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EVENT: Healing our Hearts: a night of Latina/x storytelling

DESCRIPTION: Reproductive Justice stories ranging from abortion, gender and sexuality, miscarriage, forced sterilization, migration, etc.

DATE: Saturday, February 24th, 2018

TIME: 5:00pm - 9:00pm

LOCATION: Eastside Café - 469 Huntington Dr N, El Sereno, California 90032

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

California Latinas/xs Fight Stigma and Share Their Reproductive Justice Stories

Los Angeles, California (February 12, 2018) --- On February 24, Latinas/xs will congregate for the first Reproductive Justice speak-out, “Healing our Hearts: a night of Latina/x storytelling,” a storytelling event focused on the stories of a community whose health, sexuality, and reproduction continue to be stigmatized. With over seven million Latinas making-up more than one-third of California’s female population, Latinas in the state continue to be twice as likely as white women to report not having ongoing access to health care and foregoing needed and preventative medical care.

“Healing our Hearts” turns its attention to the reproductive justice stories of Latinas/xs focusing on the intersection between their lived experiences and their well-being. From forced sterilization, to young parenting, miscarriage, abortion, body-image, gender and sexuality, to migration, when reported-on, the stories of Latinas/xs are often told outside the socio-political-economic-environmental context that are at the root of their experiences.

“Healing our Hearts” will bring together community, artists, and musicians including the poetry duo Chingona Fire and the all-female vinyl DJ club, Chulita Vinyl Club creating space to share, listen, empower, and celebrate a community that continues to be attacked, stereotyped, and vilified by the current administration.



“We are thrilled to offer a free event like this to the community, where we can find those stories often ignored by the media,” said Laura Jiménez, Executive Director for California Latinas for Reproductive Justice. “At a time when Hollywood is being forced to look at its lack of inclusion, the #metoo campaign, and when our families are continuing to be terrorized and torn apart, we are no longer waiting for our stories to be told, we are creating our own space to tell them.”

California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ) began collecting the reproductive justice stories of the Latina/x community in California in 2014 through their Speaking Story project. The project seeks to create cultural shift in public narratives of Latinas/xs by uplifting our own collective reproductive justice stories. CLRJ’s Speaking Story project aims to become a repository for Latina/x reproductive justice stories where Latinas/xs, their families, and their communities can find themselves and their experiences. Through a grant from California Humanities, CLRJ has collected over fifty stories that will soon be available digitally on their website. “Healing our Hearts” will take back some of these stories to the Latina/x community.

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About California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ)

CLRJ is a statewide organization committed to honoring the experiences of Latinas to uphold our dignity, our bodies, sexuality, and families. We build Latinas’/xs’ power and cultivate leadership through community education, policy advocacy, and community informed research to achieve Reproductive Justice. Learn more about California Latinas for Reproductive Justice at www.californialatinas.org

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