

NAOMI HELENA QUIÑONEZ

WHEREAS

Dr. Naomi Helena Quiñonez is a Los Angeles born Chicana poet, educator, and activist

Dr. Quiñonez is the author of three collections of poetry: *Hummingbird Dream/Sueño de Colibri*, *The Smoking Mirror*, and *The Exiled Moon*.

Dr. Quiñonez is editor of several journals, anthologies, and magazines, including *Invocation L.A.: Urban Multicultural Poetry*; *Decolonial Voices: Chicana and Chicano Studies in the 21st Century*; *Caminos Magazine*; and *Chiseme Arte Revista*.

Dr. Quiñonez is among the “First Wave Chicana Writers,” influenced and inspired by the Chicano Movement, Feminism and the Civil Rights movements and has contributed to, researched, and written about the development of Chicana/o and Latina/o art and culture.

Dr. Quiñonez is an advocate for social justice, cultural expression, community participation, and women’s issues. She is frequently a guest speaker in programs and conferences related to race, ethnicity, culture, and gender.

Dr. Quiñonez is part of a larger community of U.S. ethnic writers who has shared the mic with Joy Harjo, Quincy Troupe, Octavia Butler, Luis Rodriguez, Cherie Moraga, Nellie Wong.

Dr. Quiñonez received a PhD from Claremont Graduate University in History and Cultural Studies, holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from San Jose State.

Dr. Quiñonez has taught and lectured at colleges and universities throughout the country, including West Virginia Graduate University, Arizona State University, UC Irvine, UC Riverside, UC Santa Cruz, Cal State Fullerton, and San Francisco State.

Dr. Quiñonez is the founder of the Bay Area Librotraficante network, a founding member of the Los Angeles Barrio Writer’s Workshop and the Women of Color Writing and Healing Workshop Series. She has offered and designed poetry and literacy workshops to diverse communities throughout the country, including the Oakland Women’s Cancer Resource Center, Poetry in the Schools, and numerous library and community center programs for children, youth, and elders

Dr. Quiñonez is the recipient of the Before Columbus American Book Award, a Rockefeller Fellowship, a National Endowment of the Arts, and a California Arts Council Award. She is featured in “Notable Hispanic Women,” *Dictionary of Literary Biography*,

and her creative and her critical works are referenced in numerous articles, essays, journals, and theses in the U.S. and throughout the world.

Dr. Quiñonez' poems and essays have appeared in many publications, including *Infinite Divisions*, *Cipactli*, *Colorado Review*, *Southern California Anthology*, *Mascaras*, *Encyclopedia of Latinas in the U.S.*, *From Totems to Hip Hop*, *Chicana Creativity and Criticism*, *Renaming Ecstasy*, *Aztlan and Vietnam* and more.

Dr. Quiñonez has curated and produced numerous literary and cultural programs and events throughout California and the U.S. including Olmecas Singing in the Flowers at the De Young Museum, Adios Frida at Plaza de La Raza, Mestizo Voices, Los Angeles Poets and Playwrights festival, the Appalachian Multicultural Festival, and Bay Area Banned Books readings.

Dr. Quiñonez has participated in many Bay Area poetry and literary reading series including the Lunada Literary Lounge, La Palabra Musical, Luna Negra, Voz sin Tinta, Jingle Town, Oakland Beast Crawl, San Francisco Lit Crawl, Writers with Drinks as well as Galeria de la Raza, Mission Cultural Center, Modern Times, and Alley Cat Bookstore readings.

Dr. Quiñonez lectures in the areas of ethnic, gender, and cultural studies and is a featured speaker and poet in programs and festivals throughout the country and Latin America, including Somos Uno in Nicaragua, San Antonio Inter American Book Festival, University of Pittsburg, Northern Arizona and Miami Book festivals, Nuyorican Café, Working Writers in Kanas City, Latin American Women Writers in Madrid, Spain, Dartmouth College, Los Angeles Poetry Festival, Letras y Palabras in Mexico City, and Artes Fronterizas in Baja California.

Dr. Quiñonez founded and directed the Ethnic Pride Program and the Student Community Learning Center at San Jose State University, directed the California Literacy Program and the West Virginia Cultures Institute, founded the United Latinos Artists of Los Angeles, co-founded the Watsonville Social Action Commission, served as a member of the California Mexican American Education Advisory Commission, the Migrant Education Council and the Los Angeles Racial Harmony Commission.

Dr. Quiñonez is a cancer survivor who is a passionate advocate for indigenous spirituality and alternative medicine. She conducts New Moon Ceremonies for women of color in Los Angeles and the Bay Area. She advocates for holistic approaches to body, mind, and spiritual health.

Dr. Quiñonez lives in Oakland with her husband John Saenz, who is an educator, and their pooch, Bodhi.

On August 26, 2017, the 15th Annual Berkeley Poetry Festival will honor Dr. Naomi Helena Quiñonez with its Lifetime Achievement Award for the truly valuable creative and community work that she has accomplished.

