



Upcoming Exhibition: Community is Collective Care

What: The MAH is opening an outdoor exhibition to highlight networks, resources, and collective visioning towards healing with local artist Irene Juárez O'Connell.

Website: santacruzmah.org/exhibitions/collective-care

When: September 4th - July 25, 2021

Where: The Secret Garden located behind the MAH & Abbott Square
705 Front Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

*"We're re-imagining our outdoor spaces to do what we do best, ignite shared experiences and unexpected connections. Meeting people and this moment, to provide space for collective healing through art and community programs."
- Whitney Ford-Terry, MAH Exhibitions and Projects Manager*

In these pandemic times, the topic of health is on everyone's mind. But physical health is only a part of the puzzle. To see the whole picture, we need to look at a larger network of holistic care. In this upcoming exhibition the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History (the MAH) seeks to build a community of collective care rooted in empathy, equity, accountability, and mutual support. Developed in collaboration with local artist and community builder, Irene Juárez O'Connell, this outdoor exhibition invites you to imagine individual and collective pathways toward healing.

Located in the Secret Garden, tucked behind the MAH and Abbott Square in downtown Santa Cruz, visitors can explore a safe and informative space to learn about the ways our community can seek, offer, and find support during these trying times. Featured alongside a vibrant new mural by Irene Juárez O'Connell, the information will shine a light on local resources and opportunities to realize holistic health, wellness, and healing. Rounding up resources from how to secure safe housing and where to get tested for COVID-19, to building your mental health network, the exhibition covers a

variety of topics and local organizations. Visitors can stop by to find a moment of inspiration and healing through the power of a connected community.

The outdoor exhibit is free to visit with additional information and links to the featured resources available on the [exhibition website](#). Visitors can easily find the exhibition by entering through the Abbott Square plaza on Cooper Street and heading to the very back behind the Front & Cooper bartop.

Artist Spotlight

Irene Juárez O’Connell is a Xicana visual artist, community organizer, and cultural worker based in Santa Cruz. Her collaborative process weaves together storytelling, cultural identity, healing, and historical memory. Her mural for this exhibit represents growth and healing by combining the visual beauty of plants and flowers with personal stories of healing from members in the community. O’Connell is also a Project Manager for the local non-profit FoodWhat?! and is a member of the MAH’s board of trustees.

Opening Event: August 28th, 12-6pm

To minimize crowds, all are welcome at the rolling opening on Friday, August 28th from Noon to 6pm. Stop by to meet Irene Juárez O’Connell and support a donation drive for [The Campesinx Womb Care Project](#). We will be accepting donations of new bandanas, chlorine-free menstrual pads, and Dr. Bronners Soap. Bring what you can to support our hard working Campesinx in Watsonville. While visiting please wear a mask and practice social distancing. Learn more about this event by visiting:

santacruzmah.org/events/ccc-opening

Contact

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