



# ***CSUMB HOSTS***

## ***Latino MacArthur Fellows***

**WHEN: MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2015**

**WHERE: CSUMB, WORLD THEATER, 6:00 PM**

### **MACARTUROS PARTICIPATING INCLUDE:**

**JOAN ABRAHAMSON**, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LEADER  
AND DIRECTOR OF THE JEFFERSON INSTITUTE

**NATALIA ALMADA**, DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER

**RUTH BEHAR**, CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGIST

**RUEBEN MARTINEZ**, BOOKSELLER

**AMALIA MESA-BAINS**, ARTIST, EDUCATOR AND CULTURAL  
RIGHTS ADVOCATE

**MAURICIO MILLER**, SOCIAL SERVICES INNOVATOR

**HUGO MORALES**, PUBLIC MEDIA LEADER, MIGRANT RIGHTS  
ADVOCATE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RADIO BILINGUE

**MARIA VARELA**, COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

**CAMILO VERGARA**, DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHER

The MacArthur Fellows Program awards five-year, unrestricted fellowships to individuals across all ages and fields who show exceptional merit and promise of continued creative work. It is limited to U.S. citizens and residents.



# NOTES

# CSUMB HOSTS

## *Latino MacArthur Fellows*

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CSUMB will be hosting the visit of members of the Latino MacArthur Fellows group known as the *MacArturos*. Ranging from noted documentary filmmaker Natalia Almada to molecular biologist Eva Harris, these notable fellows will be providing an insight into their influences, inspirations, and practices in a round table discussion at the World Theater at 6:00 PM on Monday, January 26, 2015.

Presented by President Eduardo Ochoa and Provost Bonnie Irwin the event is also sponsored by Hugo Morales, CSU Trustee and executive director of Radio Bilingüe.

MacArturos participating include:

**Joan Abrahamson**, community development leader and director of the Jefferson Institute  
**Natalia Almada**, documentary filmmaker  
**Ruth Behar**, cultural anthropologist  
**Rueben Martinez**, bookseller  
**Amalia Mesa-Bains**, artist, educator and cultural rights advocate  
**Mauricio Miller**, social services innovator  
**Hugo Morales**, public media leader, migrant rights advocate and executive director of Radio Bilingüe  
**Maria Varela**, community organizer  
**Camilo Vergara**, documentary photographer



# JOAN ABRAHAMSON

*community development leader and  
director of the Jefferson Institute*



Joan Abrahamson is a lawyer, an artist, and a catalyst for community action.

Abrahamson is founder and president of the Jefferson Institute, a public policy institute that seeks to implement solutions to social concerns in the areas of the future of cities, international security, international economics, health, and creativity. She has also chaired the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy.

Abrahamson was responsible for converting an abandoned army base in San Francisco to the Fort Mason Center, a community arts and learning center. She served as a White House Fellow and as special assistant and associate counsel for Vice Presidents Walter Mondale and George H. W. Bush, and then as the latter's assistant chief of staff. Prior to this, she worked at the United Nations' Human Rights Commission and at UNESCO's Division of Human Rights and Peace. Since 1995, she has served as president of the Jonas Salk Foundation.

Abrahamson received a B.A. (1972) from Yale University, M.A. (1973) from Stanford University, Ph.D. (1977) from Harvard University, and J.D. (1980) from the University of California, Berkeley.

## NOTES



# CAMILO VERGARA

*documentary photographer*



Camilo José Vergara is a photographer-ethnographer who uses time-lapse images to chronicle the transformation of urban landscapes across America. Trained as a sociologist, he reaches into the disciplines of architecture, photography, urban planning, history, and anthropology for tools to present the gradual erosion of late-nineteenth- and twentieth-century architectural grandeur in urban neighborhoods, their subsequent neglect and abandonment, and scattered efforts at gentrification. Repeatedly photographing, sometimes over the course of decades, the same structures and neighborhoods, Vergara records both large-scale and subtle changes in the visual landscape of cities and inner cities in the United States. Sequences reveal, for example, trees growing in abandoned libraries and decrepit laborer housing swallowed by advancing foliage. Over the years, Vergara has amassed a rich archive of several thousand photographs that are a rare and important cache of American history. These images, monuments to the survival and reformation of American cities, are a unique visual study; they also inform the process of city planning by highlighting the constant remodeling of urban space.

Camilo José Vergara received a B.A. (1968) in sociology from the University of Notre Dame and an M.A. (1977) in sociology from Columbia University, where he also completed the course work for his Ph.D. His books include *Silent Cities: The Evolution of the American Cemetery* (1989, with Kenneth Jackson), *The New American Ghetto* (1995), *American Ruins* (1999), *Unexpected Chicagoland* (2001), and *Twin Towers Remembered* (2001). He is currently working on a project documenting churches in American ghettos. Vergara was a Revson Fellow at Columbia University (1986-87) and a visiting scholar at the Getty Research Institute (1996). He received the Robert E. Park Award of the American Sociological Association for *The New American Ghetto* in 1997.

# NATALIA ALMADA

*documentary filmmaker*



Natalia Almada is a filmmaker revealing rich new perspectives on Mexican history, politics, and culture in insightful and poetic films that push the boundaries of how the documentary form addresses social issues. A dual citizen of Mexico and the United States who has lived in both countries since childhood, Almada does not use conventional structures or techniques, such as interviews with specialists or a linear timeline. Instead, she incorporates powerful visual images and the observations of ordinary people she encounters with her camera into an intimate, multilayered form of storytelling. In films that pose more questions than they answer, Almada is capturing complex and nuanced views of the issues that define Mexican-American relations while reaffirming the potency of documentary both as an art form and a powerful medium for highlighting the often unseen implications of social conflict.

Natalia Almada received a B.F.A. (1995) from the College of Santa Fe and an M.F.A. (2001) from the Rhode Island School of Design. Her additional films include *All Water Has a Perfect Memory* (2001) and *Al Otro Lado* (2005), and her work has appeared at numerous national and international venues, including the Museum of Modern Art, the Sundance Film Festival, the Guggenheim Museum, the Munich International Film Festival, and the Cannes Directors' Fortnight.



# ***RUTH BEHAR***

*cultural anthropologist*



Ruth Behar at work in the town of Palma Soriano in Cuba

Ruth Behar is a cultural anthropologist whose work focuses on folk religion, women's lives, and personal narration in historical and contemporary Cuba, Mexico, and Spain.

Her first book, *The Presence of the Past in a Spanish Village: Santa Maria del Monte* (1986; expanded paperback edition, 1991), uses a variety of past and present narratives to tell a multilayered story of how one village negotiated its relation to the past in the wake of social transformations that removed people from the land during the late-Franco years. She is the author of *A Translated Woman: Crossing the Border with Esperanza's Story* (1993), which combines a life history account with reflections on autobiographical truth. In *The Vulnerable Observer: Anthropology That Breaks Your Heart* (1996), Behar explores themes of memory, identity, and emigration. Behar is also the editor of *Bridges to Cuba/Puentes a Cuba* (1995) and co-editor of *Women Writing Culture*.

Behar received a B.A. (1977) from Wesleyan University, and an M.A. (1980) and Ph.D. (1983) from Princeton University.

# ***MARIA VARELA***

*community organizer*



Maria Varela is a community organizer, a photographer, a teacher, a writer, and principal of the Rural Resources Group, an organization in the Albuquerque area that helps rural communities develop sustainable economies and environments.

Since 1962, Varela has been assisting indigenous leaders in their efforts to develop economic opportunity and protect cultural heritage within African-American, Native-American, and Mexican-American rural communities. She was instrumental in establishing a wool-growers cooperative, for example, that included a weaving and spinning enterprise, training in small business development, and cultural reaffirmation. Her approach is to create and enable nonprofit organizations and viable enterprises to build upon and add to existing local resources.

In 1981, Varela co-founded Ganados del Valle, a nonprofit, economic development corporation that helps predominantly Hispanic and Native-American communities in northern New Mexico, southern Colorado, and northeastern Arizona to preserve their pastoral cultures, lands, and water rights.

Varela received a B.A. (1961) from Alverno College, Milwaukee and, under the auspices of the National Rural Fellows, received an M.A. (1982) from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.



# HUGO MORALES

*public media leader, migrant rights  
advocate and executive director  
Radio Bilingüe*



Hugo Morales is the co-founder and director of Radio Bilingüe, one of the first community-based, bilingual, public radio stations in the United States.

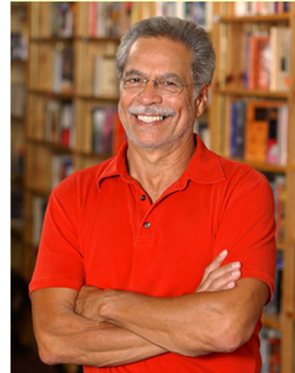
The focus of Morales' work is to encourage pride in Mexican culture, to disseminate information on the rights and responsibilities of immigrants and migrant workers, to advocate for better education for farm-working children, and to strengthen the farm-worker community. Morales co-founded Radio Bilingüe in 1976, and over the next four years, secured financial backing to launch the station on July 4, 1980; it is now broadcasting on a network of five community radio stations. In 1993, under his leadership, a twenty-four-hour-a-day satellite network, Satélite, was created, making Radio Bilingüe's Spanish-language programming available nationwide. The network serves over half a million listeners with its daily national talk show, Línea Abierta, its independently produced news service, Noticiero Latino, and a wide array of Spanish-language folk music.

Morales is the executive director of Radio Bilingüe and the vice-chairperson of California Tomorrow, which promotes a fair, multicultural society. He is the founder of the Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and co-founder of Fresno Tomorrow, an effort by citizens to address the problems of youth at risk.

Morales received an A.B. (1972) and a J.D. (1975) from Harvard University.

# RUEBEN MARTINEZ

*bookseller*



Rueben Martinez has elevated bookselling from a business to a campaign in support of underserved populations in California and throughout America. His Santa Ana bookstore, Libreria Martinez Books and Art Gallery, was originally a barbershop and is now among the largest commercial sellers of Spanish-language books in the country, serving as the cornerstone of cultural events and community activities that promote the benefits of reading to Hispanic-Americans and Spanish-speaking immigrants. A co-founder of the Latino Book Festival (which now tours nationally), Martinez motivates Spanish-speaking people to value literature, to read for themselves, and to read to their children. The record number of enthusiastic adults and children drawn to Libreria Martinez makes the store a destination for leading bilingual and Latino authors. Acclaimed by educators and librarians throughout the country, Martinez' unique brand of entrepreneurship and advocacy is an important complement to institutional and program efforts to enrich and anchor the lives of a large and growing population in America.

Rueben Martinez has been a professional barber and entrepreneur for more than forty years. In 1993, he founded Libreria Martinez Books and Art Gallery, a small business operating out of his barbershop. By 1999, the bookstore had expanded and moved into its own location, and, in 2001, he launched a second venue dedicated to children's literature. Martinez is a founding member of Santa Ana's Reading City Committee. In 1997, he helped develop the multi-city Latino Book Festival.



# AMALIA MESA-BAINS

*artist, educator and  
cultural rights advocate*



Venus Envy CH II: The Harem and Other Enclosures 1993

Amalia Mesa-Bains is an artist and cultural critic who has worked to define a Chicano and Latino aesthetic in the United States and in Latin America.

Her artworks, primarily interpretations of traditional Chicano altars, resonate both in contemporary formal terms and in their ties to her Chicano community and history. As an author of scholarly articles and a nationally known lecturer on Latino art, Mesa-Bains has enhanced the understanding of multiculturalism and reflected major cultural and demographic shifts in the United States. She has pioneered the documentation and interpretation of long-neglected Chicano traditions in Mexican-American art, both through her cultural activism and through her own altar installations.

Mesa-Bains is the author of *Ceremony of Spirit: Nature and Memory in Contemporary Latino Art* (1993). Her work has been exhibited at such institutions as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris, and the Studio Museum of Harlem.

Mesa-Bains received a B.A. (1966) from San Jose State University, an M.A. (1971) from San Francisco State University, and an M.A. (1980) and a Ph.D. (1983) from the Wright Institute, Berkeley, California.

# MAURICIO MILLER

*social services  
innovator*



Maurice Lim Miller is a leader in the development of services and systems designed to break the cycle of economic dependency for low-income families across the United States. Frustrated by the frequent recidivism into poverty he witnessed during his two decades with Asian Neighborhood Design, an agency focused on tenant rights, job training, and youth development, Lim Miller founded the Family Independence Initiative (FII) in 2001 with the goal of helping low-income working families—who often struggle in isolated circumstances or without clear direction—build their own pathways to self-sufficiency.

From its initial site in Oakland, FII has expanded to San Francisco, Oahu, and Boston, all of which have produced similarly positive results. In addressing the deficits of inspiration, motivation, and information with an infrastructure of peer-to-peer encouragement and social networking, Lim Miller is building more resilient communities from the ground up and offering an alternative to the current constellation of private and public anti-poverty initiatives.

Maurice Lim Miller received B.S. (1968) and M.A. (1977) degrees from the University of California at Berkeley. He was affiliated with Asian Neighborhood Design (1978–2000) before founding the Family Independence Initiative in Oakland, California, in 2001.