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Muxerista Pedagogies and Praxis:

Art, Activism, and Scholarship as Resistance and Restoration

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Snapshots of Jotería-Muxerista World-Making in the Classroom

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Figure 1

Healing Inner Child Paint Party, Los Angeles, 2024



Figure 2

Senior Celebration, Los Angeles, 2026



Figure 3

Jotería-Muxerista Healing House, Los Angeles, 2024



As a Chicana lesbian muxerista scholar-activist-educator, I actively create an environment in which Muxerista and Jotería identities are evident in the classroom. Jotería world-making is my compass, so I create an environment where the classroom becomes a space for the odd, different, misfit, and queer bodies to exist (Moraga & Anzaldúa, 217-218). For this, I point to the sacred directions. These directions guide my pedagogical approaches, classroom practices, assignments, and community-building efforts. **North**-Nurture a Safe and Affirming Space for Self-Expression; **East**-Embody Inclusive & Culturally Responsive Pedagogy; **South**-Stand with Each Other through Empathy and Solidarity, and **West**-Weave Joy and Imagination Together to Foster a Space of Collective Healing.

Figure 1. This photo was taken after our *Healing Inner Child Paint Party*, which takes place mid-way through the semester. This event allows students to explore how we experience generational wounds in our families and how healing our inner child can heal them. The students, dressed in Halloween costumes, are given art supplies and offered these prompts: 1. Draw your favorite childhood memory, or 2. Draw a symbol of comfort. As they create their masterpiece, they are asked to reflect on how they can recreate those feelings as adults. Figure 2. On the last day of class, I celebrate senior students with a small graduation ceremony during class, complete with personalized certificates and leis, reminding them that their presence can transform the spaces around them. This practice honors the student in an intimate space, surrounded by peers and community. Figure 3. To affirm their identities and foster community, students have attended the Jotería-Muxerista *Healing House*, an initiative within our department that provides a dedicated space for students to rest and be creative during finals.

All of these experiences contribute to a holistic learning environment where students feel seen, supported, and encouraged to bring their whole selves into their academic work.