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CSRC Awarded NEH Grant to Preserve 5 Collections that Address Gap in Mexican American Historical Record

Rebecca Epstein, repstein@chicano.ucla.edu

The UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center (CSRC) has been awarded a \$185,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to support a three-year project that will address a gap in the American historical record concerning Mexican American contributions to civic life before the social movements of the 1960s and 1970s.

The project, “**Documenting & Preserving the Post World War II Generation of Mexican Americans in Los Angeles,**” will involve arranging, describing, digitizing, and providing access to five collections of invaluable materials related to the histories of the post-World War II generation of Mexican Americans in Los Angeles:

- The Edward R. Roybal Papers
- The Grace Montañez Davis Papers
- The Julian Nava Papers
- The Dionicio Morales Papers
- The Ricardo F. Muñoz Papers

The collections include extensive photographs, correspondence, personal papers, and organizational papers. “Together they contribute to our understanding of nearly a century of personal, familial, and social life among Mexican Americans in Los Angeles,” explains CSRC Director Chon Noriega. “And they provide unique insights into the rise of Mexican American civic participation following World War II.”

In a recent CSRC reference study, it was discovered that within trade and academic books and articles on Los Angeles and California history, there is very little if any mention of the Mexican American contribution predating the social movements of the 1960s and 1970s. This project is intended to inspire and facilitate new scholarship by providing primary historical research materials documenting Chicana/o civic duty in post-WWII Los Angeles during the 20th century.

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. This NEH-funded project will be undertaken in collaboration with the UCLA Special Collections, the UCLA Digital Library, and the UCLA Center for Oral History Research.

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