Call For Papers

11th CONFERENCE of the AMERICAS
November 4, 5 and 6, 2010

Creative Agents of Change: Facing Challenges in our Communities
Featuring an Address by Doris Sommer (Harvard University)

The Cultural Agents Initiative at Harvard University investigates and promotes the role art and artists play in helping their communities deal with challenges of pursuing sustainable development, reducing social and economic inequality, and expanding accessible healthcare, among other issues. This has inspired our theme "Creative Agents of Change," with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean, and Latino communities in the United States. We are particularly interested in the collaboration of academic institutions and community organizations. We wonder about the role of scholars as cultural agents, and their capacity to use the humanities, and physical and social sciences, to further build civil society, and offer innovative ways to address local challenges. And we are curious about existing bridges between community activists and scholars, and new ones that might be built. We invite proposals for papers, panels, workshops, roundtable discussions, exhibitions, or performances that address this relationship between academia and community, with a focus on any one of the issues below:

- Sustainable Development
- Environmental Security
- Geohazards
- Urbanization
- Public Health
- Public Violence
- Immigration
- Emigration
- Human Trafficking
- Gender Inequality
- Racial/Ethnic Inequality
- Religious Divides

We also invite presentations on the ways cultural agents have addressed these challenges, including the use of the arts (painting, sculpture, film, literature, theater and other art forms), historical narratives (oral histories, testimonials, counter-histories), and unconventional pedagogies.

Proposals may be in Spanish, Portuguese, French, or English (though we cannot guarantee interpreters for presentations in Portuguese and French). The proposal deadline is June 1, 2010. Please use the presentation proposal, available by clicking here. Submitters should keep in mind that individual presentations should be no longer than 20 minutes, and sessions will be 75 minutes, though the schedule will be flexible to accommodate diverse kinds of proposals. Workshops may be up to 3 hours and 45 minutes.

Questions? Contact Zulema Moret, GVSU Latin American Studies Program Director, 616-331-2286, moretz@gvsu.edu or Barb Blankemeier, GVSU Area Studies Center, 616-331-8110, blankemb@gvsu.edu.
Presentation Proposal
Latin American Studies, Grand Valley State University
11th CONFERENCE of the AMERICAS
Creative Agents of Change: Facing Challenges in our Communities
November 4, 5 and 6, 2010
GVSU Eberhard Center, Grand Rapids, MI

Your Name______________________________________________________________________________
Affiliation (If Any) ________________________________________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________________________________
City ____________________________________________ State _____ Zip Code _____________________
Telephone: Work (     ) __________________________ Home (     ) _______________________________
Fax (     ) ___________________ Email ______________________________________________________

Deadline: June 1, 2010

Title of Presentation: Present a paper (20 Minutes); or a 75 minute session (Panel, Performance); an exhibit (Information, Research Poster, Crafts, Books, Etc.); or a workshop up to 3 hours and 45 minutes.

Description of Proposed Panel, Presentation, Session, Exhibit, Workshop, etc.:

Your Interests/Qualifications:

Special Equipment Needs (Check All That Apply): □ VCR/Monitor □ Slide Projector/ Screen
□ Overhead Projector/Screen □ Other: _______________________________________________________

I Would Like To Contribute By Helping (Check All That Apply): □ As A Member Of The Community Planning Committee; □ Recommend A Conference Sponsor ($50 Minimum); □ Publicize The Conference At Work Or In The Community; □ Other: ______________________

Send/ Email This Form To: Zulema Moret, Latin American Studies Program Director, LOH 117, 1 Campus Drive, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Mi 49401; or Email a copy to: moretz@gvsu.edu; 616-331-2286; Fax: 616-331-8111.