

# The Magic Mirror

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# Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature



The Arne Nixon Center is one of the West Coast's largest and most significant research centers for the study of children's literature. With an emphasis on diversity, the Center's collection includes more than 60,000 books, original artwork, letters, photographs, newspaper clippings, ceramics and other ephemera, including:

- The largest LGBTQ collection of books for young people in the United States.
- A World Languages collection of books in over 50 languages.
- Over 2,100 Spanish-language children's books.
- Over 2,100 editions by, about and inspired by the works of Lewis Carroll.
- The Helen Monette Amestory collection of 6,000 books on cats.
- Archives for Leo Politi, Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy, Margarita Engle, Michael Cart, Steven Mooser and Robert San Souci.

The Arne Nixon Center would like to give a roaring round of applause to those Arne Nixon Center Advocates board members who are stepping down to embark on new adventures. Special thanks to past president, Kristene Scholefield, and directors, Cynthia MacDonald, Ruth Kallenberg and Jessica Kaiser.

Your dedication and support over the years has been invaluable!

"Never say goodbye because goodbye means going away and going away means forgetting."

—J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan*

**Welcome our new board members:**

Jessica Galvan and Larissa Mercado-López!

## On the cover:

*Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood* by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell, Illustration by Rafael López.

*The Magic Mirror* is published by the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature

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**FRESNO STATE**

Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature

It is the function of some people to be a lamp and some to be a mirror. I have been very pleased to function as a mirror of others' work.

—Arne Nixon

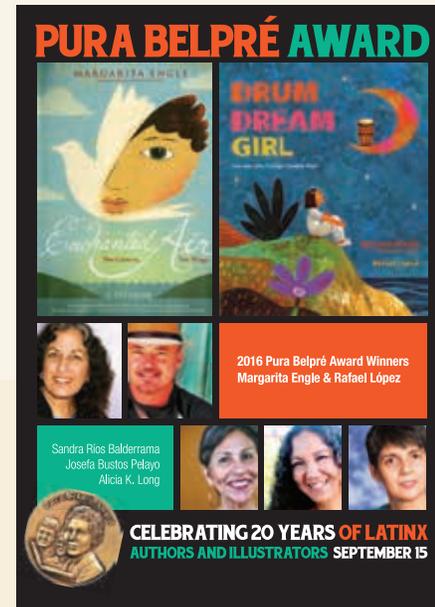
## Pura Belpré Award: Celebrating 20 Years of Latinx Authors and Illustrators – September 15

Join the Arne Nixon Center for a Pura Belpré Award 20th anniversary panel discussion on Thursday, September 15 from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the Fresno State North Gym room 118. The event is free and open to the public with light refreshments and a performance by children guitarists from the Generaciones Project, a bilingual community based music group serving the low income working class community of Fresno. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño (CBDIO) will also participate. Pura Belpré award-winning books will be available for purchase and signing.

Sandra Ríos Balderrama will serve as the panel moderator. A literary and library activist, Ríos Balderrama is co-founder of the Pura Belpré Award and the new Fresno chapter of REFORMA (National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking).

### Panel members include:

- Margarita Engle and Rafael López. Engle won the 2016 Pura Belpré author award for her book, *Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir* and López took the prize for his illustration of Engle's picture book, *Drum Dream Girl*.
- Alicia K. Long, former Pura Belpré Award selection committee member, multicultural literature instructor at University of South Florida School of Information and librarian at State College of Florida Library.
- Josefa Bustos Pelayo, multiple subject/dual immersion teacher at Jefferson Charter Academy in Hanford, California.



The Pura Belpré Award, founded by REFORMA and co-sponsored with the Association for Library Service to Children (a division of the American Library Association), is presented each year to the Latinx writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms and celebrates the Latino cultural experience.

The Award was named in recognition of Pura Belpré, who was the first Latina librarian employed in the New York Public Library system. Using nimble storytelling techniques, including puppetry, Pura Belpré brought the Spanish language and her Puerto Rican culture to story-time through the retelling of folklore from her beloved island. She enriched the lives of many children. The Pura Belpré Award continues her legacy by fostering authors to create the best in Latino children's literature.

Learn more about the Pura Belpré Award at: [www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/belpremedal](http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/belpremedal)

## De Colores: A Mosaic of Latino Children's Literature

Jennifer Crow, curator of the Arne Nixon Center, and Dr. Larissa Mercado-López, professor of women's studies, gave a spring presentation on the many attributes of Latino literature for young people. The free, public presentation titled "De Colores: A Mosaic of Latino Children's Literature" was sponsored by "Latino Americans: 500 Years of History," a grant funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association.

Crow and Mercado-López took turns exploring themes in Latino children's literature. They positioned them within the context of themes and theories related to social justice, ethnic studies and feminism. The pair also discussed recent statistics on published materials by and about Latinos gathered yearly by the Cooperative Children's Book Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The presentation pointed out the need for increased inclusion of Latino literature not only in libraries and classrooms but in the publishing industry itself.

To enhance the discussion, Crow and Mercado-López provided samples of works that best illustrate the Latinx experience. Examples included prize-winning books that have received the Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award, the Américas Book Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature and the Pura Belpré Award.

### The presentation concluded with a call to action:

- Make a commitment to read, purchase and share books that represent a wide range of diverse experiences, identities, occupations, bodies, languages and visual representations through illustration;
- Be conscience of what drives our own book purchasing habits;
- Support teachers in their choices to include diverse books in their classrooms; and
- Trust that children are capable of reading about experiences that challenge their own norms and beliefs.



The presentation is available on the Madden Library YouTube channel at: <http://tinyurl.com/DeColores500>

## Rad American Women

Upon hearing many complementary reviews and reading the book, *Rad American Women A-Z: Rebels, Trailblazers, and Visionaries Who Shaped Our History . . . and Our Future!*, the Arne Nixon Center's curator, Jennifer Crow, invited the author, Kate Schatz, and illustrator, Miriam Klein Stahl, to Fresno to talk about their new alphabet book. The book presents illustrations and biographies for 26 radical and world-changing women from both past and current eras.

Schatz and Klein Stahl spent their day visiting Lane Elementary School, speaking with Fresno State art instructor, Doug Hansen's beginning illustration class and giving a presentation for the Arne Nixon Center Advocates Annual Meeting. Their exhilarating talk discussed how these 26 "rad" women disavowed complacency and took action!



## Rad Fresno State Women

Bringing the author and illustrator of *Rad American Women A-Z* to Fresno presented the perfect opportunity for the Arne Nixon Center to collaborate with the campus. Crow, along with Dr. Larissa Mercado-López, professor in the women's studies program, and instructor Teresa Flores in the art and design department, decided to honor 12 women from Fresno State. These women have made an impact in learning practices, social justice initiatives and greater perceptions that affect a mostly unaware student body.

Art students from Flores' visual culture classes, who were studying theories of street art and spectacle, created large wheat paste portraits of the *Rad Fresno State Women* to hang on campus walls where their visibility would be undeniably present.

"Not only was it important to bring to light the stories and images of the *Rad Fresno State Women*," said Flores, "it was just as important to create opportunities for students to participate in the art production process."

Students in Mercado-López's Feminist Theory class researched and wrote the *Rad Fresno State Women's* biographies. Using QR code technology, they linked the outdoor posters to a website they created, which posted the women's biographies, the project statement and a walking map of the exhibition. Mercado-López's class also met with an early literacy class in the Kremen School of Education to discuss ways to include feminist texts in the K-6 classroom.

Crow shepherded the project from beginning to end, researching and contacting the chosen women, acquiring approval from an enthusiastic administration and actively promoting the project. The Arne Nixon Center was often a work area for the students.

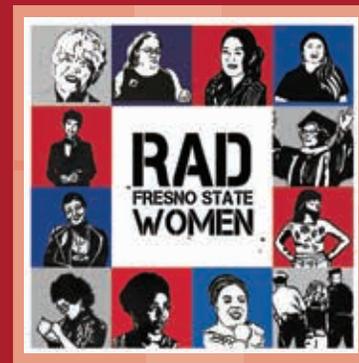
The Fresno Art Museum (FAM) later requested an installation of the *Rad Fresno State Women* exhibition in their lobby. Mercado-López, Flores and Crow were honored that their work was shown with FAM's Frida Kahlo photography exhibition. In collaboration with FAM, the three organized and presented a panel discussion, "Walking the Walk: Rad Fresno State Women Talk," to honor and give voice to the women that were the focus of the exhibition.

This project demonstrated the collaborative energy and influence that one great children's book can create!

**More information can be found at:** [www.radfresnowomen.wixsite.com/fresno](http://www.radfresnowomen.wixsite.com/fresno)

## Rad Fresno State Women

- Judy Chicago—Founder of the feminist art movement originating at Fresno State
- Mary Carolyn Dobbs—Advocate for special education
- Lillian Faderman—Noted author, scholar and co-founder of the Women's Studies Program at Fresno State
- Joy Goto—Pioneering chemist and researcher in neurodegenerative diseases teaching at Fresno State
- Gloria Hernandez—Community worker and paralegal for California Rural Legal Assistance
- Phyllis Irwin—Accomplished music professor and co-founder of the women's studies program at Fresno State
- Robin McGehee—Advocate for marriage equality and the LGBTQ community
- Diana Meehan—Writer, educator and co-founder of the Archer School for Girls
- Francine Oputa—Director of the Cross Cultural and Gender Center at Fresno State
- Jennifer Ruiz— Executive Director of the Fresno American Indian Health Project
- Sherley Anne Williams—Award-winning writer, poet and educator
- See Xiong—Writer and curator of Hmong women's stories



## Anonymous Donor Gifts Research Fellowships

The Arne Nixon Center is pleased to announce two new programs funded by an anonymous donor. The Arne Nixon Center will award two Research Fellowships to support scholars from outside the Fresno/Clovis area engaged in graduate-level, post-doctoral and independent research. The Fellowships have been created to encourage innovative and robust inquiry into the varied aspects of children's literature. Proposals will be chosen by committee and based on significance to the study of children's literature, likelihood of publication or other dissemination of the work and relevance of the project to the Arne Nixon Center's holdings. Acknowledgement of the Arne Nixon Center in all published or otherwise disseminated material is required. Stipends up to \$2,000 will be awarded this fall to those who meet the criteria.

A second gift from the same donor will result in an Artist-in-Residence program. A chosen young adult writer will be awarded a \$10,000 Fellowship to spend a week on the Fresno State campus working with students in English and education classes. Folded into existing topic courses, the artist will work with students on the craft of writing and the use of fiction in the Common Core curriculum.

A culminating showcase of student work will cap off the week. During his or her stay, the artist will visit two high schools and give a presentation to the public. The Artist-in-Residence program begins spring 2017. Through the generosity of our donors, these exciting new programs can now be offered.

**More information can be found at:**  
[www.arnenixoncenter.org/research/fellowships](http://www.arnenixoncenter.org/research/fellowships)



## Thanks for the Treasures! Author Donations

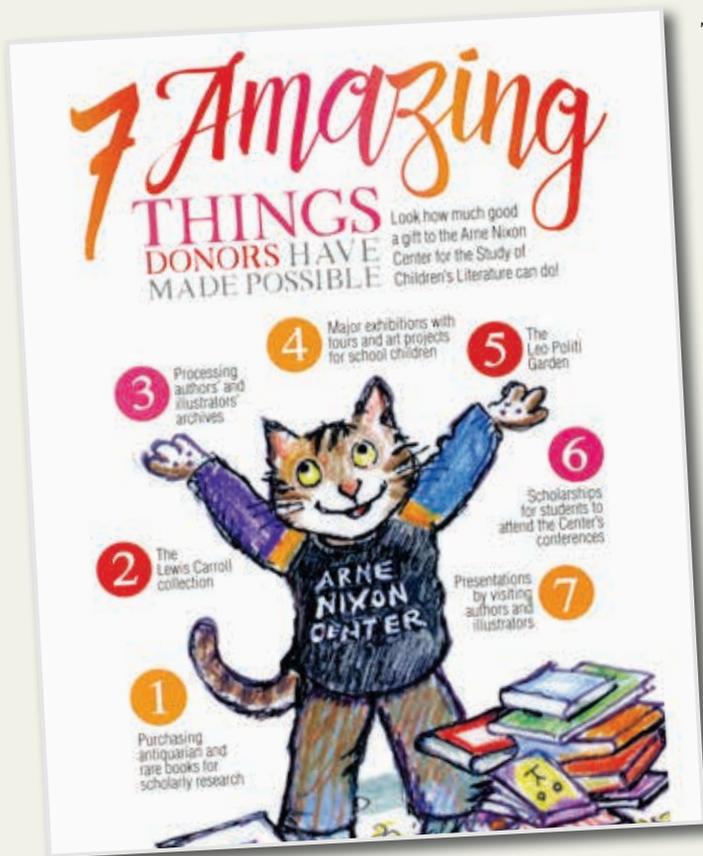
Many thanks to **Alma Flor Ada** and **F. Isabel Campoy** who donated two boxes of manuscripts, galleys, newsletters, classroom activities and materials to add to their already extensive archive, which is now updated and complete. These items have been processed and added to their finding guide. Rediscovered from an earlier donation were some amazing videos, including a series with Ada interviewing the late Paulo Friere, author of *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* and leader in the critical pedagogy movement. These papers are a true treasure to house in the Arne Nixon Center.

The Arne Nixon Center is grateful to **Lin Oliver**, writer, film producer, zeitgeist of humor and co-founder of the SCBWI (Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators) who donated five boxes of items for archiving. The materials include videos, book manuscripts, story outlines, character and landscape designs, film screenplays and sketches.

Oliver is the author of the *Who Shrunk Daniel Funk* series and the co-author with Henry Winkler of the bestselling *Hank Zipzer* series. Her archive is up-to-date, and the completed finding guide can be found on the Arne Nixon Center's website. Stay tuned, more manuscripts are to come!

The Arne Nixon Center was recently honored by a visit from **Anna Grossnickle Hines**. The writer and illustrator of over 50 books, Hines brought 23 boxes of manuscripts, research materials, correspondences and an array of original illustrations, including those created from cloth. The Arne Nixon Center looks forward to categorizing, rehousing and preserving this collection. Thank you, Anna Grossnickle Hines!

**Learn more about donating to the Arne Nixon Center at:**  
[www.arnenixoncenter.org/help/donations.shtml](http://www.arnenixoncenter.org/help/donations.shtml)



# Canvas and Cordials Paint Party Fundraiser

Birds of a Feather, Paint Together!



The Arne Nixon Center's paint party fundraiser at On the Edge Café in Old Town Clovis was great fun and a huge success. Settling down after enjoying tasty food and drink, the evening participants donned their green take-home aprons and painted their empty canvases.

Jaipriya Kaur, an art teacher at Madera High School and the party's instructor, asked the crowd to raise their glasses and take an oath to relax, have fun and understand there are no mistakes. Taking the promise to heart, the painters happily mixed greens, oranges and purples from the provided primary colors, and each painted their own version of a bird sitting on a branch. Giant umbrellas, a gentle breeze and cold drinks kept painters focused on creating their masterpieces while soothing live music from Nick and Kat Acoustic Duo played in the background. The finished art pieces were remarkably distinctive as each painter followed their creative instincts.

Thanks to all our painters whose donations will go to the Rafael López community mural project. With the help of the Arne Nixon Center, international award-winning children's book illustrator, Rafael López, will design and create a community mural in Fresno in the spring of 2017. Stay tuned for more information on the mural as families and friends will be needed to help paint and beautify a Fresno neighborhood.

Thank also goes to Julie Glenn and her staff at On the Edge Café for providing a welcoming venue with delicious food and drink and to Nick and Kat Acoustic Duo for inspiring us with their tunes.

*The Fresno Bee* video coverage of this event can be viewed at: [www.fresnobee.com/news/local/article85657187.html](http://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/article85657187.html)

## Researching the Collection

### Caldecott Medal and Honor Thesis

#### Who You Gonna Call?

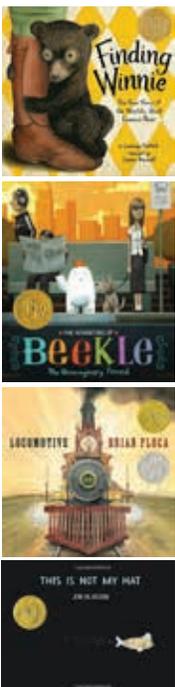
That is exactly what Bay Area resident, Angela Moffett, wondered when she searched for a complete collection of Caldecott Medal and Honor winning books. She needed to research all of them for her San Jose State's iSchool master's thesis, and no one in the Bay Area had them all. So she called the Arne Nixon Center.

The Arne Nixon Center had most of the books, and with those that they borrowed from the Madden Library's Teacher Resource Center, they were only six shy of the complete set. The Arne Nixon Center was then able to attain the missing titles through interlibrary loan. When Moffett found out that the Center could provide all of the Caldecott titles, she quickly made an appointment to visit Fresno State.

Inspired by the "We Need Diverse Books" movement, Moffett's thesis looks at the full range of Caldecott books to determine how representations of populations have changed over time. Her many hours of study in the Arne Nixon Center paid off. Moffett not only has her master's degree, she presented her research at the Association of Children's Librarians of Northern California ACL Institute this summer where Kwame Alexander, Debbie Reese, Zetta Eliot and Mitali Perkins were also guest speakers. Way to go, Angela!

**To learn more about the Caldecott awards, go to:**

[www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecottmedal](http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecottmedal)



# Non-Latin Script Book Grant



Thanks to a Madden Library research and development grant, assistance from the Library's Special Collections Resource Center and help from Julie Moore, the catalog librarian for special collections and special formats, the Arne Nixon Center was able to hire three international students to transliterate many of its non-Latin script books. Transliteration is the act of transcribing characters from one alphabet into another.

Yan Li, a business student from China, Daisuke Yoshida, a criminology student from Japan and Megi Hakobjanyan, originally from Armenia and last a dean's medalist for the College of Social Science, were hired for their excellent multilingual skills. The trio translated bibliographic information, summaries and subject headings in Russian, Armenian, Japanese and Chinese.

The Arne Nixon Center also hired Kristin Baer to catalog the books. Baer is a Library intern from San Jose State University's iSchool (formerly known as the School of Library and Information Science) and a Fresno State English department lecturer. She performed both copy and original cataloging, making these books discoverable through the Library's public online catalog.

The Arne Nixon Center's World Languages Collection contains nearly 4,000 books in over 50 different languages, 2,500 of which are written in Spanish. The Collection is often used by bilingual education credential students, international students and those enrolled in language courses.

## Happy 150th Birthday, Beatrix Potter!

"Once upon a time there were four little Rabbits, and their names were – Flopsy, Mopsy, Cotton-tail, and Peter;" begins one of the most beloved stories in children's literature. Beatrix Potter, the author and illustrator of the *Tale of Peter Rabbit*, turned 150 years old on July 28th.

In honor of Potter's 150th birthday, the Arne Nixon Center is featuring a display of books and ephemera in its reading room.

**For more information about Beatrix Potter, go to:** [www.peterrabbit.com](http://www.peterrabbit.com)



## Nonfiction Booklist Website

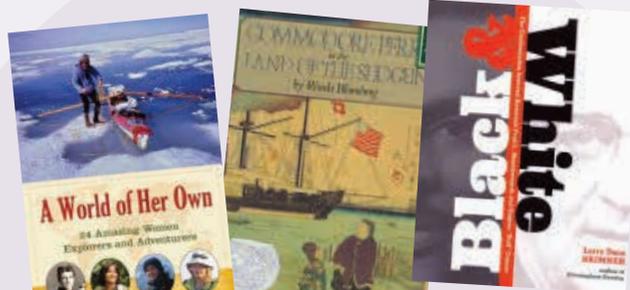
### Diverse Nonfiction Literature for Young Readers

When University of Minnesota doctoral candidate Lauren Causey needed to do research on nonfiction works depicting the experiences of people of color, she traveled across the country to the Arne Nixon Center. Her research involved creating an annotated bibliography that aligned to the Common Core state standards.

Her research helped her choose high-quality titles that are now compiled in a new *Nonfiction Booklist* website. The site, supported by a Carnegie-Whitney Grant from the American Library Association, is created for educators and others interested in the best K-12 informational books for students. The bibliography can be searched by a number of filters, including age, subject and ethnicity. It helps teachers create a realistic and inclusive curriculum. The website also provides information about the Arne Nixon Center and two other collections that Causey used.

The Arne Nixon Center is proud to be included in this much-needed research on books of diversity for classroom use.

**Visit the site at:** [www.nonfictionbooklist.com](http://www.nonfictionbooklist.com)



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## Dr. Debbie Reese Visits Fresno State — October 13th

### American Indians in Children's Literature



The Arne Nixon Center and Arne Nixon Center Advocates (ANCA) will sponsor two talks by Dr. Debbie Reese on October 13, 2016. Dr. Reese is an educator, librarian and creator of the blog, "American Indians in Children's Literature."

The afternoon talk is a presentation for teaching credential and Fresno State students focusing on the best K-12 American Indian literature, curriculum and coordinated classroom activities.

The evening talk is the ANCA annual meeting and public lecture featuring Dr. Reese as the guest speaker. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Library, room 2206. A catered reception following Dr. Reese's presentation is at 7:30 p.m.

Many misconceptions remain about what American Indian literature and practices are best to use with children, particularly in the classroom. Good intentioned people trying to be inclusive of Native peoples and cultures often choose books that miss a greater understanding. Dr. Reese's critical eye helps to enlighten non-native viewpoints and bring truthful, positive representations of indigenous people to all children.

Dr. Debbie Reese is tribally enrolled at Nambe Pueblo in northern New Mexico and is a founding member of the Native American House and American Indian Studies program at the University of Illinois. She is on the Literature Advisory Board for Reading is Fundamental and the Advisory Board for Reach Out and Read American Indian/Alaska Native.

Dr. Reese's visit coincides with the Madden Library's traveling exhibition, *Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness*. The exhibition is hosted by the Library's Diversity Committee and is made possible through a grant from the National Library of Medicine and the American Library Association.

**Dr. Reese's blog can be found at:** [www.americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com](http://www.americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com)

**For more information about the *Native Voices* exhibition, go to:**  
[www.library.fresnostate.edu/content/native-voices-concepts-of-health-and-illness](http://www.library.fresnostate.edu/content/native-voices-concepts-of-health-and-illness)