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# Próxima Generación

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**THE FUTURE WE PAVE AND  
THE LEGACY WE CARRY**

*Sophia Vazquez, Diana Rodriguez*  
2020-2021



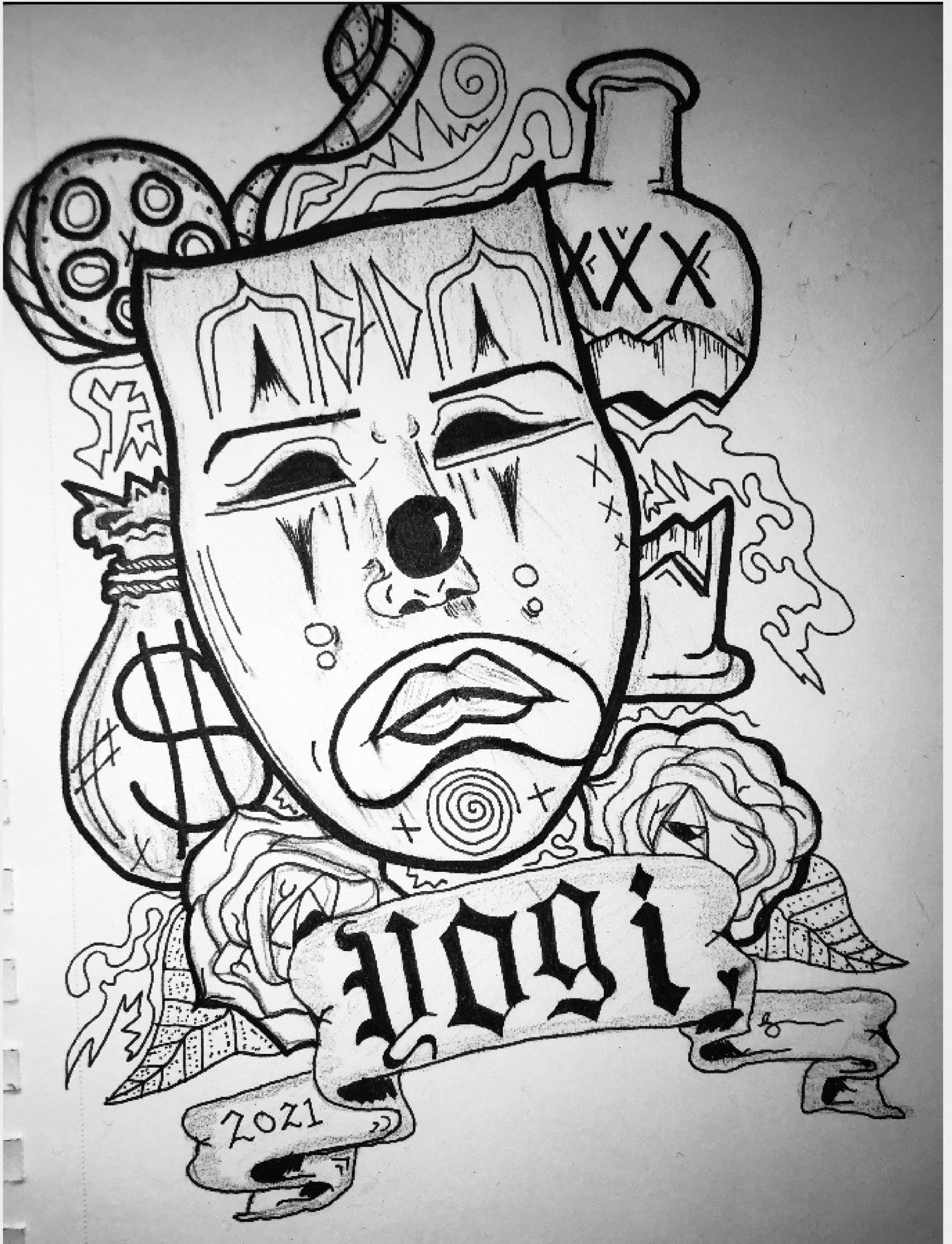
# WHAT IS PRÓXIMA GENERACIÓN?

*Próxima Generación is a Youth Residency Project that provides a space for Latinx-identifying youth artists, activists, and culture bearers to collaborate, share ideas, and explore artistic expression.*



**As a way to conclude the year, students work collectively to create a final project where they use the skills they have learned throughout the program. Topics and approaches vary each season based on the students unique interests and mediums of preference. In previous years, students have danced, sang, and performed; this year students were keen to visual arts. In turn, they decided to create a zine that illustrates parts of their values and identities.**





# "Past Passions"

# Destiny Selena Medina

20

Highline College



"My name is Destiny and my favorite art style is black and white, and my preferred medium is any permanent fine point. To start, the film roll in 'Past Passions' represents recently giving up on my dream of filmmaking. The broken bottle depicts my 20 years being 'straight edge' being gone within seconds. Finally, the mask represents what I became after the passing of my pet dog, Yogi, a couple years ago.

These 'past passions' encapsulate my self journey and what I have left to learn. Art for me, is the best way to self reflect and showcase my areas of growth.

Being apart of this program has helped me look into others roots in life, and to visually and emotionally take in others experiences."





"Dance Performance"



"Symbolization"

# Valeria Perez

15

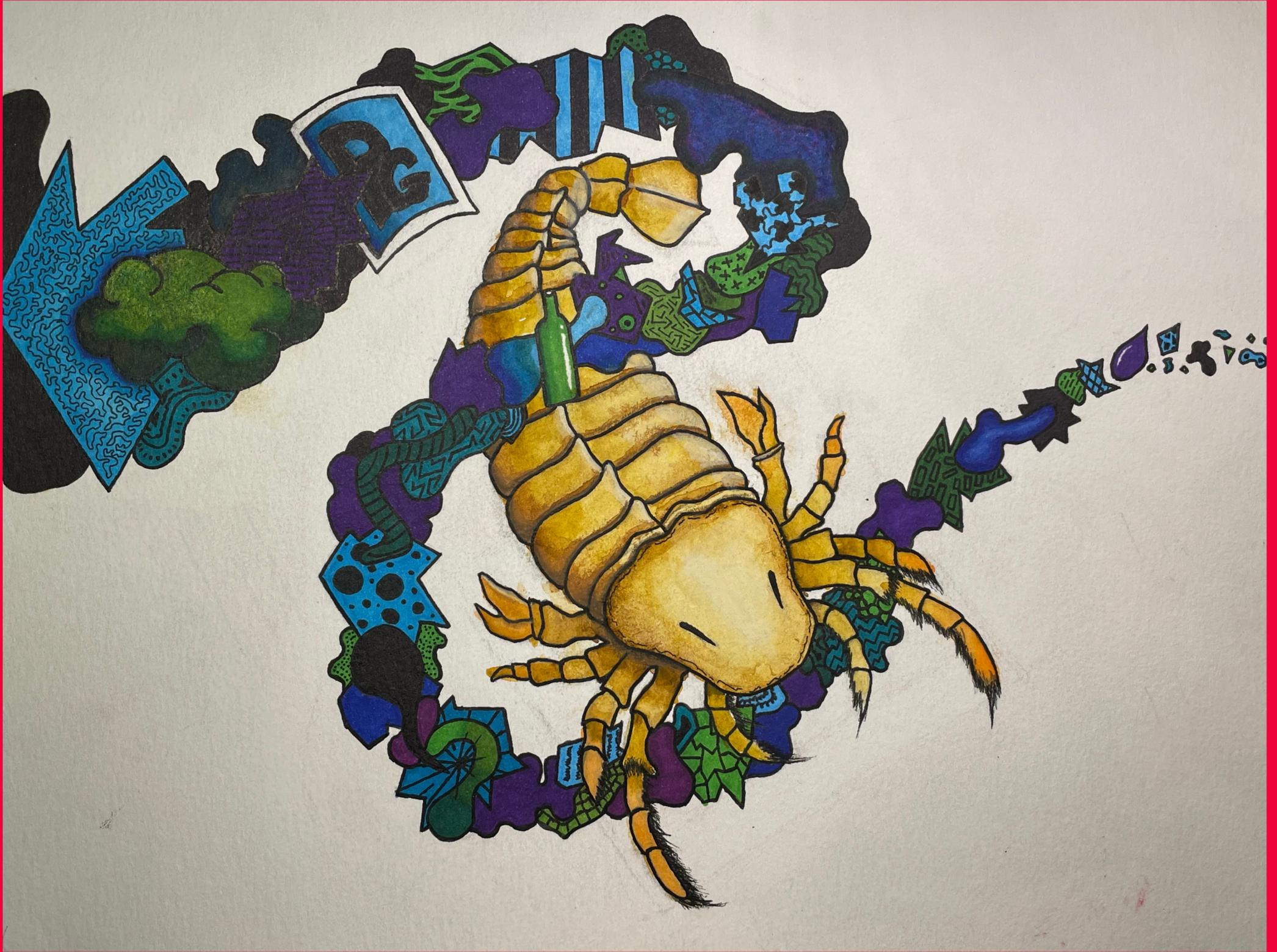
THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL



"My name is Valeria and my favorite medium to use is acrylic paint. "Dance Performance" illustrates my love for dance. The dancer in the camera lens is myself and the audience represents my family and respect. The hearts connect to honesty and loyalty.

"Symbolization" represents everything dance means to me: such as hope, love, and nature. Which reminds me of freedom, calmness, life, family, and happiness. Combined, my art pieces tie together the importance of dance and how it links to my values and a deeper visualization of what they mean to me. The ability to be apart of this program has allowed me to be more clear with myself and finally show why dancing is an important part of my identity."





**"Krab Meat With a K"**



**"Coffee is Creative Juice"**

# Marcos Noriega Gonzalez

14

ROBERT EAGLE STAFF MS



"My name is Marcos and my favorite medium to use is Ink/mixed media. My first piece is called "Krab Meat with a K". It shows something that looks like an off-brand Kmart lobster thing, it represents nature, creativity, and freedom (I think).

The second piece which looks like an acid trip is called "Coffee is Creative Juice", It was made while drinking coffee. This is a window into my brain and therefore a window into my identity.

The creature shown in "KrabMeat with a K" is called a Pentecopterus, a saltwater crustacean that lived about 467 years and was 6'0, it was an absolute goddamn tank! I made it using watercolor, ink, and markers. I made "Coffee is Creative Juice" by pouring coffee on a piece of paper, this is called spill art. I then drew what I saw in that coffee with ink."





# "Expressions"

# Somara Gonzalez

13

Voyager Middle School



"My name is Somara and my art was made using watercolor. My art represents creativity, imagination, and uniqueness. Próxima Generación is important to me because it's a way to learn more about Mexican art and culture."



# "Transitions"

# Estrella Mía Torres Carbajal

16

Chief Sealth High School



"My name is Estrella and my favorite medium is pencil and watercolor. This piece is called "Transitions" and it represents me and my story. The Monarch butterfly is known for migrating from Mexico to the US. I personally identify with this since I moved to the US very young, but still hold Mexico at heart. Around the butterfly, I decided to draw symbols that represent my family because they have shaped me into the person I am today."



# "VIVA LA RAZA"

They told him he didn't belong  
When they were the conquerors  
That his skin color made him  
different  
When he could do everything they  
could

They were right  
His skin color made him different  
It also made him realize  
That he was beautiful with it.

# Israel Vazquez

16

Thomas Jefferson High School



"My name is Israel and my favorite art form is writing and Poetry. My piece is called 'Viva La Raza' and it is a short piece about discrimination and overcoming it. I thought this would be good to write about since so many people experience discrimination because of their skin color. I just wanted others to know that they are not alone and their skin color makes them powerful whether they know that or not."



# Kimberly Jimenez

16

Thomas Jefferson High School



"Hi! My name is Kimberly. I'm a junior at Thomas Jefferson and the vice president of the Latino Student Union. I've always been passionate about Latino studies and discrimination. My motivation for participating in this program was to educate myself further on current events.

Whether it was discrimination, violence, political views, inequality, and more. The importance of awareness is that it helps others understand themselves and their surrounding communities. Many people can be blind to harsh realities until you inform them. Learning doesn't hurt anyone. Dedicating a few minutes of your time to understand the experiences of others helps create change and build compassion. Many people have the resources to help, so don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone and start creating change!"



# Acknowledgements:

Thank you for collaborating and sharing your legacies with our students!

## Culture Bearers:



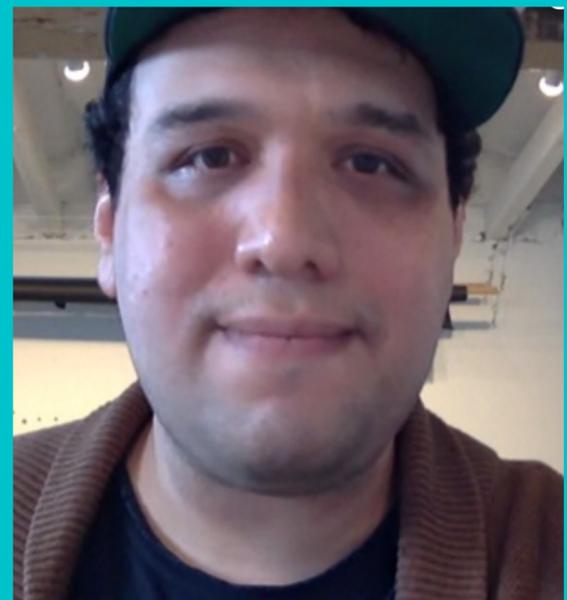
Francisca García  
Vice-President and Social  
Equality Committee of NW  
Folklife & Founder of  
Machtia



Jake Prendez  
Visual Artist & Owner of  
Nepantla Cultural Arts  
 @jakeprendez &  
 @nepantlaculturalarts



Angelina Villalobos  
Muralist, Artist, and  
Consultant  
 @onesevennine



Paulo Gonzales  
Photographer and Visual  
Artist  
Paulogonzales.net

## Graphic Design:

Próxima Generación Logo: Jose Jimenez

 : Find him @josejonathanjimenez & @pengiboys



# Teaching Artists:



**Sophia Vazquez**  
University of Washington

"Seeing our students dedication to art and advocacy grow this last year inspires me to be the best version of myself. They are so talented and bright, which shows not only in their pieces, but in the insightful reflections they shared during our sessions. I am so thankful for the chance to collaborate with this incredible group, and can't wait to see where their hard work will take them. Ultimately, they have taught me to be patient and persevere, and I am so proud of what they have accomplished. At the heart of my work, I aspire to not just be their teacher, but a source of support, as we both learn to navigate the world and our ambitions."



**Diana Rodriguez**  
Seattle Central College

"I am so grateful for having the opportunity to meet such empowering and talented youth. Their perspective on life and the way they express themselves inspires me to be better, and reassures the mission of why I have decided to become a teacher in the future. Seeing their final work just brightens my soul because they can show the world the potential they have in their minds, hearts, and voices. They know how important it is to represent, learn, and speak up. I know they will keep inspiring people throughout their lives, and I am just so happy I was one of them."



# Where You Can Find Us:



: @Próxima Generación



: @proxima\_generacion



: proximageneracion@gmail.com

Or check out our website:

@<https://www.nwfolklife.org/programs/youth-residency/proximageneracion.html>

