.





SOL CLUB HISTORY

SOL COMUNITY ARTS PROGRAM

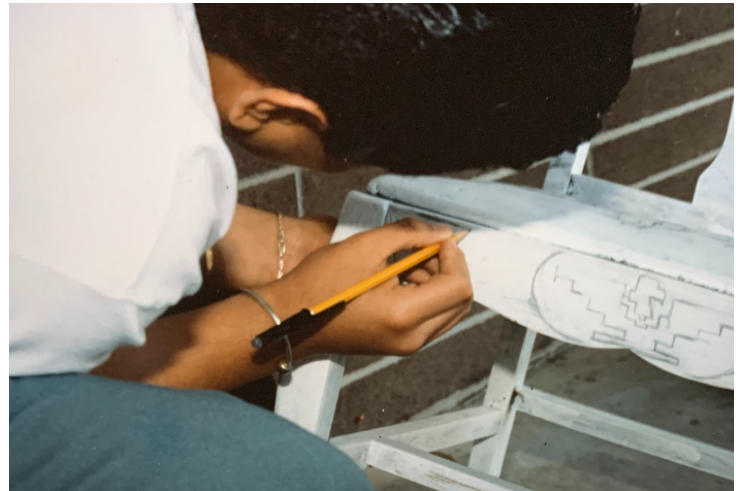
THE PAINTED CHAIRS

It all started one day with a group art project in Adele's art class.

She asked her students to "paint their culture" on some old wooden chairs that had been sitting around in the back of the room.

In a time filled with gang violence and resentment, this Latina art teacher tried to bring her students together with a fun painting exercise.

What began as a creative classroom experiment, soon turned into a thriving community of friendship and collaboration!



SOL CLUB

SOL activities included weekly guest speakers from the community, participation in art festivals, canned food drives, student speakers sharing the SOL club experience with other schools, lowrider bike shows, Cinco de Mayo celebrations and art creations throughout the school.





SOL CLUB HISTORY

SOL COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAM



California, Tuesday, May 17, 1994

Face

Who: Alicia Reyes, 14, Santa Rosa, California, is a senior at Kawana School. She is also involved in T-4, Teen Teaching Through Theater, for over a year.

Other activities: "I'm really well known for my art, which consists of anything I feel, from my Spanish background to the way I dress. It ranges from Ruan, my people, to my hip-hop style of graffiti and that sort of thing. Right now I'm painting a school mural at Cook and my part of it consists of my Hispanic background."

Hobbies: "Dancing, poetry, writing. The teens know me by my dancing. I go to all the dances I can."

Goals: "I definitely want to finish high school and go to college and then be in the entertainment industry. I'd like to become a rap artist or an actor."

Hereses: "Martin Luther King was a big inspiration. Also, Cesar Chavez. Two of my teachers, Mrs. Mitchell and Mr. Zuzana — they've both been my heroes."

One thing a lot of people don't know about me is: "I try to put up a front and be there for everyone, be the strong one so everyone can come to me when they need help. But, what they don't know is sometimes I need someone to be there for me and provide support for me."

School activities: "I am Vice President of SOL, Society Organized Latinos. I was a peer counselor for two years. I'm basically affiliated with everything I get involved with everything the school has to offer."

Community activities: "For a while, I was with SAY, Social Advocates for Youth, working with kids who were in gangs and stuff. I was also involved in T-4, Teen Teaching Through Theater, for over a year."

Do you want to contribute? TeenLife is a weekly paper and interests of teens. If you have any ideas or want to write us at TeenLife, Box 569, Santa Rosa 95402, (408) 875-5051, or send us discuss your ideas.

PEACE THROUGH PRIDE

Santa Rosa, California, Sunday, March 27, 1994



From left, Lorena Suarez, 15, Gustavo Mendoca, 14, and Alicia Reyes, 14, work on a mural during their lunch break. The mural depicts Mexican culture.

Cook's Latinos find better way

Students unite, and avoid fight

By TINA ANIMA
Staff Writer

Alicia Reyes was tired of coming to school and watching her friends square off into lines of blue and red — colors of rival gangs at Cook Junior High.

During lunch, students would stare each other down, waiting for someone to make a move to start a fight. Almost every day last autumn, Reyes and her friends



Cook Junior High students listen to a motivational speaker during their lunch break.

finding new political power, peace and pride in a new student group. Society Organized Latinos. Gang members have called a truce to join the SOL club, and for the first time, the bulk of school's student body officers are Latino. Students say they hope to carry their cultural pride to the new Elsie Allen High, which will have 41 percent minority students when it opens this fall — more than any school in the city.

"Here we're in charge. This is what makes us happy — to not be fighting. This is what keeps us out of it," Reyes said.

Club officers like Reyes and Omar Medina say the 80 or so students said they worried a fight was inevitable. Instead, they united to form SOL, fueled by newly found clout that helped elect three Latino students to

"Here we're in charge. This is

The SOL Club successfully ended the gang fighting on campus with students focusing on art, cultural pride and giving back to their community.





SOL CLUB HISTORY

SOL COMUNITY ARTS PROGRAM

AWARD WINNING PROGRAM

Adele was awarded the California State Senate Award for *Outstanding Commitment to Southwest Santa Rosa Youth*, recognition at a *Congressional Forum on Education* hosted by United States Representative, Lynn Woolsey and the *Excellence in Education Award* presented by the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce.



THE NEXT GERNERATION

Two student leaders of the original SOL Club are now local community leaders. Omar Medina is a Santa Rosa City Schools Trustee and Gustavo Mendoza is the Coordinator of Wellness and Engagement for Santa Rosa City Schools.





PROGRAM DIRECTORS

SOL COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAM



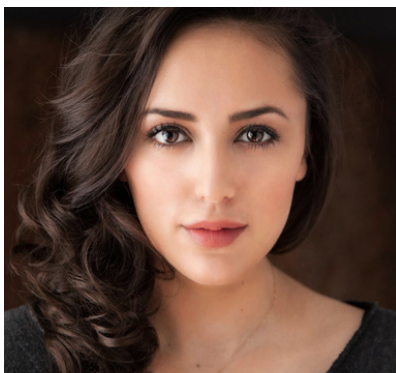
ADELE DAVALOS MITCHELL

Founder & Director (she/her)

adele@thepaintedchairs.com

Adele has been an educator for over thirty years. She has taught visual art, dance, physical education and film studies. Adele has worked with generations of students at *Montgomery High School, Lawrence Cook Junior High School, Santa Rosa Junior College* and was a founding faculty member at *Maria Carrillo High School*.

At Lawrence Cook Junior High School, Adele was the founding teacher of *SOL Club (Socially Organized Latinos)*. *SOL* was a club that originated on campus as a way of resolving gang violence that had emerged in 1994. *SOL* club combined honoring cultural heritage, community collaboration and visual art projects to create positive social change. *SOL* activities included weekly guest speakers from the community, participation in art festivals, canned food drives, student speakers sharing the *SOL* club experience with other schools, lowrider bike shows, Cinco de Mayo celebrations and art creations throughout the school. Adele continues to be an advocate for underserved youth by helping to promote art as a way of self expression and resilience. [->> LEARN MORE www.thepaintedchairs.com](http://www.thepaintedchairs.com)



CARMEN MARIA MITCHELL

Co-Founder & Director (she/her)

carmen@redwoodtheatrecompany.org

Carmen is one of Adele's two daughters. She is a professional performing artist, working in both California & New York City

Carmen is the Founder and Executive Director of Redwood Theatre Company, a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to bringing professional theatrical productions and educational programs to Sonoma County, CA. She also spearheads FTA (For The Art) Productions, working alongside a collective of passionate filmmakers & multimedia artists. Their mission is to produce meaningful art and share powerful stories that amplifying voices in the community. With a deep passion for the arts and activism, Carmen looks forward to the opportunities that lie ahead, eager to continue collaborating with kindred artists and organizations to create impactful and meaningful work. [->> LEARN MORE www.carmenmariamitchell.com](http://www.carmenmariamitchell.com)



PROGRAMS

SOL COMUNITY ARTS PROGRAM

BLOCO SOL DRUMMING

Latin drumming program featuring Samba & Reggae rhythms with community performance opportunities.



SOL CLUB VISUAL ARTS

The SOL Club art program teaches students visual art techniques through mixed media and mural projects.



SOL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

The SOL Community Arts program works in partnership with local organizations to provide youth scholarships.





ADVISORY TEAM

SOL COMUNITY ARTS PROGRAM



GUSTAVO MENDOZA

Coordinator of Wellness and Engagement Santa Rosa City Schools. Advisor & Original SOL Club Member.



MANNY RAMIREZ

Latin Music Show Producer & Director of the Bloco SOL Drumming program. Founding member Windsor Bloco.



NIKKO KIMZIN

Joy Centered Creative Collaborator, Arts & Equity Consultant. Founder of Kimzin Creative.



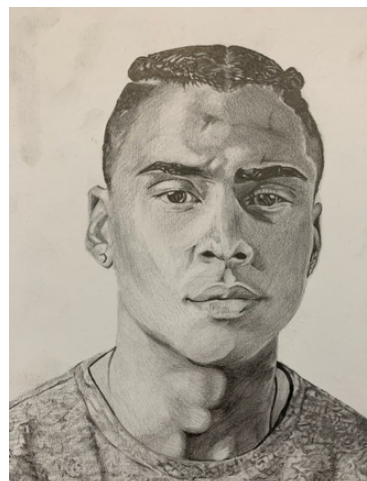
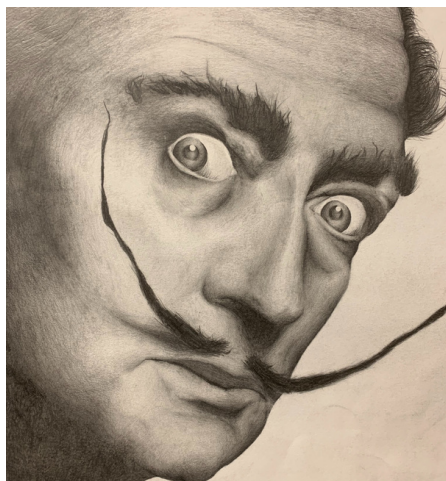
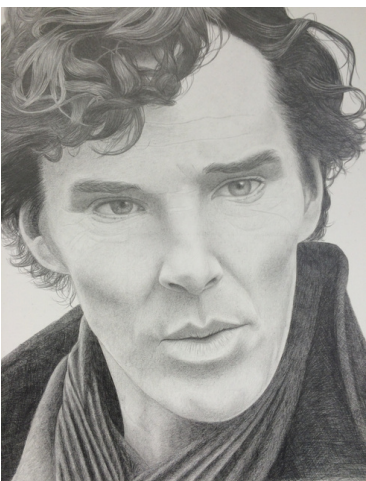
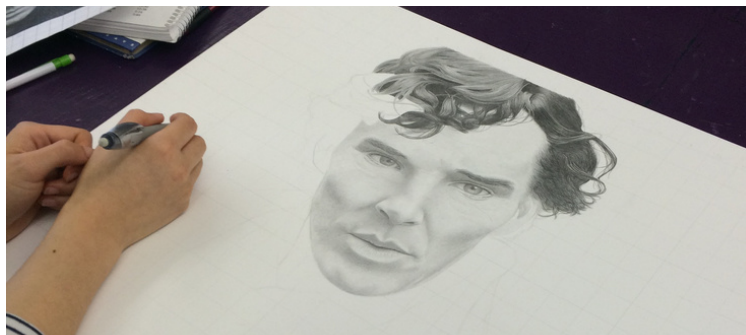
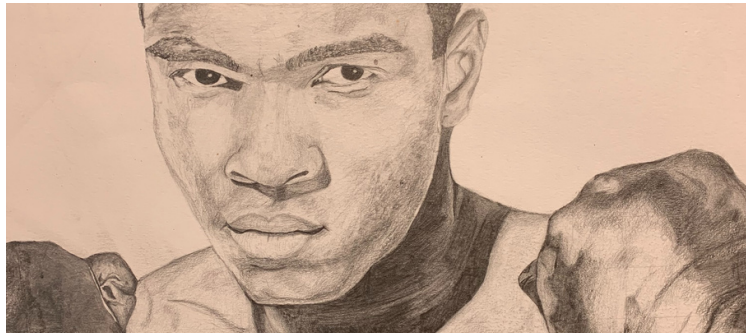
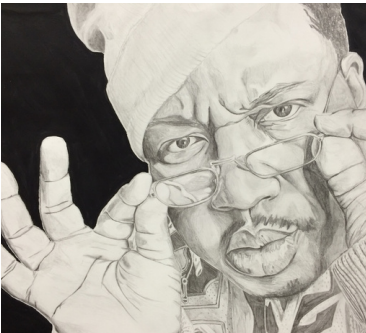
LANNIE MEDINA

Founding member of the Los Cien Latino Leaders organization. Supporting a more inclusive and equitable Sonoma County.



STUDENT ART

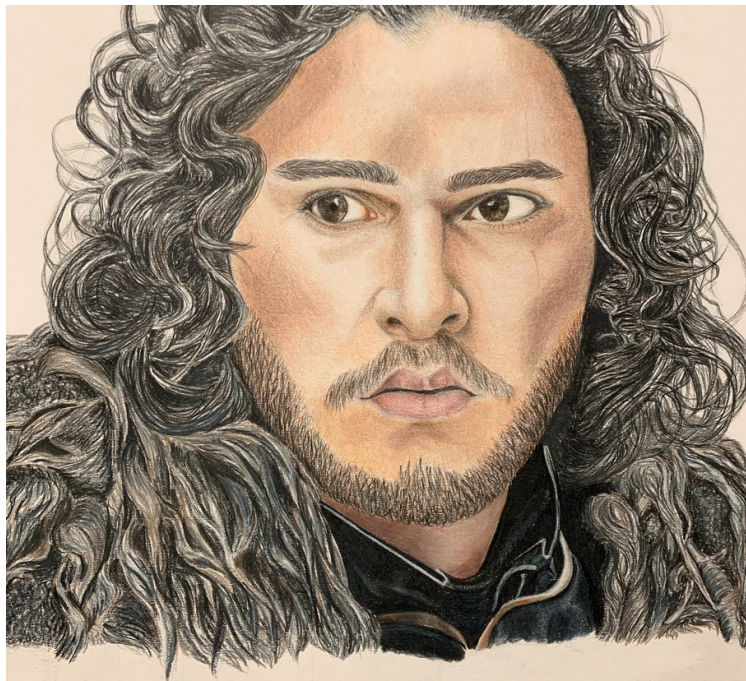
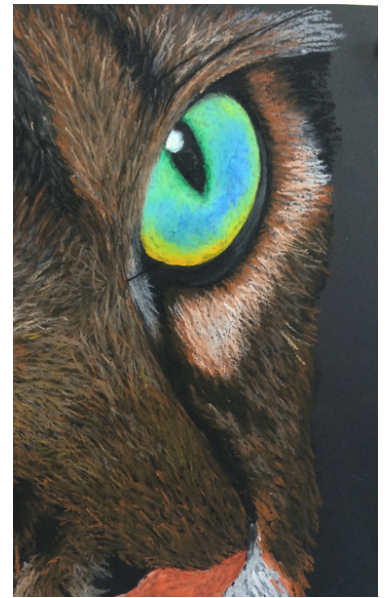
PORTRAITS





STUDENT ART

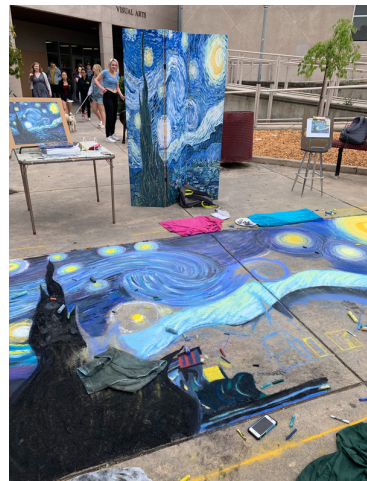
PORTRAITS & STUDIES





STUDENT ART

MURALS



ABOUT THE COMPANY

Redwood Theatre Company is the proud home to the SOL Community Arts Program.

Redwood Theatre Company is a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to bringing professional theatrical productions and educational programs to Sonoma County, CA.

“

**NURTURING
CREATIVITY,
COMMUNITY
& CULTURE
THROUGH ART**

”



ABOUT THE PROJECT

We offer a joy centered approach that embraces student individuality. The SOL Community Arts outreach organization, provides intentional programming and scholarships to vulnerable youth. This initiative aims to make performance and visual art more accessible to children in underserved communities as a form of violence prevention and inspire a lifelong interests in the arts.