



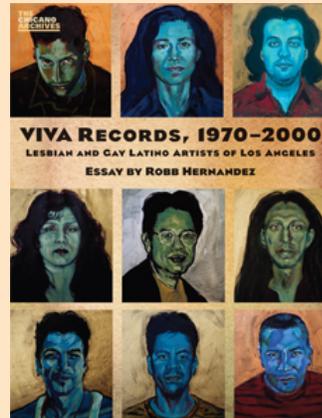
- About
- Research
- Library
- Publications
- Events

UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Media Release

For Immediate Use
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New CSRC book tells history of VIVA, influential lesbian and gay Latino artists group

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The UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Press announces the release of *VIVA Records, 1970-2000: Lesbian and Gay Latino Artists of Los Angeles*. Robb Hernandez, professor of English at University of California, Riverside, traces the history and assesses the impact of VIVA Lesbian and Gay Latino Artists, a nonprofit artists' coalition formally founded in 1987.

Working closely with other gay and lesbian organizations in Los Angeles, VIVA used arts-based projects to address cultural and sociopolitical issues that were of concern to their community—the AIDS crisis in particular. Public programs, fundraisers, theatrical performances, art exhibitions, poetry readings, and publications brought national as well as local recognition to the organization and its members. VIVA aimed to increase the representation of lesbian Latina and gay Latino artists in the L.A. art scene, and offered a stage and a voice for artists who had been routinely marginalized.

“Robb Hernandez examines VIVA in the historical context of community-based organizations in the LGBT *and* Latino communities in Los Angeles, revealing the unique space opened up by VIVA’s ability to engage, in co-founder Roland Palencia’s words, ‘creative minds breaking down all these barriers,’” says CSRC director and series editor Chon A. Noriega.

Hernandez carefully examined the VIVA Records housed at the CSRC to present this first comprehensive history of the organization and to analyze its importance for Latina/o art and culture of Los Angeles. The book is illustrated with black-and-white photographs of archived materials, and includes three new maps of “Museo VIVA” activities across Los Angeles. Hernandez is also author of the award-winning Chicano Archives book *The Fire of Life: The Robert Legorreta-Cyclona Collection* (2009).

VIVA Records, 1970-2000 is Volume 7 in the award-winning Chicano Archives series. The book was published with support from the Ford Foundation as part of the CSRC’s LGBT/Mujeres Initiative.

Review copies: *VIVA Records, 1970-2000* is distributed by [University of Washington Press](#). For a review copy, please contact Rachael Levay at remann@uw.edu or Natasha Varner at nvarner@uw.edu. Alternatively, contact the CSRC Press at support@chicano.ucla.edu.

About Chicano Archives: The Chicano Archives series brings together resources related to major Chicano special collections, drawing primarily on collections in the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Library. The goal is to facilitate access to these collections and to stimulate new critical and historical research based on archival sources. As of 2013, the series has received ten international book awards.

The CSRC Press was founded in 1969 to provide a voice for young Chicana/o academics who could not find mainstream publishers. The Press’s contribution to academic scholarship continues to grow as Chicana/o and Latina/o studies develop in new directions.

The UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center was established in 1969, integrating multidisciplinary research projects with an active library and archive, academic press, and community partnerships. Current research areas include public health, education, economic security, media, and the arts.

To learn more about the CSRC, visit [our website](#), [Wikipedia page](#), [Facebook](#) or [email us](#).

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