

March 19th, 2026

Dear SDSU Love Library Administration,

We are writing to request the removal of Octavio Ocampo's painting of Cesar Chavez, "CESAR CHAVEZ, PORTRAIT OF LA CAUSA, UNITED FARM WORKERS OF AMERICA," located on the first floor of the Chicana/o Collection in Love Library. While we recognize the historical and cultural significance of prominent figures and Ocampo's artistic efforts, we urge you to critically evaluate how this representation aligns with the university's broader values and responsibilities to the San Diego public and the San Diego State University community. At present, the display creates an exclusive, unsafe environment for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Cesar Chavez is an alleged abuser associated with credible accusations, including those related to sexual assault against women and children, as reported in *The New York Times* article "Cesar Chavez, a Civil Rights Icon, Is Accused of Abusing Girls for Years." Publicly elevating the painting sends the message that his commemoration matters more than violence against the vulnerable.

As stewards of a campus space of learning, research, and critical reflection, Love Library has a responsibility to engage thoughtfully with historical figures' complexities and to approach marginalized communities' recognition with care. San Diego State University's values extend beyond any one individual, including Chavez; as a result, the visual production in academic spaces should reflect a broader, more inclusive narrative. Centering him, a contested figure who has harmed marginalized individuals through sexual violence, reinforces survivors' exclusion within our institutional spaces.

The painting's continued presence generates distress, trauma, and a lack of safety for all members of our San Diego and SDSU community, especially assault survivors. Its removal is a practical and achievable step, as it is not a permanent fixture and can be taken down with relative ease (as we have already demonstrated). We encourage you to replace the painting with cultural production that better reflects San Diego State University's diversity, activism, and collective experiences, including its Imperial Valley campus:

- Art or photography from SDSU's Imperial Valley campus
- A portrait honoring California farmworkers
- Visuals representing California's agricultural regions
- A tribute to undocumented farmworkers and women farmworkers
- A map or educational display highlighting agricultural labor contributions

These alternative approaches foster a more expansive and inclusive representation reflective of our SDSU community.

We urge you to take this request seriously and act in alignment with the university's values on inclusivity, accountability, and community care. We welcome the opportunity to engage in further dialogue or contribute to discussions about possible replacements.

In hope of a better future,

CCS/ECL 335: Chicana/o Literature Student Activists

Brenda Lara, Ph.D.

Richard D. Randall, CHW, PSS, SDSU Student

Roberto D. Hernández

Natalie Santizo, Ph.D.

Jimena Mojica-Camarena, SDSU MA English student

Y Howard, Ph.D.

Marissa C. Vasquez, Ed.D. - College of Education

Christian Ramirez Rivera - SDSU Student - College of Education

Aurora Valdez De La Torre, MFA SDSU Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Melissa E. Abeyta, Ed.D. - College of Education

Avery Simone, MA English

Melissa A. Navarro, Ph.D. - College of Education

Natalia Sigala Garcia, MA - Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Nicholas Fiumara, MA SDSU English and Comparative Literature

Tyler Grand Pre, Ph.D., English and Comparative Literature

William Nericcio, Ph.D., MALAS and SDSU Press Director

Chloe Wendling - SDSU Student - College of Sciences

Kylie Palmer, MA - History (War and Society)

Isabella Flores - College of Arts and Letters

Rachel Layton, MA History

Gabriel Holliday, MA History

Tanya J. Gaxiola Serrano, Ph.D. - College of Education

Ricardo Rosas Jr. - SDSU Student - College of Arts and Letters

Miriam Guadalupe Juárez, PhD Candidate

Angelica Duarte - SDSU Student, College of Arts and Letters

Sylvia Garcia-Navarrete, Ed.D. - College of Education

Ethan Collier-Moreno - M.A. PELSA Student - College of Education

Vivian Cerrito - M.A. PELSA SDSU Student - College of Education

Mari Guillermo, Ed.D. - College of Education

Jennifer Ochoa Villegas, M.A. PELSA SDSU Student - College of Education

Alexis Ayala-Alvarado, M.A. PELSA SDSU Student- College of Education

Avery Isabella Cordova - M.A. PELSA Candidate - College of Education

Jasmine Sinclair - M.A. PELSA SDSU Student - College of Education

Saúl I. Maldonado, Ph.D. - College of Education

Eunice Uhm, Ph.D. - College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts

Victoria Gonzalez-Rivera

Eliana Wowak B.A. College of Arts and Letters

Saghi Ajami, MA Sociology

Annya Bueno, BA History SDSU Student- College of Arts and Letters

Darlene Mejia - M.A. PELSA SDSU Student - College of Education

Albert Silva III - M.A. PELSA SDSU Student - College of Education

Valeria Camacho B.A. PSFA

Diana Leong, PhD, English and Comparative Literature

Darian Murillo B.A. English and Comparative Literature

Gretel H. Vera-Rosas, Ph.D.

María Ibarra

Sera J. Hernández

Irene Lara, PhD

Sie Vakili M.A. Rhetoric and Writing Studies

Schuyler Smith M.A. Rhetoric and Writing Studies

Lashon Daley, English and Comparative Literature

Marc Eddy M.A. Rhetoric and Writing Studies

Avery Kaplan, MA English

Helena Hickey, MFA in Creative Writing

Christine Knott, WGSS

Giselle Salazar, M.A. student in Women's Studies

Anne Donadey, PhD, Compar Int'l St & WGSS

Claudia G Martinez, College of Education

Renzo Lara, Ed.D.

Tait Arnold, Rhetoric and Writing Studies and Political Science

~~John~~ Carroll, College of Education

Nadia Fonseca- M.A. Postsecondary Educational Leadership and Student Affairs - College of Education

Chantel Paul, School of Art and Design

Caroline Martínez, PhD, Sociology

Quentin Bailey, English and Comparative Literature

Julia Hess, Lecturer, RWS and SDSU Writing Center

Jess Whatcott, Associate Professor, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Marie Draz, Associate Professor, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Andrés E. Aguilar, Assistant Professor, Chicana and Chicano Studies

Erika Rodriguez, Assistant Professor, Spanish and Portuguese

Priya Kandaswamy, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Kimala Price, PhD, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Erin Flewelling, Lecturer RWS and SDSU Writing Center

Kim Danh, MBA, College of Education

Esmeralda Delgado, M.A. PELSA Student - College of Education

Erin Forgett, M.A. PELSA SDSU Student- College of Education

Amira Jarmakani, Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Amber Salveson, SDSU Admissions Evaluator

Dora Clarissa Torres, B.S Chemistry with emphasis in Biochemistry

Isabel Torres-Lujan, M.A.

Candi Rey, M.S.

Nancy Santiago, Resource Manager, PSFA

Azucena Wood Hardesty, SHS staff

Melani L . Soto, M.A., Staff, Doctoral Student (LMU online )

Erik Esqueda, [M.Ed.](#)

Erica Redner-Vera, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, SPA

Amaris Gonzalez, Student Affairs & Campus Diversity

Yea-Wen Chen, Ph.D., School of Communication

Carime Roxana de la Rosa, MFA - KPBS Video Programming

Rosalva Alamillo, Assistant Professor, Spanish and Portuguese

Alana Dillette, Associate Professor, School of Hospitality and Tourism Management

Rosa Elena Moreno, Associate Director, Career Management

Thelma Chavez, College of Sciences

Michelle Santos, BLAS

Jada Reed, M.A. student in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Citlali Yanez Sanchez, Student Affairs & Campus Diversity

Bri Voss, M.A. Student - Student Affairs & Campus Diversity

Olin Balderas, MPA - College of Engineering

Vincent Palou, M.S., Center for Commuter Life, Student Affairs & Campus Diversity

Anthony Villarreal, Latinx Resource Center, Faculty