UVic Multicultural: Pax & Diversity Through the Arts

Visual Storytelling Project
“May we feel gratitude for the ancestors and the people of the lək̓ʷəŋən and Ⱦ̓w̱sáneĆ territories who have taken such good care of their beautiful homelands. As visitors on their land, may we also take that same care of their homelands.

May we honor the magnificence of Creation by offering our hands to create beauty and joy.

Like the flowers in the fields, may we see the unity in diversity. And may we feel the Oneness in Spirit, so that we can share and receive the many blessings from this sacred and wondrous life.”

- Gerry Ambers, Kwakwaka’wakw Elder in Residence
We acknowledge and respect the lək̓ʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

UVic’s Territory Acknowledgement
“This booklet enabled me to appreciate visual art’s capacity to capture people’s lived experiences and celebrate diversity in unique ways. The way the booklet embraces each participant’s creative storytelling presents an opportunity that our equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) values can be celebrated beyond data and policy making. Congratulations to the Human Rights Education Volunteer Program (HREV) and the Global PAX Collective for the production of this amazing work.”

- Mami Shouten, UVic’s EDI Research Officer
The Human Rights Education Volunteers (HREV) promotes inclusive, respectful, and welcoming study and work environments on campus.

The Equity and Human Rights Office is a resource for all UVic community members, providing education, information, assistance and advice in aid of building and supporting an inclusive campus. We believe that our campus should represent the diversity of our larger communities and that every person -- student, staff, and faculty -- should be treated equitably. To this end we work closely across all units to build equity and diversity through education, prevention, and structural initiatives. Finally, when issues and concerns arise, we are here to assist community members and help guide them through the range of available resolution options.

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Global PAX Collective

The collective aims to bring awareness to topics around climate justice, climate action, environmental rights, human rights, and social change.

We believe that Art inspires, promotes, and connects people with emotions, beliefs, and actions. We want to bring inspiration to people and open the conversation in these key themes for humanity.

The collective seeks to contribute to social change through visual arts, collage, and performances with multicultural, multi-generational, and interdisciplinary perspectives.

https://www.facebook.com/paxcollective
“Use campus resources. Be yourself and enjoy your unique journey at UVic.”

Photo
2021
Matty Cervantes
Queer Artist, Activist, and PhD Student
“Follow your heart and find several key messages around campus.”

Photo
2021
Matty Cervantes
Queer Artist, Activist, and PhD Student
“Keep yourself grounded.”

**Trees are life**
Paint on canvas  
2021  
Sarai Gomez  
Psychologist and Volunteer at the UVic Family Centre
“There could be challenges out there but remember to keep yourself safe and healthy.”

**Fairytales**
Paint on canvas
2021
Sarai Gomez
Psychologist and Volunteer at the UVic Family Centre
“University life could be like entering to a new planet. Be ready to discover new things, create knowledge, and share academic adventures with enthusiasm. Be ready to be yourself and thrive!”

Venus
Paint to pouring medium
2021
Sarai Gomez
Psychologist and Volunteer at the UVic Family Centre
“Every human is unique and all are welcomed and loved in our UVic community!”

**Queer Spherical Journey**
Digital art photo based on the original paint acrylic on canvas
2021
Matty Cervantes
Queer Artist, Activist, and PhD Student
“Dream, learn, and put your ideas into action. Today is the day!”

**Liquid Dreams**
Digital art work
2021
Matty Cervantes
Queer Artist, Activist, and PhD Student
“Embrace your dreams and protect your honour. Include others in your stories, listening, and honouring all your relationships.”

**Earth from the space**
Paint to pouring medium
2021
Sarai Gomez
Psychologist and Volunteer at the UVic Family Centre
“Embrace your transformation and enjoy your evolution!”

**Dragon Queer**
Paint to pouring medium
2021
Sarai Gomez
Psychologist and Volunteer at the UVic Family Centre
“Take a break, take a breath. Visit the gardens.”

Finnerty Gardens always surprises me
Photo
2021
Anonymous
“Taking a break at the Finnerty Gardens”

Photo
2021
Anonymous
“Breathe and enjoy.”

Photo
2021
Anonymous
“Transgenders are loved!”

Photo
2020
Anonymous
“I believe reality is a continuous dance of multiple experiences, individualities, and reflections. We create magic when, as a collective, we dance, share and rejoice together. I tried to manifest this celebration with this illustration”

Ordinary magic
Illustration
2021
Eli Verdugo
LGBTQ Activist and Master’s Student
When beauty meets beauty in all colours and patterns

Photo & art work
2021
Olvie Li
Graduate Student, Doula, and Nurse
There is no point in colourism when colour is what paints our worlds beautiful

Photo & art work
2021
Olvie Li
Graduate Student, Doula, and Nurse
Healing & Culture
Earring pins, photo & art work
2021
Carol Bilson
PhD Student in the Social Dimensions of Health Program
School of Public Health and Social Policy

Carol Bilson is a Latinx (Aurocana-Mapuche/Spanish/German) woman from Wallmapu, Chile; pronouns are she/her.
Carol Bilson co-facilitates cultural safety workshops (Co-Creating Decolonial Futures) that support organizations’ work in more collaborative and relationally accountable ways with Indigenous peoples.
Black Lives Matter
Centennial Square, Victoria, B.C.
Photo
2020
Matty Cervantes
Queer Artist, Activist, and PhD Student
“Embark in an inclusive journey; embrace many cultures and feel the power of diversity; let’s thrive in a racism-free environment; let’s walk together towards a better future for all.”

Walking together
Photo
2020
Shanti Gomez Cervantes
Member of the UVic family housing complex community
Bodies of Water
Photo
2020
California Stell & Lindsay Katsitsakatste Delaronde

California Stell is a member of the Global Pax Collective & Lindsay Katsitsakatste Delaronde is a member of Kanienke‘ha:ka; Mohawk-First Nations and Ph.D. student in Applied Theatre at UVic

A collaborative photoshoot project to raise awareness for climate justice and the sea level rise related to climate change
“Racism is not an easy topic. There are a lot of hardships and pain. Actually, racism harms and kills. But, with this piece of art I seek to acknowledge diversity, the value of interconnectivity, and intersectionality. This is a celebratory piece to honour the colourful and uniqueness of relationships. We are all one, but we are also unique, we are an ocean, but we are also rivers. And sometimes with the combinations of colours, great outcomes can be possible. Importantly, colours matter, diversity matters, and representation matters.”

Celebrating Rivers of Diversity
Photo & art work
2020
Matty Cervantes
Queer Artist, Activist, and PhD Student
Member of the Colour Theory Anti-racism Project 2021
We are all interconnected
Photo, art work & digital art
2021
Volunteers of the Global PAX Collective
This project is social-justice-based and human-rights-based. We want to address injustice, discrimination, and racism through educational key messages and storytelling. We believe in intersectionality and decolonization approaches. So, our work acknowledged the intersecting and overlapping social identities and themes and the oppression toward specific groups.

This project received funding from the UVic Student Life Grant and it is possible thanks to the in-kind support of the Radio Station CFUV 101.9 FM, the Global PAX Collective, and the Belfry Theatre.

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PhD Student, Interdisciplinary Program
Enormous gratitude to all the participants for their contributions, friendship, and support.
The project is funded by the UVic Student Life Grant and supported by the Human Rights Education Volunteers Group and the Global PAX Collective.

This project acknowledges the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development 2021.