

## **Writing Medicine: The Role of Artists in Cultural and Community Healing**

Participants: Anel Flores, Chasity Salvador, Maya Chinchilla, Valerie Martinez, Michelle Otero (Moderator)

### Event Description:

In November 2018 the FBI reported that hate crimes increased for the third consecutive year. Writers and artists build resilience and help communities heal, not only through our work on the page, but through our work in the world. Panelists offer reflections on their healing practices, from hosting pláticas following the Pulse Nightclub shooting, to working with Central American Migrants at the border, to rewriting the centuries-old proclamation for the city of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

### Statement of Merit:

The New York Times reports that the majority of hate crimes reported in 2017 were motivated by race, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation. The panelists are a mix of Indigenous, mestiza, Latinx, and queer writers from the Southwest who draw on our cultural traditions and practices to respond in word and deed to the rhetoric and violence unleashed on our communities under the current administration.

Brief introductions — Michelle Otero (Moderator)

Context — Why artists? Why now?  
Role of artists in community healing

Artists as Cultural/Community Healers  
Each artist speaks about her work

Continuing work of cultural and community healing

Q & A