

Adriana “Nana” Garcia interview
August 7, 2024
De Anza College Summer 2024
Steve Nava interviewer
Spaces of Belonging Project: Hidden in Plain Site/Sight
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Link to interview:

[Zoom link recording: xxx](#)

Summary:

Adriana Garcia is a local community organizer and activist known for her work in the San Jose’s Chicax community. In this interview she recalls her leadership development having attended grade school in Mexico and the rest of her education in the United States during time of attacks on the immigrant community in San Jose and beyond. Prop 187 and ____ were attacks on the immigrant communities and Adriana also known as Nana and by some, La Patriota, recalls learning to be an advocate during *these difficult times*. *Having been mentored by San Jose State University professors and local community organizers, she shares about what she learned and the spaces that cultivated her activist identity and role as liaison between communities.*

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00:00:02.420 --> 00:00:07.360

Steve Nava: Alright. Good morning. So today we're interviewing Adriana E. Garcia.

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00:00:07.710 --> 00:00:12.469

Steve Nava: And my first question for you as we start is, can you tell us

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00:00:12.490 --> 00:00:16.220

Steve Nava: your birthday, and tell us a little bit about yourself.

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00:00:18.360 --> 00:00:25.340

Adriana: Morning. My name is Adriana Garcia. My birthday is February 4, 20,

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00:00:26.092 --> 00:00:27.720

Adriana: not February...

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00:00:28.510 --> 00:00:31.489

Adriana: February 4, 1979.

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00:00:33.120 --> 00:00:33.680

Steve Nava: O.K.

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00:00:34.590 --> 00:00:38.180

Steve Nava: So what are some of the roles that you play in your communities?

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00:00:39.170 --> 00:00:40.020

Adriana: Yeah.

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00:00:45.474 --> 00:00:51.909

Adriana: so many roles one is a mama.

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00:00:52.020 --> 00:00:56.266

Adriana: It has been front and center for me of a 11-year old.

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00:00:57.210 --> 00:01:09.238

Adriana: The other has been lately in post Covid, or we're not post covid, but since Covid, I should say more of a strategist.

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00:01:10.210 --> 00:01:19.560

Adriana: with with how folks approach local work, either cultural work or political work grassroots in

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00:01:19.760 --> 00:01:22.046

Adriana: civil electoral

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00:01:23.570 --> 00:01:24.550

Adriana: and

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00:01:25.920 --> 00:01:27.406

Adriana: also just

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00:01:29.520 --> 00:01:32.248

Adriana: being able to do.

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00:01:33.300 --> 00:01:34.775

Adriana: what do you call it

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00:01:35.870 --> 00:01:48.189

Adriana: a organ organizing on small scale. I guess you can say so. Gathering of people around sharing of thoughts and ideas in the ways of making San Jose better.

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00:01:50.190 --> 00:01:57.950

Adriana: And then I would say, a fundraiser or philanthropist like I. I do small scale

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00:01:57.980 --> 00:02:06.619

Adriana: either fundraisers or and and fundraisers, meaning like traditional like event production. But also

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00:02:07.299 --> 00:02:17.840

Adriana: email, right? Like, let me email some folks. And let's gather you all. And let's fundraise for for an organization or for a candidate.

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00:02:18.320 --> 00:02:22.929

Adriana: I am a member of the Santa Clara County waste of coalition.

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00:02:23.400 --> 00:02:30.079

Adriana: and I am a co-founder of my lease. Which was created in 2,003

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00:02:31.760 --> 00:02:36.589

Adriana: And that's what I'm known mostly known for. With my east work

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00:02:37.340 --> 00:02:43.379

Adriana: and I'm an artist. I do art, I do multiple levels of art as well.

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00:02:43.600 --> 00:02:46.130

Adriana: So those are some things that are present for me right now.

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00:02:46.750 --> 00:02:47.370

Steve Nava: Yeah.

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00:02:47.890 --> 00:02:54.550

Steve Nava: Can you tell us a little bit about your family background like where you were born? What was it like growing up during the time and place of your childhood.

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00:02:55.080 --> 00:02:59.429

Adriana: Yeah. I was born in San Jose

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00:02:59.500 --> 00:03:02.279

Adriana: in Valley Medical Center.

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00:03:02.820 --> 00:03:08.420

Adriana: In a time where my mom did not get any. What would be considered

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00:03:08.460 --> 00:03:15.360

Adriana: culturally responsive care. It was English speaking nurses and doctors and staff.

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00:03:15.450 --> 00:03:18.040

Adriana: When she delivered me, she tells me

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00:03:18.250 --> 00:03:23.722

Adriana: very clearly that was her experience giving birth in

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00:03:24.370 --> 00:03:26.898

Adriana: non, what do you call it?

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00:03:28.290 --> 00:03:32.859

Adriana: non bilingual world, or non Spanish speaking world.

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00:03:33.200 --> 00:03:34.100

Adriana: And

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00:03:35.030 --> 00:03:37.069

Adriana: that's important for me as

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00:03:37.200 --> 00:03:39.910

Adriana: a mom to understand just

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00:03:40.150 --> 00:03:51.259

Adriana: how important it is to give birth to create life in in a comfortable way that calls you home. And that's 1 of those things. System language.

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00:03:52.890 --> 00:03:55.310

Adriana: We migrated to Mexico

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00:03:55.550 --> 00:03:57.409

Adriana: when I was like 2

44

00:03:58.800 --> 00:03:59.959

Adriana: or 3,

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00:04:00.420 --> 00:04:03.320

Adriana: and we lived in Mexico

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00:04:03.400 --> 00:04:05.879

Adriana: for a few years a couple years

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00:04:06.480 --> 00:04:07.305

Adriana: in

48

00:04:09.110 --> 00:04:11.029

Adriana: We grew up in

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00:04:11.100 --> 00:04:18.490

Adriana: my dad's gramp, you know my dad's dad's house, and we grew up in my mom's grandparents house.

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00:04:18.560 --> 00:04:19.779

Adriana: My

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00:04:19.829 --> 00:04:24.150

Adriana: dad's mom had already passed away by the time we moved back.

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00:04:24.420 --> 00:04:26.729

Adriana: So that's why I say it's my

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00:04:26.760 --> 00:04:29.489

Adriana: grand, my paternal grandpa's house right

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00:04:29.926 --> 00:04:36.829

Adriana: and then we grew up in my maternal grandparents home. I in a town like that's like

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00:04:37.270 --> 00:04:41.570

Adriana: 10 min away. I would even say 5 min away

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00:04:42.494 --> 00:04:44.310

Adriana: from my dad's town

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00:04:44.320 --> 00:04:51.269

Adriana: and my dad's town is Los Arrows, near here. My mom's town is Elasnó

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00:04:51.640 --> 00:04:56.689

Adriana: and it's also a small town near here. Sacatecas.

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00:04:58.044 --> 00:05:06.189

Adriana: Eventually my dad comes back he builds a house, and in the architecture of an American style house.

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00:05:06.290 --> 00:05:15.760

Adriana: right? Which is the American style, is usually coming to a home, and there's a living room, and then you make yourself into the hallway where the bedrooms are at.

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00:05:15.770 --> 00:05:18.586

Adriana: and then the kitchen's more like in the back.

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00:05:19.680 --> 00:05:40.580

Adriana: And it is very different from the local Mexican houses, because usually you come into and and this is depending on class. I have learned about how people create their homes. But you come in and you will find what's called the the Saigon, I think you call it an English foyer foyer.

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00:05:41.250 --> 00:05:49.770

Adriana: and then you go into the bedrooms, and then you go into a patio, and I don't know that's a Spanish thing, dynamic

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00:05:50.390 --> 00:05:51.769

Adriana: or maybe a

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00:05:52.440 --> 00:06:04.409

Adriana: a Arabic Moorish architecture, and then you'll find the kitchen towards like you go outside before you go inside the kitchen, the bathroom, and other extra

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00:06:05.870 --> 00:06:07.789

Adriana: a bedroom, snow

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00:06:09.150 --> 00:06:17.230

Adriana: and we lived there for a little bit. We had no working bathroom at the time, although it did have a bathroom. We still had to go outside and use

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00:06:18.010 --> 00:06:32.039

Adriana: an outdoor bathroom. I'm sure there's a word around that. I forgot what it what's called but for all that time we grew up very humble and very rural, and very non modern.

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00:06:32.558 --> 00:06:34.450

Adriana: I also grew up with

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00:06:35.190 --> 00:06:39.200

Adriana: the the what's called the corral by the house, the

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00:06:40.530 --> 00:06:41.620

Adriana: the

72

00:06:42.780 --> 00:06:50.729

Adriana: the place where you house your animals. So we had cows and chickens and goats and sheep pigs

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00:06:51.892 --> 00:06:56.389

Adriana: and maybe a mula or 2

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00:06:56.590 --> 00:06:58.240

Adriana: maybe a horse, too.

75

00:06:59.153 --> 00:07:01.470

Adriana: Like close to that house.

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00:07:01.610 --> 00:07:03.309

Adriana: So it's your house, and it's the.

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00:07:03.310 --> 00:07:04.090

Steve Nava: And sweet.

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00:07:04.090 --> 00:07:05.170

Adriana: How's the animal?

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00:07:05.370 --> 00:07:07.250

Steve Nava: Can you pause real quick, just real quick.

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00:07:08.310 --> 00:07:09.110

Adriana: Back in.

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00:07:10.290 --> 00:07:15.970

Adriana: By the way, I can't hear any noise in the background. It doesn't pretty good like that. Huh?

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00:07:17.680 --> 00:07:26.949

Adriana: I also, you know, in in growing up like that in Mexico, in a very rural setting. It gave me, I feel like

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00:07:28.500 --> 00:07:45.980

Adriana: a a deep understanding, and like a love for big families like we had multi generational families living in the same 2 to 3 bedroom flick or 2 bedroom. Actually, like. We just figured out how to all live together.

84

00:07:46.230 --> 00:08:04.020

Adriana: and it gave me an appreciation for animal life. And and being able to witness, like how, from baby creation to how we would kill it for a baking signeta about this or a wedding and we would all participate in the process process. It was a division of labor when it came to

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00:08:04.370 --> 00:08:13.050

Adriana: killing the pig or the cow or the sheep, and we all had a process in regards to dissecting and cleaning and

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00:08:13.541 --> 00:08:19.830

Adriana: and I say that all those details, because it's so important. I I feel like we are more less

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00:08:20.550 --> 00:08:26.243

Adriana: or yeah, we're less connected to animal life. It also gave me a love for land in

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00:08:26.580 --> 00:08:31.119

Adriana: really loving land, and and understanding that owning your land is so important

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00:08:32.909 --> 00:08:41.919

Adriana: So then we ended up my dad, by the way, left us there. So he he made the house, and then he came back and left us there in our new home.

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00:08:43.570 --> 00:08:48.510

Adriana: and in our our very modernized home, for at that time.

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00:08:48.910 --> 00:08:51.567

Adriana: And then he came back one more time.

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00:08:52.200 --> 00:08:53.490

Adriana: A.

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00:08:53.650 --> 00:08:56.389

Adriana: And and it was to bring us back.

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00:08:56.730 --> 00:09:01.160

Adriana: Why did he leave why did he leave us? Was because there was a drought.

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00:09:01.170 --> 00:09:04.598

Adriana: There was a water drought, and we could not

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00:09:05.330 --> 00:09:09.180

Adriana: carve plant grow harvest.

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00:09:10.100 --> 00:09:17.121

Adriana: The peaches! So we had! We have 4 acres, 4 acres of peaches, peach orchards, and

98

00:09:17.810 --> 00:09:24.969

Adriana: There was no water to grow it. So that's why he left to go work. Come back for us, and then we eventually left

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00:09:27.300 --> 00:09:34.499

Adriana: and that's a whole story in itself. But we migrated. We migrated back to San Jose and stayed with an auntie at first, st

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00:09:34.510 --> 00:09:41.430

Adriana: and then we stayed in the area known as Jeannie Avenue, which is by 24th and Williams area.

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00:09:43.913 --> 00:09:50.776

Adriana: and and then from there, you know, did the American thing, and went to schools and

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00:09:51.900 --> 00:09:58.150

Adriana: try to immerse ourselves into American society in as much as I feel we were sheltered.

103

00:09:58.602 --> 00:10:05.649

Adriana: I did only listen for the most part to Spanish only media. And you know, I ended up going to

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00:10:05.760 --> 00:10:08.819

Adriana: Mckinley Elementary School and fair.

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00:10:08.840 --> 00:10:15.529

Adriana: I think it's now known as Bridges Academy, and then we went to San Jose High, and then San Jose State University.

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00:10:16.338 --> 00:10:25.290

Adriana: But yeah. So those are some things that that did occur. And I I hold memories so fondly of my upbringing as a small child.

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00:10:25.648 --> 00:10:36.739

Adriana: And that the migration we made I have to say it was hard for me. It was definitely hard for me. I did not speak English, so creating a sense of belonging was through art.

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00:10:36.810 --> 00:10:43.738

Adriana: By the time that I migrated I'd already gone through what's known as Tk preschool.

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00:10:44.750 --> 00:10:47.360

Adriana: a kindergarten 1st grade

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00:10:47.930 --> 00:10:53.050

Adriana: and I discovered when I migrated here, that I was actually very smart and very creative

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00:10:53.491 --> 00:10:57.348

Adriana: and I want to say that was because of Mexico's educational system.

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00:10:57.750 --> 00:11:02.109

Adriana: I had done every type of art possible before I migrated

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00:11:02.240 --> 00:11:09.850

Adriana: in art. Once I migrated, created a sense of belonging, and that included even my my makeshift

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00:11:11.030 --> 00:11:11.690

Adriana: sketchbook

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00:11:11.770 --> 00:11:15.880

Adriana: in my journal, because I had no way of communicating

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00:11:15.960 --> 00:11:22.500

Adriana: with with folks who spoke English and or was bullied for not knowing English. And so

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00:11:22.520 --> 00:11:30.889

Adriana: what do you do? You speak with creative ways that do not have to do with language as a way to humanize yourself back again.

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00:11:32.380 --> 00:11:34.510

Adriana: And so eventually.

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00:11:35.360 --> 00:11:37.880

Adriana: It wasn't probably until.

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00:11:37.990 --> 00:11:44.430

Adriana: if it wasn't i i want to say, if it wasn't for bilingual teachers in that K through 5 experience.

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00:11:44.720 --> 00:11:49.500

Adriana: I would. I probably yeah. Other than that. I didn't have a sense of belonging

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00:11:49.580 --> 00:11:51.520

Adriana: within the school system.

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00:11:52.040 --> 00:12:03.442

Adriana: Within family. I. I grew up in a heavily migrant neighborhood with people that are that were from Los Aires or from nearby towns near Los Aires

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00:12:03.900 --> 00:12:13.110

Adriana: or with people that also came from more rural Mexico. And I think, you know, playing outside in the neighborhood party we partied

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00:12:13.220 --> 00:12:16.971

Adriana: people's birthdays, like the whole neighborhood, came like

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00:12:17.540 --> 00:12:20.779

Adriana: very neighborly. It was very neighborly when people had parties.

127

00:12:21.736 --> 00:12:23.590

Adriana: barbecues, Carnesalas.

128

00:12:24.090 --> 00:12:25.300

Adriana: and

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00:12:25.650 --> 00:12:27.020

Adriana: but this was

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00:12:27.390 --> 00:12:29.290

Adriana: everything was in the backyard.

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00:12:29.350 --> 00:12:35.749

Adriana: Right? We were support. We cannot afford a hall or things of that sort at that time. Eventually we we could and we did.

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00:12:36.520 --> 00:12:39.830

Adriana: And then. You know, when it came to like

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00:12:40.970 --> 00:12:44.710

Adriana: being able to create a sense of belonging like in community.

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00:12:45.160 --> 00:12:46.769

Adriana: I would say

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00:12:47.800 --> 00:12:49.442

Adriana: it really clicked

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00:12:50.510 --> 00:13:03.519

Adriana: When I was in high school, and I was asked to be the president of the like at the Latino Club. At that time it was called the Spanish club, and there were, and there was another club called the Cinco de Mayo Club

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00:13:03.720 --> 00:13:04.575

Adriana: and

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00:13:06.020 --> 00:13:10.269

Adriana: The Spanish Club eventually changed its name through

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00:13:10.706 --> 00:13:16.719

Adriana: after I was president. My brother, who's 1 year younger, became president, and he changed the name to the Latino Club.

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00:13:17.421 --> 00:13:25.100

Adriana: Which is good for him always. The it was through those clubs. And it was through the

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00:13:25.410 --> 00:13:26.590

Adriana: activism

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00:13:27.110 --> 00:13:31.240

Adriana: of those clubs. Particularly the point of

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00:13:31.430 --> 00:13:33.120

Adriana: point in history of

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00:13:33.690 --> 00:13:36.090

Adriana: combating prop 1 87,

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00:13:36.370 --> 00:13:38.010

Adriana: that really

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00:13:41.470 --> 00:13:44.989

Adriana: what became a catalyst for me to create a sense of belonging

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00:13:46.040 --> 00:13:47.200

Adriana: politically.

148

00:13:47.852 --> 00:13:51.840

Adriana: I do wanna honor my experience in creating a sense of belonging

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00:13:51.980 --> 00:13:59.589

Adriana: also through through gangs. I was in gangs in middle school, and that's what created a sense of belonging

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00:14:00.030 --> 00:14:09.009

Adriana: in a time. Where I went to fair, and I was tracked in Esl classes, even though by then I could fully speak English

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00:14:09.040 --> 00:14:10.609

Adriana: by 6th grade.

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00:14:11.050 --> 00:14:14.310

Adriana: and then in a a pivot or

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00:14:15.130 --> 00:14:26.260

Adriana: something that ha! That marked my understanding and identity. In my consciousness of racism is that in the middle 7th grade I went to Hoover Middle School.

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00:14:26.701 --> 00:14:29.910

Adriana: and learned that I was an honor student.

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00:14:30.060 --> 00:14:32.132

Adriana: It was placed in

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00:14:32.900 --> 00:14:35.429

Adriana: right in higher learning

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00:14:35.660 --> 00:14:39.729

Adriana: or optimal learning experiences at Hoover Middle School.

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00:14:39.980 --> 00:14:41.110

Adriana: Compared to

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00:14:41.230 --> 00:14:56.519

Adriana: being tracked in Esl, doing trade type of electives like wood and carpentry, wood, carpentry, and art. Then I went to Hoover, and I was doing other type of electives was challenged intellectually.

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00:14:56.560 --> 00:14:59.499

Adriana: Meantime I was in gangs in both

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00:15:00.290 --> 00:15:01.940

Adriana: fair and in

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00:15:02.300 --> 00:15:09.000

Adriana: Hoover particularly with Sulenos, and I identify with Sulenos because of our

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00:15:09.150 --> 00:15:11.862

Adriana: being 1st Gen. Migrants.

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00:15:12.770 --> 00:15:20.719

Adriana: having Spanish being our native, and mostly use language. We we love

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00:15:22.200 --> 00:15:28.529

Adriana: Mexican music and things of that sort. Right. So I think

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00:15:28.650 --> 00:15:43.320

Adriana: I created the belonging through gangs. In middle school, really. And once I got to high school, and you know, teachers saw the light in me said, You're gonna be, or you know, are you open to being well? She kind of did delegate being president of the clubs.

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00:15:43.780 --> 00:15:50.669

Adriana: and I just say, sure. I think I had some self awareness potential of my leadership

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00:15:50.850 --> 00:15:55.579

Adriana: because of the leadership that I did provide while I was in gangs in middle school.

169

00:15:57.780 --> 00:16:02.790

Adriana: yeah. So those are some ways I created a sense of belonging as a young person.

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00:16:02.860 --> 00:16:06.960

Adriana: And do I talk about sense of belonging as an older person.

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00:16:07.810 --> 00:16:08.940

Adriana: Wait. So.

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00:16:08.940 --> 00:16:14.049

Steve Nava: Next question is, tell us about your teenage years, and what was it like for you to navigate that period?

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00:16:14.110 --> 00:16:30.730

Steve Nava: Were there particular groups that you identify with, and that you connected to in the development of your identity. You kind of answered that already, with some of the your discussion about being involved with surrenrios, but also clubs and leadership on campus.

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00:16:31.290 --> 00:16:31.849

Adriana: Yeah, maybe.

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00:16:31.850 --> 00:16:33.990

Steve Nava: Are there other things that you feel like

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00:16:34.130 --> 00:16:37.834

Steve Nava: you were also connected to in terms of being a teenager and really

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00:16:39.211 --> 00:16:42.469

Steve Nava: you know, navigating those years

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00:16:42.660 --> 00:16:45.520

Steve Nava: with. With some people you identify with.

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00:16:46.670 --> 00:16:56.279

Adriana: Sure. So by becoming president of the clubs. And by getting politically activated through prop, 187

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00:16:56.908 --> 00:17:00.020

Adriana: and because of my association with Soreno gangs.

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00:17:00.860 --> 00:17:09.160

Adriana: I I literally ended up organizing with another friend who it was considered or considered herself in, or Tenia.

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00:17:09.180 --> 00:17:20.109

Adriana: So she organized the Nortenos, and I organized the Serenos to walk out of the High School out of San Jose High Academy in protest of Prop. 187, because there was this one thing

183

00:17:20.230 --> 00:17:31.001

Adriana: that even even though Nortenos well for me, were considered more like second, 3, rd 4th generation Mexicans, right? They they have created.

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00:17:31.600 --> 00:17:39.129

Adriana: the families have already been here for a while. They were more English, speaking. At least that's how I distinguished

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00:17:39.628 --> 00:17:48.459

Adriana: that they were also impacted by something like Prop 187 that they also were upset like, why is, you know this

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00:17:48.520 --> 00:17:51.069

Adriana: Pete Wilson hating on our people right

187

00:17:51.080 --> 00:17:55.359

Adriana: and and it was enough it was not motivation

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00:17:55.420 --> 00:17:57.609

Adriana: for for my friend.

189

00:17:58.930 --> 00:18:10.029

Adriana: who, like me, were daughters of farm workers, and that's how me and her connected in class. Learning that history and learning that about each other personally.

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00:18:10.415 --> 00:18:20.489

Adriana: Allowed us to be able to talk to each other, even though we were in opposite gangs. And enough to organize the walk out. And mind you, sounds say, Hi is like.

191

00:18:21.370 --> 00:18:30.340

Adriana: I don't know 60% latino like. And of that. A lot of them were gangsters and or were affiliated, or have friends.

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00:18:30.833 --> 00:18:31.720

Adriana: And then

193

00:18:31.810 --> 00:18:37.749

Adriana: we just were able to organize as well during the day. In protest. It was a statewide

194

00:18:38.090 --> 00:18:39.360

Adriana: They walk out

195

00:18:39.560 --> 00:18:48.500

Adriana: then. With with that it also helped me transition from a gang identity to a more community service identity

196

00:18:49.390 --> 00:18:53.039

Adriana: and with time.

197

00:18:53.050 --> 00:18:56.725

Adriana: you know, I was able to organize.

198

00:18:58.180 --> 00:19:08.919

Adriana: what do you call it? Events rallies culturally specific rallies. I I feel like this high school time really became a foundational aspect of who

199

00:19:09.240 --> 00:19:18.320

Adriana: who I am. I was practicing cultural humility and equity before it was a thing like I really learned how to do that in high school.

200

00:19:18.876 --> 00:19:29.363

Adriana: So we we would organize school dances that we would bring Banda music and broken Espanol and Northeano music, right Cojunto music.

201

00:19:30.560 --> 00:19:32.839

Adriana: and we. It was some of the

202

00:19:33.290 --> 00:19:55.370

Adriana: like biggest dances, and it brought in major money for our clubs, which means we were able to do a lot more with our money on a community level. It meant that we were able to provide more scholarships for our students, too. So it was not just for the club to have fun and to organize other events. I think we ended up doing like International

203

00:19:55.500 --> 00:20:00.400

Adriana: pride or International Celebration Week. During Cinco Dema Week.

204

00:20:00.799 --> 00:20:04.300

Adriana: Which I resent because Cinco de Mayo was such

205

00:20:04.800 --> 00:20:11.810

Adriana: a culturally specific way to celebrate our culture encounter what I didn't know at the time, but

206

00:20:11.830 --> 00:20:16.559

Adriana: in in the way that I was created right. It was to counter the commercial commercialization.

207

00:20:16.690 --> 00:20:34.290

Adriana: commercial conversation. They could do that in in the way that the Beers were saying. Have you cinco de Mayo party? Right? And we're like no cinco de Mayo is actually an act of a historical act of resistance. And so

208

00:20:34.730 --> 00:20:37.220

Adriana: This dances became such a

209

00:20:37.450 --> 00:20:50.370

Adriana: cool thing in our campus, and and then eventually the other events that we provided like Spanish speaking. Only karaoke events, or that's what I remember as well. And eventually

210

00:20:50.826 --> 00:20:56.470

Adriana: college tours. We would do college tours, and we and we would also. Then

211

00:20:56.740 --> 00:21:12.950

Adriana: I started affiliating with community organizations professional associations, with with the that are business oriented or like Hispanic journalists, or something, or Hispanic Business Chamber of Commerce.

212

00:21:13.010 --> 00:21:18.210

Adriana: because then we would be able to go to this gala dinners, fancy dinners.

213

00:21:18.470 --> 00:21:27.320

Adriana: and then us as students got to experience a whole life outside of the barrio no and got to then connect with professionals who

214

00:21:27.340 --> 00:21:31.191

Adriana: had careers and things that they were passionate about

215

00:21:31.940 --> 00:21:35.289

Adriana: so that those things were important for me as we created

216

00:21:35.665 --> 00:21:39.569

Adriana: sense of belonging for all of us, a whole bunch of us

217

00:21:39.670 --> 00:21:45.540

Adriana: that eventually led me to be presidents of other clubs beyond the brown spaces

218

00:21:46.940 --> 00:22:07.850

Adriana: and that included, like the President of the California Federation Scholarship Club, the vice president of the student body for the junior class. So, things like that, and then the captain for cross country. So it helped me develop my leadership in that in multiple spaces.

219

00:22:08.303 --> 00:22:27.090

Adriana: How to also just get along with different organizations as a way to bring the campus together, both for school spirit or for like community work, because the racism did not stop with 187, as we know other props. It were paths that were really harmful for us, like Prop 2, 2, 7, and 209.

220

00:22:27.618 --> 00:22:48.660

Adriana: Eventually with that in mind. I met the amazing [Sofia Mendoza](#) through the School Site Council Meeting, which is another way. I participated as a leader, student leader, and she took me under her wing and helped me. Really understand the connections between, like.

221

00:22:48.710 --> 00:22:51.019

Adriana: you know, or the impact right, that my

222

00:22:51.170 --> 00:23:00.289

Adriana: young student leadership can provide for a community. And it and it started with her, and then eventually [Gil Joseph Villagran](#), who was also part of the School Site

223

00:23:00.300 --> 00:23:06.419

Adriana: Council Meeting, who's a social worker and was a Professor, in San Jose State.

224

00:23:07.820 --> 00:23:12.232

Adriana: I don't think he's longer teaching anymore. But he was also like

225

00:23:12.950 --> 00:23:23.539

Adriana: like a community journalist, he would write a lot about what's happening in the community, but also what's happening around the world and making the connections he wrote for El Observador.

226

00:23:23.700 --> 00:23:29.860

Adriana: But under their leadership I ended up help creating a conference to address gangs.

227

00:23:29.890 --> 00:23:34.070

Adriana: I think it was in like 1996 or 97 in MACSA

228

00:23:34.120 --> 00:23:36.170

Adriana: and [MACSA Community Youth Center](#)

229

00:23:36.665 --> 00:23:39.569

Adriana: and it was very youth led

230

00:23:40.030 --> 00:23:46.750

Adriana: youth oriented? We brought in youth together, and we also brought community folks together to help

231

00:23:47.648 --> 00:24:07.651

Adriana: create ideas for how to address gangs in San Jose, and also brought resources and information and the latest statistics about how it was impacting, particularly Latino youth. And so that was the start of you know, also another layer of my leadership in community while still

232

00:24:08.390 --> 00:24:11.940

Adriana: a maintaining my leadership on campus

233

00:24:12.010 --> 00:24:29.600

Adriana: in as much as my leadership in community with my identity as that of a former gang member, and then also my new, my newer identity in regards to political activism. Eventually I was named

234

00:24:30.089 --> 00:24:47.419

Adriana: [La Patriota](#), which means the Patriot. And yes, it's a very Nationalist title, but people felt that I was always in my Mexican pride, and that I was always protective of anything Mexican. And of course there was many things that were threatened right? Our identity, particularly in our

235

00:24:47.470 --> 00:24:50.550

Adriana: our, our racial identity. And

236

00:24:50.640 --> 00:24:56.989

Adriana: and there was things that were the messaging right was particularly in an attack against Mexican migrants.

237

00:24:57.896 --> 00:24:59.170

Adriana: And so

238

00:24:59.250 --> 00:25:21.368

Adriana: I I yeah, I always carry. I carry my Mexican flag on my sleeve, as they say. Eventually. All those things. Oh, and also then at that time, you know, was still continuing my art form and poetry being one and learning instruments was another

239

00:25:22.000 --> 00:25:25.559

Adriana: I had. I'd been part of the jazz band in middle school.

240

00:25:25.610 --> 00:25:39.779

Adriana: but in high school I went from the jazz band and eventually theater. I also met another elder, [Felix Alvarez](#), who was part of the Teatro Campesino, and did a theater skit around a

241

00:25:40.200 --> 00:25:44.620

Adriana: prevention or intervention of tobacco smoking for youth.

242

00:25:46.200 --> 00:25:51.749

Adriana: And so then they, you know, cultural activism, right or activism. I think it's called now.

243

00:25:52.425 --> 00:25:55.400

Adriana: So doing, meeting the elders

244

00:25:56.180 --> 00:25:58.660

Adriana: in that a time of

245

00:25:59.510 --> 00:26:03.821

Adriana: threat to community of color communities of color,

246

00:26:05.360 --> 00:26:08.130

Adriana: joining clubs and

247

00:26:08.490 --> 00:26:10.460

Adriana: doing the community work

248

00:26:11.060 --> 00:26:15.560

Adriana: really transformed who I was and who I eventually

249

00:26:15.810 --> 00:26:20.710

Adriana: became. Once I went into college. You know, it really.

250

00:26:20.750 --> 00:26:22.535

Adriana: really inform me.

251

00:26:24.450 --> 00:26:34.029

Adriana: my identity and my consciousness and my way of thinking. And it offered me a sense of belonging like.

252

00:26:34.200 --> 00:26:45.679

Adriana: I feel like it's gold, like, like, we don't have those experiences as much anymore. And particularly in in those experiences. I mean intergenerational spaces, where you have an elder

253

00:26:46.110 --> 00:26:47.450

Adriana: who's 60,

254

00:26:48.180 --> 00:26:49.939

Adriana: with the

255

00:26:49.970 --> 00:26:56.949

Adriana: 40 year old, with a 20 year old, with a 15 year old, like those spaces are hard to come by right now, and

256

00:26:57.350 --> 00:27:00.239

Adriana: and I'm mindful I'm mindful that Covid.

257

00:27:00.890 --> 00:27:05.399

Adriana: really, I feel anchored us into like.

258

00:27:05.510 --> 00:27:10.390

Adriana: who are we? Who are people. And what am I going to do? One step at a time?

259

00:27:10.540 --> 00:27:17.310

Adriana: But I do. I'm a believer in the collective, and I believe we have a lot of work to do. To go back

260

00:27:17.610 --> 00:27:25.430

Adriana: to lean into those intergenerational spaces because we get to learn from each other, and that diversity of art

261

00:27:25.640 --> 00:27:27.469

Adriana: will actually be.

262

00:27:28.490 --> 00:27:33.417

Adriana: has been historically been, and will continue to be,

263

00:27:33.930 --> 00:27:37.489

Adriana: The salvation of our people struggle to create a better world.

264

00:27:40.190 --> 00:27:47.589

Steve Nava: So can you talk a little bit more about when you were given the name la Patriota like, how old were you. And

265

00:27:47.840 --> 00:27:49.919

Steve Nava: how did that shape?

266

00:27:50.180 --> 00:27:55.199

Steve Nava: Kind of what you were envisioning about your future as an activism?

267

00:27:57.450 --> 00:27:58.750

Adriana: I mean, repeat it again.

268

00:27:59.060 --> 00:28:04.530

Steve Nava: Oh, so the name La Patriota is the name that was given to you. How old were you when you got that name? And

269

00:28:04.890 --> 00:28:08.139

Steve Nava: how did that shape your vision of the future, of your work?

270

00:28:09.870 --> 00:28:17.720

Adriana: Well, the name was more of like I feel was complimentary to the work that I was already doing. It.

271

00:28:18.340 --> 00:28:20.780

Adriana: It happened to be around.

272

00:28:20.900 --> 00:28:24.550

Adriana: So because of my leadership.

273

00:28:24.930 --> 00:28:32.729

Adriana: and because of the high population at San Jose High, there was diversity among the Spanish speaking population. So you had like.

274

00:28:32.910 --> 00:28:40.609

Adriana: like, what's you know what happens in high school? Right? You have the segregation thing going on, based on race or based on music, or based on

275

00:28:40.630 --> 00:28:49.970

Adriana: hobbies or passions. Right? So, yes, we did have the hip hop circle. We have the athletes, and we have the Gothic.

276

00:28:50.310 --> 00:28:54.099

Adriana: But within this the Latino community we had, like

277

00:28:54.320 --> 00:28:56.199

Adriana: the Latinos, they're like Banda.

278

00:28:56.350 --> 00:29:11.840

Adriana: We had the ESL group of students. Then we had the Rock and Espanol students. Then we had the Latinos who love freestyle right and so, because of those circles, I think

279

00:29:13.800 --> 00:29:16.670

Adriana: la Patriota was a name that

280

00:29:16.730 --> 00:29:21.020

Adriana: that the broken Espanol community Park particularly gave me.

281

00:29:21.040 --> 00:29:23.480

Adriana: and that openness when your community

282

00:29:24.000 --> 00:29:25.170

Adriana: tends to be.

283

00:29:25.590 --> 00:29:27.600

Adriana: I want to say, more conscious.

284

00:29:27.770 --> 00:29:29.190

Adriana: Then the other

285

00:29:29.360 --> 00:29:32.030

Adriana: music, affiliated student groups.

286

00:29:32.050 --> 00:29:41.259

Adriana: because rock-en-español is, or rock is already an act of rebellion, musically, and within rock-en-español.

287

00:29:41.700 --> 00:29:51.369

Adriana: and the music is conscious, like the groups coming out talk about social justice! Talk about how change is needed.

288

00:29:51.866 --> 00:29:53.323

Adriana: At that time.

289

00:29:53.990 --> 00:29:58.717

Adriana: I was listening to *Juaguares*

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00:29:59.430 --> 00:30:02.370

Adriana: And who else was I listening to.

291

00:30:02.500 --> 00:30:09.669

Adriana: or *Caifanes* before? You know *Caifanes* is what it was called before *Jaguares*

292

00:30:09.680 --> 00:30:16.089

Adriana: within that we were also listening to Reggae and Reggae tends to be very justice oriented

293

00:30:16.598 --> 00:30:27.120

Adriana: conscious and collective oriented music. So it's to no surprise now that I understand music in its consciousness.

294

00:30:28.870 --> 00:30:31.049

Adriana: That the rock-en-español student.

295

00:30:31.190 --> 00:30:35.480

Adriana: a crew like gave me La Patriota as a name.

296

00:30:35.540 --> 00:30:39.070

Adriana: and the naming itself. Stayed with me.

297

00:30:39.140 --> 00:30:48.360

Adriana: and as I used it in when I was, I don't know. 2021, 22, because then I became a spoken word poet at that time.

298

00:30:48.670 --> 00:30:54.739

Adriana: and what I mean by speaking with poet meaning. Yes, I perform. But I also got to do

299

00:30:55.180 --> 00:30:58.229

Adriana: amazing work in the community

300

00:30:58.290 --> 00:30:59.260

Adriana: beyond.

301

00:31:01.130 --> 00:31:07.359

Adriana: the spoken word scene, and beyond the college scene, where it was mostly taken up at.

302

00:31:07.690 --> 00:31:36.470

Adriana: I was able to perform at community social justice events, I was able to travel and perform to Canada, to Mexico, to the Philippines, and able to use that, but by my local name, because everybody, particularly hip, hop in hip, hop! You always have like a name an Mc. Name right and mind you, in my spoken word, I did a little bit of Spanish rapping. And so

303

00:31:36.570 --> 00:31:48.540

Adriana: my Mc name was. So it both carried from my activism in a school in a high school and into my cultural activism in the community.

304

00:31:49.012 --> 00:31:58.427

Adriana: as a college student and beyond. Once I graduate, once I was in sound state, and then once I graduated sound state. That name stayed.

305

00:31:58.880 --> 00:32:01.740

Adriana: But yeah, I would say.

306

00:32:02.190 --> 00:32:04.040

Adriana: that's how the name was able to.

307

00:32:04.500 --> 00:32:14.029

Adriana: That particular link was able to contribute to my cultural political or activism identity. And for all those you know 10, 15 years.

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00:32:14.230 --> 00:32:17.310

Adriana: not recently, most recently, I was at

309

00:32:18.010 --> 00:32:22.390

Adriana: Aztec dance practice. I go sometimes.

310

00:32:22.590 --> 00:32:33.499

Adriana: just to be in the spirit of aesthetic dancing, because I love it so much. But my legs can't. Do not allow me to dance due to pain. But

311

00:32:33.864 --> 00:32:37.050

Adriana: I join it, and somebody was there. They're like

312

00:32:37.360 --> 00:32:48.349

Adriana: they just be my name. After Aztec dancing was done, and after *palabra*¹ was done. And I was like who? What? And it was a friend from

313

00:32:49.000 --> 00:32:51.549

Adriana: I don't know. 10th 11th grade, who

314

00:32:51.650 --> 00:33:12.199

Adriana: who was so happy to see me and me, too, like I. At 1st I didn't recognize, and then I did but that's how people so still remember me, and and some of the words that she used. Were you always so kind? And you were there for others, and you were so popular, and things of that sort. And I'm like, oh, I didn't know it was popular.

315

00:33:13.585 --> 00:33:17.229

Adriana: you know. That's something the I don't know.

316

00:33:17.420 --> 00:33:21.957

Adriana: The Valley girls get right like, what do you mean? Unpopular

317

00:33:22.520 --> 00:33:30.320

Adriana: and I was just doing community work or in service, right of particularly Latino students on campus.

318

00:33:30.860 --> 00:33:32.286

Adriana: But yeah.

319

00:33:33.650 --> 00:33:36.190

Steve Nava: That's cool. So what?

320

¹ In Indigenous Mexican circles, **palabra** is more than just "word" or "speech"; it refers to the deep and spiritual significance of one's promise and the communal act of speaking and listening.

00:33:37.330 --> 00:33:47.420

Steve Nava: What changed as you transition from teenager to adult activist activist? What is a regular day like for you now compared to when you were a teenager.

321

00:33:47.780 --> 00:33:49.300

Adriana: Oh, boy,

322

00:33:54.160 --> 00:33:56.680

Adriana: As as a student

323

00:33:56.780 --> 00:34:04.950

Adriana: I was out of the house like maybe by 7 am. We'll probably get home till after 8 sometimes.

324

00:34:07.120 --> 00:34:11.559

Adriana: and that continued through college and through my twenties and 30 s.

325

00:34:12.150 --> 00:34:14.815

Adriana: Now that my son is older,

326

00:34:15.360 --> 00:34:18.629

Adriana: and I've learned about self regulation and

327

00:34:18.730 --> 00:34:20.630

Adriana: familia regulation.

328

00:34:21.100 --> 00:34:24.267

Adriana: emotional, right? Emotional regulation.

329

00:34:25.280 --> 00:34:34.180

Adriana: I I come home after work, and I I cook dinner, and I'm here for my son, and I get to be stuck in.

330

00:34:34.260 --> 00:34:36.909

Adriana: because I mean my self care. I'm able to just

331

00:34:37.060 --> 00:35:05.958

Adriana: here, at whatever my son has to say, and and he has become in essence the community. Right? So I get to listen to his concerns and his ideas. He's got brilliant ideas, and then we get to bring him alive. Bring those ideas alive in, in his, in his community of peers. Right? Whether it's a sleepover and a birthday party, or sometimes it's art we get to do art together as well. So that has definitely continued

332

00:35:06.785 --> 00:35:25.104

Adriana: and and I do get to challenge him in the sense of like going to protest. So we go to protest together. And he gets to witness me chanting, and sometimes he'll join me in the chanting. He will definitely hold a flag or a poster here and there. He will march with me if we're marching

333

00:35:25.520 --> 00:35:32.236

Adriana: and so we get to do the what I call more small scale a 1 time kind of

334

00:35:33.000 --> 00:35:37.408

Adriana: community contributions, and and once in a while

335

00:35:38.340 --> 00:35:41.500

Adriana: like, I'll take him to meetings with me.

336

00:35:41.610 --> 00:36:03.559

Adriana: if but for the most part I try to create a routine for him and us in a way that we're both emotionally regulated, and we feel, heard and seen, and have a sense of belonging for most in our home. Before we're there for community. I think it has been really crucial for our spiritual well being in our home

337

00:36:05.110 --> 00:36:12.639

Adriana: and and that is more calm and more simple than compared to the I don't know. I was involved, probably the

338

00:36:12.820 --> 00:36:38.499

Adriana: 10 or 15 clubs and identities I had in high school again, both in the Latino spaces. In the school governance shared governance spaces in the community. Spaces where even around that time organizing more protests and marches. Addressing the racism that came up in. You know, 94, 95, 96, 97 and

339

00:36:38.960 --> 00:36:41.570

Adriana: and and also

340

00:36:42.510 --> 00:36:45.129

Adriana: the cultural identities that have been

341

00:36:45.230 --> 00:36:49.959

Adriana: the lay. Some work that I did. Lots of laser work.

342

00:36:50.895 --> 00:36:53.920

Adriana: Yeah, I I mean, what

343

00:36:54.210 --> 00:37:23.949

Adriana: is is way different. And I didn't have the the responsibility of caring for a little one right like my mom did that amazing work for us. But there was always food on the table, and there was a certain level of trust that I was at school, and I was doing my student thing and my leadership thing and my cultural thing and that I eventually would be home. We lived about a mile away, so either we walked or I would call for a ride

344

00:37:24.516 --> 00:37:27.289

Adriana: when when picked up late, we had

345

00:37:27.360 --> 00:37:36.910

Adriana: late meetings, or a performance or an event for parents. So that's the other part I didn't mention earlier, like

346

00:37:37.270 --> 00:37:54.781

Adriana: being part of the clubs and understanding them. Policy. Then I did become a co-creator with teachers to create educational workshops, especially around college readiness, and or local policy, how it would impact, particularly Latino families.

347

00:37:55.310 --> 00:38:03.335

Adriana: and I learned how to translate at that time, too, how to translate for the separate workshops from English to Spanish.

348

00:38:03.790 --> 00:38:08.640

Adriana: But yeah. So from going from *7AMish* to like

349

00:38:08.870 --> 00:38:14.279

Adriana: 8 Pm. Monday through, particularly Thursday, and a high school level to

350

00:38:15.320 --> 00:38:18.480

Adriana: now this call, you know. Go to work.

351

00:38:19.460 --> 00:38:26.549

Adriana: come home, do the dinner thing, and then do, if I do any behind the scenes. Community work.

352

00:38:26.580 --> 00:38:32.080

Adriana: That's usually where I fall in line in regards to administrative staff task.

353

00:38:32.570 --> 00:38:43.780

Adriana: So the administrative tasks usually get done like at 6 Am. Before I make breakfast for the house, and you know, lunch and prepare us to shift over to school. Drop off and work.

354

00:38:43.810 --> 00:38:47.590

Adriana: and or I do it in the evening after dinner.

355

00:38:47.890 --> 00:38:51.969

Adriana: and that may mean, like I'm outreaching to a few folks to help

356

00:38:52.070 --> 00:38:57.779

Adriana: write some letters, to fundraise, to coordinate a meeting.

357

00:38:57.950 --> 00:39:05.750

Adriana: or coordinate a protest, or rally or mobilize people to show up for a city council meeting things of that sort.

358

00:39:06.397 --> 00:39:13.920

Adriana: Texting has been my best friend for the most part, has worked, being able to mobilize folks.

359

00:39:17.220 --> 00:39:27.189

Steve Nava: Now in terms of local spaces. So, one of the issues that I'm grappling with is the importance of local social spaces for community

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00:39:27.200 --> 00:39:28.850

Steve Nava: and community building.

361

00:39:28.860 --> 00:39:36.379

Steve Nava: Are there particular spaces or places today that you find yourselves going to often

362

00:39:37.364 --> 00:39:41.150

Steve Nava: to connect with people or their social spaces in the city.

363

00:39:41.670 --> 00:39:43.999

Steve Nava: And what could you describe those places.

364

00:39:47.540 --> 00:39:52.280

Adriana: Oh, boy! So, some of the most beautiful places.

365

00:39:52.540 --> 00:39:55.490

Adriana: social spaces to cross

366

00:39:55.740 --> 00:40:00.000

Adriana: paths with other amazing creative people.

367

00:40:00.721 --> 00:40:02.287

Adriana: Both politically and

368

00:40:03.020 --> 00:40:04.570

Adriana: artistically.

369

00:40:05.590 --> 00:40:09.089

Adriana: is the Mexican Heritage Plaza.

370

00:40:09.260 --> 00:40:10.500

Adriana: the

371

00:40:11.603 --> 00:40:12.616

Adriana: [MACLA](#)

372

00:40:14.390 --> 00:40:21.360

Adriana: the [Somos Mayfair](#) office in and in the streets

373

00:40:22.697 --> 00:40:29.490

Adriana: and by me saying, the streets is those moments we do congregate to protest and to resist

374

00:40:29.790 --> 00:40:31.179

Adriana: or to create art.

375

00:40:32.720 --> 00:40:37.360

Adriana: and that's beyond, you know. Four wall spaces right?

376

00:40:41.700 --> 00:40:42.520

Adriana: gotcha.

377

00:40:46.920 --> 00:40:48.473

Adriana: And so

378

00:40:51.390 --> 00:40:55.669

Adriana: those spaces and the streets have become the social spaces.

379

00:40:55.730 --> 00:41:01.550

Adriana: But, like I mentioned earlier, too, right places of cultural production, like Aztec dancing.

380

00:41:01.580 --> 00:41:13.820

Adriana: which is not just cultural production, but it's ceremony, and it's a healing space, right? It's a church, if you will for so many of us where we get to practice one, our humility.

381

00:41:13.870 --> 00:41:18.612

Adriana: our pride for culture, our healing

382

00:41:19.450 --> 00:41:26.339

Adriana: in, or attempts to heal a through the body right using the body as prayer and

383

00:41:27.490 --> 00:41:33.909

Adriana: and then concerts. Sometimes where there's live music is where I've seen folks, too

384

00:41:36.390 --> 00:41:44.940

Adriana: or arts like arts, literary arts. I would, I would call it? Not just visual arts, but literary arts like spoken word.

385

00:41:45.150 --> 00:41:47.610

Adriana: like music, like hip, hop.

386

00:41:48.231 --> 00:41:51.179

Adriana: like book readings, things of that sort.

387

00:41:52.510 --> 00:41:54.452

Adriana: There's another space.

388

00:41:56.120 --> 00:41:58.289

Adriana: And I forgot the name of it.

389

00:41:58.630 --> 00:42:00.709

Adriana: It's called central.

390

00:42:02.270 --> 00:42:05.220

Adriana: Oh, I forgot the name of it, but it's downtown.

391

00:42:05.250 --> 00:42:07.325

Adriana: and it's a place where

392

00:42:08.540 --> 00:42:11.710

Adriana: and I believe they hold ESL classes at night.

393

00:42:12.740 --> 00:42:16.380

Adriana: But on the weekends they're bringing elders who talk about.

394

00:42:17.140 --> 00:42:21.199

Adriana: who do educational workshops around that as the calendar

395

00:42:21.220 --> 00:42:22.130

Adriana: or

396

00:42:23.360 --> 00:42:25.139

Adriana: her woman is in

397

00:42:25.734 --> 00:42:30.980

Adriana: things that are indigenous frameworks and indigenous ways of knowing

398

00:42:32.320 --> 00:42:37.580

Adriana: or nak right native American knowledge is right, another framework for it.

399

00:42:37.680 --> 00:42:38.140

Adriana: But

400

00:42:39.080 --> 00:42:42.469

Adriana: this central holds that kind of space, and also political meetings

401

00:42:42.710 --> 00:42:44.230

Adriana: a

402

00:42:44.900 --> 00:42:49.749

Adriana: to be able to resist oppression. Folks gather up and

403

00:42:49.810 --> 00:42:53.459

Adriana: are able to create spaces for resisting that oppression.

404

00:42:54.148 --> 00:42:56.840

Adriana: Trying to think where else?

405

00:42:56.880 --> 00:42:59.310

Adriana: I wanna say, yeah, those are the spaces that

406

00:42:59.640 --> 00:43:03.769

Adriana: have are pressing for me now that I know that is

407

00:43:04.328 --> 00:43:10.471

Adriana: some Chicano magic is happening where people are creating life. To things

408

00:43:11.030 --> 00:43:14.380

Adriana: that that give us joy, but also creating life.

409

00:43:15.034 --> 00:43:22.150

Adriana: As as a way to resist things that are threatening us and oppressing us systematically.

410

00:43:22.170 --> 00:43:24.838

Adriana: or whether there's an attempt of

411

00:43:25.260 --> 00:43:28.090

Adriana: erasing our culture, you know, and our identity.

412

00:43:30.220 --> 00:43:36.009

Steve Nava: So there's only a maybe two or three more questions, and one of them is about disruption. So

413

00:43:36.060 --> 00:43:39.589

Steve Nava: was Covid a disruption to some of the

414

00:43:39.970 --> 00:43:44.619

Steve Nava: community. Work and spaces of connection.

415

00:43:45.100 --> 00:43:53.049

Steve Nava: How did Covid affect the work you do? Or maybe some of your colleagues? How did it affect folks.

416

00:43:55.321 --> 00:43:58.028

Adriana: Covid definitely impacted my work.

417

00:43:58.720 --> 00:44:00.800

Adriana: I was probably involved with 20

418

00:44:01.580 --> 00:44:05.390

Adriana: 30 organizations in 2019

419

00:44:06.870 --> 00:44:07.970

Adriana: 2020,

420

00:44:09.040 --> 00:44:14.210

Adriana: and I had different leadership, roles, capacities in those 20 or 30 organizations.

421

00:44:14.710 --> 00:44:17.650

Adriana: and it went down to like three during covid

422

00:44:20.000 --> 00:44:25.620

Adriana: and then and then the most I mentioned earlier, the most present organization that I feel

423

00:44:26.250 --> 00:44:32.320

Adriana: I have a sense of belonging still, and I am able to contribute is the *Santa Clara County Wisdom Coalition*.

424

00:44:32.940 --> 00:44:36.269

Adriana: and we ended up stopping my east work.

425

00:44:36.410 --> 00:44:40.104

Adriana: Everybody's mental health was depleted.

426

00:44:40.910 --> 00:44:44.020

Adriana: We were all dealing with deaths in our families.

427

00:44:45.570 --> 00:44:49.550

Adriana: We were dealing with the sickness and being caregivers.

428

00:44:49.820 --> 00:44:53.865

Adriana: or we were dealing with our family's mental health issues.

429

00:44:54.740 --> 00:44:56.910

Adriana: and or, you know.

430

00:44:56.970 --> 00:44:59.850

Adriana: long covid symptoms as we know it now.

431

00:45:00.710 --> 00:45:02.529

Adriana: So that became primary

432

00:45:03.250 --> 00:45:04.310

Adriana: and

433

00:45:05.580 --> 00:45:07.599

Adriana: and like I mentioned earlier, too, like

434

00:45:08.500 --> 00:45:10.240

Adriana: I think it did create

435

00:45:10.460 --> 00:45:13.160

Adriana: a more singular thinking.

436

00:45:15.010 --> 00:45:21.400

Adriana: Oh, I don't wanna. Well, I do. I do want to say like, I think you made us even more individualistic.

437

00:45:21.690 --> 00:45:24.379

Adriana: The reason I say, I don't want to say it like that, but

438

00:45:24.780 --> 00:45:31.790

Adriana: because we still I think some of us and I know I still do hold on to the collective and do collective work like I.

439

00:45:32.030 --> 00:45:37.470

Adriana: I don't forget it, and I still am committed to it, but at a limited level. Now

440

00:45:37.570 --> 00:45:39.170

Adriana: none of the level

441

00:45:39.240 --> 00:45:40.770

Adriana: that I did before.

442

00:45:40.790 --> 00:45:47.179

Adriana: And mind you, I don't know if it's covid in as much as I know it's aging. And my role, my, my.

443

00:45:47.290 --> 00:45:49.080

Adriana: my role as a mother

444

00:45:49.970 --> 00:45:52.949

Adriana: to yes, an independent 11 year old now.

445

00:45:53.904 --> 00:45:54.790

Adriana: But

446

00:45:55.000 --> 00:45:57.139

Adriana: but an 11 year old, who

447

00:45:57.510 --> 00:45:59.529

Adriana: also needs a different part of me.

448

00:45:59.650 --> 00:46:10.809

Adriana: both as a human being and as a parent. Right? So all those things have impacted or or make it complex in regards to the changes but definitely

449

00:46:10.840 --> 00:46:15.910

Adriana: decrease my membership. I guess you can say

450

00:46:15.980 --> 00:46:18.580

Adriana: to various organizations.

451

00:46:19.730 --> 00:46:24.360

Adriana: internationally, nationally, regionally and San Jose based.

452

00:46:24.790 --> 00:46:27.678

Adriana: And now I'm just yeah.

453

00:46:28.620 --> 00:46:30.990

Adriana: very humbly.

454

00:46:31.100 --> 00:46:33.100

Adriana: in giving

455

00:46:33.150 --> 00:46:37.979

Adriana: support more through behind the scene. And being a strategist like.

456

00:46:38.510 --> 00:46:41.579

Adriana: Hey, Adriana, do you think if we do this

457

00:46:42.100 --> 00:46:45.101

Adriana: move, do you think it'll work or

458

00:46:46.270 --> 00:46:53.019

Adriana: Do you know, you know I get picked. My brain gets picked. A lot like people will call me to ask like, do you know? So and so that can do this?

459

00:46:54.670 --> 00:46:56.030

Adriana: things of that sort

460

00:46:56.760 --> 00:46:58.140

Adriana: in

461

00:46:58.410 --> 00:47:13.531

Adriana: I don't know. I call it strategist. Maybe *oracle vibes* in helping, you know, connect the dots or glue or bridge things that would otherwise not necessarily always make sense to the ordinary person.

462

00:47:14.940 --> 00:47:20.210

Adriana: But yeah, and my colleagues, too. The folks that I know

463

00:47:20.712 --> 00:47:24.059

Adriana: folks in *la lucha*, you know, people in the struggle

464

00:47:24.410 --> 00:47:29.310

Adriana: have definitely decreased their workload their community workload

465

00:47:30.089 --> 00:47:34.579

Adriana: to keep ourselves sane and have a healthier

466

00:47:35.190 --> 00:47:38.970

Adriana: well-being, both mentally and physically and spiritually.

467

00:47:40.250 --> 00:47:44.160

Adriana: I miss it. I have to say I miss it a lot. And

468

00:47:45.930 --> 00:47:58.290

Adriana: Right now I am currently in this like window of reflection of like, how is Adriana? Gonna get her group back? As my son is becoming more independent. I'm like, Okay, I think I can come back to the work.

469

00:47:58.320 --> 00:48:05.619

Adriana: because I know that my son will go into creating his own identity right? In next few years.

470

00:48:05.720 --> 00:48:09.148

Adriana: He's gonna create the spaces of belonging for himself.

471

00:48:09.660 --> 00:48:14.630

Adriana: And and he'll be fine, cause he's got a good head on his shoulder, and he's got a whole village back him up

472

00:48:14.780 --> 00:48:19.440

Adriana: in. In the meantime I'm gonna go back into like what I know is like

473

00:48:19.810 --> 00:48:25.830

Adriana: passion to my heart, which is serving the community, and I'm hoping to bring him with me.

474

00:48:26.556 --> 00:48:27.193

Adriana: But

475

00:48:28.280 --> 00:48:37.139

Adriana: I know that. I have to figure out like pathways particular what particular pathways I can I can do for me that bring me joy and then

476

00:48:37.811 --> 00:48:46.468

Adriana: and keep me challenged intellectually. Right? Keep me updated about the current. Both international

477

00:48:47.160 --> 00:48:51.510

Adriana: politics and decision making that is happening that is impacting our little

478

00:48:52.610 --> 00:48:58.699

Adriana: humble home in a little corner in San Jose. Because those things are connected

479

00:48:59.070 --> 00:49:01.209

Adriana: and hoping that

480

00:49:01.480 --> 00:49:04.819

Adriana: yeah. My son gets to join some of that

481

00:49:05.176 --> 00:49:08.620

Adriana: in as much as I'm sure he's gonna try to find his own joy

482

00:49:08.700 --> 00:49:11.220

Adriana: with all his identities that he has.

483

00:49:12.740 --> 00:49:13.420

Steve Nava: Yeah.

484

00:49:13.760 --> 00:49:28.720

Steve Nava: So another disruption that I've been talking to folks about that I've been interviewing is the question around housing costs. So have you seen housing costs rise in the last 10 years, and has that affected the work that you see people doing

485

00:49:30.345 --> 00:49:31.090

Steve Nava: around

486

00:49:31.300 --> 00:49:33.190

Steve Nava: activism and artivism.

487

00:49:34.890 --> 00:49:36.969

Adriana: Okay. Repeat the 1st part again. Sorry.

488

00:49:37.473 --> 00:49:41.500

Steve Nava: The disruption around housing costs rising.

489

00:49:41.820 --> 00:49:45.209

Steve Nava: and also the economy just getting harder for folks.

490

00:49:45.460 --> 00:49:52.750

Steve Nava: Has that interrupted some of the work? Or how has that affected the artivism and activism, the cost of housing.

491

00:49:54.880 --> 00:49:55.375

Adriana: Well.

492

00:49:56.280 --> 00:50:01.540

Adriana: I think the recession of the 2008, 2009 right under Obama

493

00:50:03.480 --> 00:50:04.760

Adriana: it. For

494

00:50:04.980 --> 00:50:06.070

Adriana: whereas

495

00:50:08.380 --> 00:50:11.409

Adriana: yeah, the recession of 2008, 2009

496

00:50:11.430 --> 00:50:15.310

Adriana: force people to stay in San Jose because they couldn't afford

497

00:50:15.340 --> 00:50:23.799

Adriana: buying their own homes. That generation ended up creating what I call a Renaissance in San Jose.

498

00:50:24.130 --> 00:50:28.189

Adriana: and for me that was like the second Renaissance that I had witnessed

499

00:50:28.410 --> 00:50:29.610

Adriana: because

500

00:50:29.620 --> 00:50:38.110

Adriana: I was part of the 2002 Renaissance with me and my peers, that we created a whole bunch of cultural spaces

501

00:50:38.120 --> 00:50:40.159

Adriana: while we were in college.

502

00:50:40.260 --> 00:50:45.689

Adriana: and that included, like spoken word and hip, hop and and all

503

00:50:45.710 --> 00:50:47.230

Adriana: in visual art.

504

00:50:47.876 --> 00:50:58.050

Adriana: and community art spaces. In the context of social justice like it was a beautiful Renaissance in 2,002, 3, 4, 5

505

00:50:58.590 --> 00:50:59.899

Adriana: in 2,000,

506

00:51:00.130 --> 00:51:01.840

Adriana: 1011, 12.

507

00:51:01.990 --> 00:51:04.550

Adriana: I feel like I got to witness, like

508

00:51:05.500 --> 00:51:09.969

Adriana: a new generation of our not necessarily social justice, oriented, but just

509

00:51:10.402 --> 00:51:14.359

Adriana: as we say, for the culture, right and for the culture of San Jose

510

00:51:14.430 --> 00:51:15.470

Adriana: a.

511

00:51:15.770 --> 00:51:17.860

Adriana: And it was multiracial

512

00:51:18.632 --> 00:51:20.520

Adriana: and it was

513

00:51:20.720 --> 00:51:22.365

Adriana: intercultural.

514

00:51:24.380 --> 00:51:27.970

Adriana: and it was very *SanJo*² I would call it

515

00:51:29.061 --> 00:51:32.500

Adriana: and that generation, I feel, has impacted.

516

00:51:36.060 --> 00:51:39.349

Adriana: a beautiful art scene in San Jose

517

00:51:40.670 --> 00:51:42.100

Adriana: A.

518

00:51:43.250 --> 00:51:47.379

Adriana: It has also forced people to leave San Jose.

519

00:51:47.480 --> 00:51:50.169

Adriana: A lot of a lot of beautiful artists

520

00:51:50.834 --> 00:51:56.169

Adriana: have created that have created art. For example, previous to that recession.

521

00:51:56.410 --> 00:52:02.220

Adriana: Right? You know, after that recession have left to the valley

522

00:52:02.886 --> 00:52:11.099

Adriana: have left in the valley, meaning Tracy and Modesto and Stockton. Fresno

523

² Slang for "San Jose, CA"

00:52:11.577 --> 00:52:22.049

Adriana: but as a result, you see those artists creating art wherever they have made their new homes, which is beautiful. Right? Again, going back to the concept of creating life

524

00:52:22.793 --> 00:52:24.120

Adriana: through art.

525

00:52:24.480 --> 00:52:25.889

Adriana: although we would.

526

00:52:26.270 --> 00:52:29.043

Adriana: You know we wanted here, too, right?

527

00:52:29.620 --> 00:52:36.469

Adriana: for me, like at least in the most recent years it has definitely made me think or consider leaving San Jose.

528

00:52:36.966 --> 00:52:42.239

Adriana: Most people know me as very *SanJorneda* ³like I would never leave San Jose.

529

00:52:42.270 --> 00:52:46.180

Adriana: I think people do have a trust in me that I'm a

530

00:52:46.250 --> 00:52:54.199

Adriana: I'm a cultural maker, a cultural production make, you know, producer cultural producer in San Jose.

531

00:52:54.930 --> 00:52:55.640

Adriana: But

532

00:52:55.920 --> 00:53:03.620

Adriana: the rent is off the hook and although I do co-parent.

³ Slang for very wedded to San Jose as a home.

533

00:53:03.700 --> 00:53:08.319

Adriana: I do pull up my own expenses as a co-parent

534

00:53:08.620 --> 00:53:14.201

Adriana: that that is equivalent to a single mother dynamic.

535

00:53:14.780 --> 00:53:16.640

Adriana: by far. We

536

00:53:16.650 --> 00:53:24.189

Adriana: I want to honor that we both emotionally care financially, care for our son independently, but it does make it

537

00:53:24.300 --> 00:53:26.960

Adriana: hard, and as much as I'm grateful

538

00:53:27.010 --> 00:53:32.120

Adriana: is really hard to have any other expenses other than basic living expenses.

539

00:53:32.823 --> 00:53:40.886

Adriana: You know. Let me name it right like your car expenses, your house expenses food, your PG&E.

540

00:53:41.440 --> 00:53:45.809

Adriana: Eh, your car maintenance, get your house maintenance like.

541

00:53:45.970 --> 00:53:48.900

Adriana: and there goes your money. It's over!

542

00:53:48.960 --> 00:54:00.049

Adriana: right, and that's not counting. Let me buy a gift for the Quinceanera that's coming up. That's not counting. Yeah, let me just buy a hamburger because it feels good to buy a \$15 hamburger like

543

00:54:00.490 --> 00:54:03.210

Adriana: those things are not in my

544

00:54:03.490 --> 00:54:05.207

Adriana: capacity right now.

545

00:54:05.940 --> 00:54:21.189

Adriana: And I hate that right. That is because, at least for me, I've always been financially independent. I've been working since I was thirteen that I can remember, or I would say, you know, I learned what it is to harvest peaches from a farm at five and six years of age like.

546

00:54:21.920 --> 00:54:26.838

Adriana: and then at thirteen, starting to sell tamales as a food vendor with my parents.

547

00:54:27.250 --> 00:54:30.950

Adriana: so I've always had a strong work ethic and being financially independent.

548

00:54:30.990 --> 00:54:35.270

Adriana: So for me to come to a place in the last, particularly couple of years, where I feel like

549

00:54:35.420 --> 00:54:41.930

Adriana: I don't know how long I can do this, for I'm feeling like I may have to move like it really breaks my heart. But

550

00:54:42.510 --> 00:54:49.530

Adriana: because of that work, ethic, and because I love *San Jo* so much. I'm just committed to getting another job. I'd rather work two jobs in this community.

551

00:54:49.935 --> 00:54:57.179

Adriana: But that means it will limit all my parent ruin my community role. And I resent that I really do resent that

552

00:54:57.690 --> 00:54:59.704

Adriana: that I would have to work

553

00:55:00.530 --> 00:55:02.770

Adriana: and that the current

554

00:55:03.360 --> 00:55:18.429

Adriana: capitalist system is not allowing for a forty-something year old mama and her kid in in the family that I belong to my parents. Right? My siblings. A healthy quality of life, which is

555

00:55:18.490 --> 00:55:23.352

Adriana: why I continue to organize and serve the community. In however ways I can.

556

00:55:29.580 --> 00:55:40.080

Steve Nava: Thank you for sharing those details, too. And yeah, I that helps me understand better the influence of Covid, but also the influence of the economy

557

00:55:40.200 --> 00:55:47.570

Steve Nava: and how the housing cost is really affecting everyone. And our sense of space right is changing.

558

00:55:48.090 --> 00:55:51.509

Steve Nava: whether we feel like we can afford to hang. Hang with it or not.

559

00:55:53.410 --> 00:55:56.779

Steve Nava: and let's see the final question.

560

00:55:59.550 --> 00:56:00.710

Steve Nava: You see.

561

00:56:02.380 --> 00:56:07.269

Steve Nava: do you have any concerns about the future of San Jose, beyond what you've already shared.

562

00:56:07.820 --> 00:56:10.230

Steve Nava: And what's your vision for San Jose?

563

00:56:13.470 --> 00:56:14.730

Adriana: Oh, wow!

564

00:56:19.430 --> 00:56:23.780

Adriana: The city of San Jose has not prioritized housing as it should.

565

00:56:25.130 --> 00:56:27.479

Adriana: It's already made two attempts

566

00:56:28.240 --> 00:56:29.942

Adriana: to this to

567

00:56:30.660 --> 00:56:32.730

Adriana: for no money that has been meant

568

00:56:32.920 --> 00:56:34.110

Adriana: for housing.

569

00:56:34.250 --> 00:56:40.460

Adriana: for other things, and those two times that it has attempted that the community has come back to say, if

570

00:56:40.680 --> 00:56:41.990

Adriana: **housing first!**

571

00:56:42.300 --> 00:56:45.530

Adriana: and has, you know, kept the city accountable, like.

572

00:56:46.910 --> 00:56:50.676

Adriana: you know, pass, they passed a bond from what I understand, and

573

00:56:51.500 --> 00:56:57.709

Adriana: and this bond has been meant for housing, and the city is like, well, let's see if we can use it for something else like.

574

00:56:58.050 --> 00:56:59.569

Adriana: And the committee is like, Nope.

575

00:56:59.830 --> 00:57:02.075

Adriana: you're gonna keep it for housing.

576

00:57:04.300 --> 00:57:08.429

Adriana: So housing for sure will continue to be my concern, both personally and

577

00:57:08.490 --> 00:57:09.790

Adriana: politically.

578

00:57:11.180 --> 00:57:15.059

Adriana: if you cannot provide people a place to live

579

00:57:15.520 --> 00:57:17.450

Adriana: and get grounded in.

580

00:57:18.160 --> 00:57:21.079

Adriana: that they can come home to after work.

581

00:57:21.790 --> 00:57:25.939

Adriana: Then those folks will not be grounded in creating life

582

00:57:26.696 --> 00:57:29.899

Adriana: and giving back like it makes it really hard.

583

00:57:30.130 --> 00:57:32.989

Adriana: although I do know, including myself.

584

00:57:33.260 --> 00:57:37.020

Adriana: as we struggle with housing, that we still find ways to give back

585

00:57:41.040 --> 00:57:44.650

Adriana: and because of that right? It does limit.

586

00:57:45.490 --> 00:57:48.880

Adriana: It does limit the way we create life. It does limit the way we

587

00:57:49.070 --> 00:57:56.270

Adriana: create art. It. It limits the way that I I can free my mind from the stress of not having to pay.

588

00:57:56.540 --> 00:57:58.420

Adriana: you know humongous runt

589

00:57:58.580 --> 00:57:59.760

Adriana: to be like

590

00:57:59.860 --> 00:58:12.040

Adriana: man. When I get off work I'm gonna go to this meeting to make sure that we're gonna push back on police brutality, or that we're gonna push back on

591

00:58:12.663 --> 00:58:24.626

Adriana: tasers being used by law enforcement. That we're gonna go ahead and push back against a racist incident that happened.

592

00:58:25.580 --> 00:58:27.849

Adriana: etc, etc, right like.

593

00:58:28.000 --> 00:58:32.499

Adriana: how do we give life when we're not grounded in a place of living?

594

00:58:32.690 --> 00:58:35.250

Adriana: So that is definitely a concern.

595

00:58:36.130 --> 00:58:38.859

Adriana: 2

596

00:58:42.990 --> 00:58:43.899

Adriana: in the game.

597

00:58:44.130 --> 00:58:48.950

Adriana: The the fact that folks are gonna continue leaving. I think

598

00:58:49.380 --> 00:58:55.899

Adriana: people are are slowly leaving. People that I grew up with are slowly leaving

599

00:58:56.340 --> 00:59:01.140

Adriana: San Jose, and that means that for every human that lived

600

00:59:01.280 --> 00:59:02.280

Adriana: leaves.

601

00:59:03.000 --> 00:59:07.160

Adriana: That means one less person with the creativity.

602

00:59:07.926 --> 00:59:09.990

Adriana: Not just for our

603

00:59:10.140 --> 00:59:15.030

Adriana: and for community building, but for making social change happen. It sounds like.

604

00:59:15.410 --> 00:59:19.602

Adriana: And and that's across all ethnic backgrounds.

605

00:59:21.800 --> 00:59:22.580

Adriana: and

606

00:59:23.310 --> 00:59:24.080

Adriana: yeah.

607

00:59:24.630 --> 00:59:27.529

Adriana: that is super concerning the

608

00:59:28.480 --> 00:59:31.730

Adriana: The other is the attack on ethnic studies

609

00:59:32.020 --> 00:59:33.639

Adriana: the last few years

610

00:59:34.790 --> 00:59:37.679

Adriana: I am concerned that we haven't found a way to

611

00:59:38.530 --> 00:59:39.850

Adriana: gather the youth

612

00:59:40.100 --> 00:59:44.139

Adriana: in a solidarity framework across ethnicities.

613

00:59:44.370 --> 00:59:58.229

Adriana: Something I've been thinking about for a couple of years. Trying to find my capacity like really trying. I make time. I really make time to sit within and be like what is going to be my approach? Who's going to be engaged?

614

00:59:58.300 --> 01:00:01.489

Adriana: And then and then I get limited by.

615

01:00:01.890 --> 01:00:04.509

Adriana: or I get challenged by time limitations.

616

01:00:04.980 --> 01:00:06.720

Adriana: To to roll out the work.

617

01:00:07.090 --> 01:00:09.519

Adriana: And I know it's important because

618

01:00:09.660 --> 01:00:16.100

Adriana: my kid is gonna come into high school taking the next studies courses. His conscious is gonna be growing. So for me, it's very

619

01:00:16.210 --> 01:00:19.179

Adriana: urgent, and it's very proximate that

620

01:00:19.290 --> 01:00:24.290

Adriana: we start engaging the current 14, 15, 16 year olds.

621

01:00:24.838 --> 01:00:30.831

Adriana: In understanding that your struggle is my struggle, my struggle is your struggle, that

622

01:00:31.540 --> 01:00:34.679

Adriana: You know that I'm not free until you're free, right.

623

01:00:35.020 --> 01:00:36.220

Adriana: and

624

01:00:37.410 --> 01:00:41.810

Adriana: and that that will also be, you know, another added.

625

01:00:41.900 --> 01:00:45.320

Adriana: You know, salvation to our people struggle the youth.

626

01:00:45.580 --> 01:00:47.499

Adriana: I think we need to invest in the youth.

627

01:00:50.330 --> 01:00:53.190

Adriana: we need to create more jobs for the youth, too.

628

01:00:54.290 --> 01:00:55.140

Adriana: I

629

01:00:55.250 --> 01:01:01.819

Adriana: when I was coming up of coming up of age I felt we had more job youth.

630

01:01:01.840 --> 01:01:03.330

Adriana: friendly jobs.

631

01:01:03.360 --> 01:01:06.690

Adriana: I don't know. I I don't feel that right now.

632

01:01:06.700 --> 01:01:11.049

Adriana: I'm trying to. Even as a parent think like, okay, what job is only gonna do because

633

01:01:11.190 --> 01:01:15.628

Adriana: I'm gonna raise it like I was raised like, as soon as you're 14, get to work.

634

01:01:15.900 --> 01:01:20.950

Adriana: we find we learn to be financially independent, right? Create your own bank account things of that sort.

635

01:01:22.280 --> 01:01:24.090

Adriana: and learn that work ethic.

636

01:01:24.120 --> 01:01:28.770

Adriana: not for the sake of work, but for the sake of contributing to a collective care

637

01:01:29.230 --> 01:01:40.090

Adriana: being able to use your money to donate it to community classes, save your money for college to buy cars so you can be independent. So how do we create more

638

01:01:40.310 --> 01:01:41.710

Adriana: jobs for you?

639

01:01:43.640 --> 01:01:46.680

Adriana: and in more positive spaces

640

01:01:47.100 --> 01:01:51.219

Adriana: for youth, identity, development and youth, leadership development?

641

01:01:53.340 --> 01:01:57.139

Adriana: I also grew up in a time where clubs were 16 and over

642

01:01:57.610 --> 01:02:03.302

Adriana: and honestly, that gave me a space of like relax to relax

643

01:02:04.320 --> 01:02:10.649

Adriana: and go dance and go listen to music and be out of my, you know, intellectual head.

644

01:02:11.127 --> 01:02:17.480

Adriana: I learned really early on how that was crucial. And now that you don't have those spaces in as much.

645

01:02:17.550 --> 01:02:18.590

Adriana: although

646

01:02:18.660 --> 01:02:21.719

Adriana: I I know and

647

01:02:21.950 --> 01:02:24.030

Adriana: and I do wanna honor that.

648

01:02:24.210 --> 01:02:25.000

Adriana: like

649

01:02:25.150 --> 01:02:26.550

Adriana: everything else.

650

01:02:31.465 --> 01:02:43.719

Adriana: that we are. Well, now wait. The youth are creating their subcultures so like trust that every generation will find a way right in some house local, variable house, and like.

651

01:02:43.920 --> 01:02:48.440

Adriana: do a punk show or indie rock show.

652

01:02:50.240 --> 01:02:53.650

Adriana: things of that sort of

653

01:02:54.400 --> 01:03:04.589

Adriana: you know. How do we create formal spaces where youth are safe to go and have a good time? Without having it to be so underground and

654

01:03:05.080 --> 01:03:06.189

Adriana: all that. But

655

01:03:06.760 --> 01:03:09.630

Adriana: yeah, housing, we need to figure that one out.

656

01:03:10.550 --> 01:03:12.316

Adriana: use spaces

657

01:03:14.510 --> 01:03:23.779

Adriana: and create use cases both in in learning about ethnic studies, beyond the school system and in community.

658

01:03:24.450 --> 01:03:28.500

Adriana: creating jobs for the youth, for them to learn to be independent

659

01:03:28.946 --> 01:03:38.610

Adriana: and and to have something to do, because there's many youth who don't might not connect with any studies, but might be able to connect with the. I need a job for my family, right?

660

01:03:39.194 --> 01:03:44.769

Adriana: Or or to go have a safe space to like, listen to

661

01:03:44.780 --> 01:03:56.199

Adriana: more positive or what they call pro-social activities. Right. So, dancing through a live band.

662

01:03:58.640 --> 01:04:01.212

Steve Nava: Yeah. So my question to add, is,

663

01:04:03.130 --> 01:04:15.440

Steve Nava: in terms of ethnicity and culture, why is it important, do you think? For the future of our city and for our communities, like what? What is ethnicity and culture do for a community.

664

01:04:18.680 --> 01:04:23.390

Adriana: Yo. I mean. I always say that my Chicana pride saved my life.

665

01:04:25.210 --> 01:04:29.889

Adriana: My understanding of being Chicana as a teenager

666

01:04:30.646 --> 01:04:33.730

Adriana: being mentored by elders who

667

01:04:34.350 --> 01:04:41.189

Adriana: would be like, you know, point the fingers like. Don't you forget who you are. Don't forget your roots. So you know where you're going.

668

01:04:41.280 --> 01:04:45.690

Adriana: Know your history. So you know your feature right? And that kind of messaging

669

01:04:46.040 --> 01:04:52.160

Adriana: through a chicana perspective. I think it. I think culture saves lives right

670

01:04:53.115 --> 01:04:54.029

Adriana: and

671

01:04:54.270 --> 01:04:58.039

Adriana: and I have was also mentored by the folks like

672

01:04:59.117 --> 01:05:06.099

Adriana: Jorge Gonzalez and Adrian Tepehua Vargas.

673

01:05:06.895 --> 01:05:11.359

Adriana: Elisa Gonzalez, like so many others that say, could do that

674

01:05:11.920 --> 01:05:12.890

Adriana: and

675

01:05:14.780 --> 01:05:24.280

Adriana: It is so important to be in our culture because it creates a sense of belonging before we even know it before we even can consciously identify. Oh, yeah.

676

01:05:24.690 --> 01:05:26.410

Adriana: been. Chicana has always been home.

677

01:05:26.830 --> 01:05:40.819

Adriana: being Chicana has always been my nest, my my needle, my own legal to go to my neighbor, to go reset and recover, recuperate, and rebirth regenerate, restore, you know.

678

01:05:42.320 --> 01:05:46.300

Adriana: that's the importance of culture, whatever culture you may be

679

01:05:47.035 --> 01:05:48.730

Adriana: but that that.

680

01:05:49.340 --> 01:05:56.090

Adriana: like I mentioned for that intergenerational space in the culture producing in the social justice producing

681

01:05:56.180 --> 01:06:05.220

Adriana: well, I shouldn't even say those words at the same time. But the social justice making so it's so important, and it gives brutality

682

01:06:05.480 --> 01:06:08.550

Adriana: to, and it gives us purpose.

683

01:06:08.946 --> 01:06:16.770

Adriana: And it brings us back and makes us whole again in the way we know that version of making ourselves whole again. Pre covid

684

01:06:17.565 --> 01:06:19.109

Adriana: in that spirit

685

01:06:20.670 --> 01:06:23.539

Adriana: cannot be crushed, because when it is.

686

01:06:23.630 --> 01:06:26.979

Adriana: then then it's easier for the Trumps

687

01:06:27.440 --> 01:06:35.209

Adriana: to apply their Project 2025s. In their what is it? Agenda 47, or what number it is that.

688

01:06:35.240 --> 01:06:36.999

Adriana: or 27. I forget

689

01:06:37.270 --> 01:06:38.657

Adriana: the agenda that

690

01:06:39.340 --> 01:06:43.410

Adriana: Trump is trying to put out in. Aside from Project 2025

691

01:06:45.140 --> 01:06:51.455

Adriana: in being whole again, or even in our attempt to be in whole again through cultura

692

01:06:52.990 --> 01:06:55.900

Adriana: will makes it easier to resist

693

01:06:56.020 --> 01:07:00.799

Adriana: that racism, that sexism, that homophobia, that xenophobia

694

01:07:02.240 --> 01:07:07.079

Adriana: and that disruption of a healthy life? No.

695

01:07:07.140 --> 01:07:09.880

Adriana: in a communal collective way

696

01:07:10.200 --> 01:07:15.187

Adriana: and we can resist in essence,

697

01:07:16.150 --> 01:07:23.380

Adriana: the production of them at all the levels from the job industry to depleting housing resources.

698

01:07:23.530 --> 01:07:25.940

Adriana: to depleting your mental health.

699

01:07:26.333 --> 01:07:30.430

Adriana: to trying to kill your spirit. So you don't make art anymore. As we know.

700

01:07:31.027 --> 01:07:32.670

Adriana: art is our

701

01:07:33.320 --> 01:07:36.059

Adriana: is one of the main agitators.

702

01:07:36.510 --> 01:07:42.649

Adriana: I always say, being hungry is the 1st agitator for social justice. If you're hungry, you're gonna do something about it.

703

01:07:42.910 --> 01:07:50.769

Adriana: But making art putting art out there and inspiring us in a positive oxytocin kind of way like

704

01:07:52.500 --> 01:08:00.779

Adriana: is unstoppable in the way that we can move mountains and create social change, so that the next generation can have a healthier well-being.

705

01:08:00.830 --> 01:08:02.759

Adriana: How the quality of life

706

01:08:02.830 --> 01:08:19.279

Adriana: like we need of being able to afford housing, and go listen to some live music and have dinner, and let me go to sleep and have a peaceful sleeping cycle, and wake up and do it again with my friends and my family like.

707

01:08:19.359 --> 01:08:20.399

Adriana: I mean.

708

01:08:20.770 --> 01:08:24.639

Adriana: Why, why would anybody like not want to have that. And

709

01:08:25.050 --> 01:08:26.890

Adriana: and because I love that

710

01:08:26.930 --> 01:08:32.230

Adriana: so much in as much as I love gathering with my people and create a better world like.

711

01:08:32.700 --> 01:08:49.099

Adriana: I don't know. I'm passionate like that. I will fight you. I will fight you to no end for interrupting my peace in my my cultural pass, my cultural harmony, my people's well being. I will fight you.

712

01:08:49.710 --> 01:08:51.580

Adriana: It's lovely

713

01:08:51.720 --> 01:08:55.380

Adriana: like. Don't come at me with no project. 2025, like

714

01:08:55.569 --> 01:08:59.110

Adriana: our people have been dreaming of a better world since

715

01:08:59.648 --> 01:09:01.679

Adriana: before 1491

716

01:09:02.180 --> 01:09:06.179

Adriana: and and there's some of us that still remember that

717

01:09:06.270 --> 01:09:13.700

Adriana: quality of life before 1,491, and we're dedicated bringing it back at the small scales and at the systemic level

718

01:09:14.371 --> 01:09:21.110

Adriana: in Covid and the residue and the impact of particularly trump.

719

01:09:21.130 --> 01:09:23.300

Adriana: But in general

720

01:09:24.620 --> 01:09:26.680

Adriana: the Far Right movements.

721

01:09:27.133 --> 01:09:33.850

Adriana: I feel they got nothing on us like if they don't, they, if they have not understood.

722

01:09:34.910 --> 01:09:35.979

Adriana: Oh.

723

01:09:36.420 --> 01:09:38.649

Adriana: indigenous way of being

724

01:09:38.850 --> 01:09:40.430

Adriana: like historically

725

01:09:41.310 --> 01:09:44.899

Adriana: anthropology, you know anthropology sociologically

726

01:09:45.308 --> 01:09:47.519

Adriana: and if they have not understood

727

01:09:48.310 --> 01:09:51.549

Adriana: the many ways we have resisted after 1492,

728

01:09:52.350 --> 01:09:55.170

Adriana: then they're really ignorant to our power

729

01:09:55.740 --> 01:10:01.380

Adriana: in our spirit, even when right, even when we're hungry, they don't know how hungry.

730

01:10:01.390 --> 01:10:04.640

Adriana: or will get to have a better value.

731

01:10:05.770 --> 01:10:24.270

Steve Nava: Well, thank you for sharing all these answers, and giving me all this rich insight into your identity, but also the work that needs to be done. It's about 10:33. So I'm gonna let you move on to your next busy schedule. But I really appreciate you taking the time out, Adriana, because you're

732

01:10:24.300 --> 01:10:28.664

Steve Nava: yeah, really insightful about many things.

733

01:10:30.560 --> 01:10:35.630

Adriana: Trying to, which is gracias for allowing me to share a little bit about who I am, and

734

01:10:35.650 --> 01:10:36.770

Adriana: hopefully kick

735

01:10:36.860 --> 01:10:40.850

Adriana: to. You know what you are trying to bring out to

736

01:10:41.381 --> 01:10:53.139

Adriana: bring San Jose, you know. To a beautiful place of remembrance and history making, and in essence right? I think through this process you're reminding SanJo of its beauty.

737

01:10:53.450 --> 01:10:56.303

Steve Nava: Yes, that's one of the goals. Yes, for sure.

738

01:10:56.950 --> 01:11:00.549

Steve Nava: Alright, we'll say Hi to Atli, and I'll talk to you hopefully soon.

739

01:11:01.240 --> 01:11:04.569

Adriana: Sounds good, thank you, Steve. Have a great day. Bye.