

PERALTA

HACIENDA HISTORICAL PARK

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How do you make the future inclusive?



Round table discussion with CSUEB professors, City of Oakland mandataries, community members and Peralta Hacienda staff.

(Oakland, CA.) On December 1 surrounded by a mix of dignitaries and community members in Peralta Hacienda's crowded Center for History and Community, Cal State University East Bay president Leroy



Cal State University East Bay president Leroy Morishita

Morishita shared his vision for the new partnership between and the university and the historic site. He emphasized that the most important learning experiences often take place outside of the classroom. The university is turning away from the lecture format and towards project- and community-based learning.

Peralta Hacienda ED Holly Alonso shared the news that US Congressional Representative Barbara Lee just nominated Peralta Hacienda for the 2017 National Medal for Museum Service, leading the national Community Catalyst movement towards greater engagement by museums and libraries

in their communities.



Dr. Linda Ivey, Chair of the History Department, CSUEB

Dr. Linda Ivey, Chair of the History Department, wrote a successful \$40,000 Programmatic Excellence in Learning grant to pilot the partnership between CSUEB and Peralta Hacienda this year. Starting in January, three faculty members and seventy-five CSUEB students will work actively at Peralta Hacienda on community projects. Community members can take the lead, and teach the students from their skills, knowledge, traditions, and life experiences, uniting college with community and acknowledging Fruitvale's community assets. As part of this reciprocal permanent partnership, CSUEB will hold community meetings on requirements, scholarships and majors.

Along with Ivey, Cal State faculty Dr Carlos Salomon, Chair of CSUEB's Ethnic Studies department and Dr Albert Gonzalez, archaeologist, will be coming to Peralta Hacienda.



Dr. Carlos Salomon, Chair of CSUEB's Ethnic Studies department

The downside is that after June, the program will need support either from the university, the City of Oakland, or both, in order to continue.

Oakland's Director of Education David Silver, Peralta Hacienda board and staff and Council member Noel Gallo spoke at the kickoff about the potential for a pipeline to college. With CSUEB at Peralta Hacienda, Fruitvale—the district with the highest percentage of children and youth in Oakland—can become the epicenter of Mayor Libby Schaaf's Oakland Promise, the effort to triple Oakland's college graduation rate in ten years.



Dr. Albert Gonzalez, Archaeologist and Professor at CSUEB.

Victoria Herrera was one of the community members who came to voice their hopes for the partnership with Cal State East Bay. She remembered her first educational experience: Learning about plants as a child on a farm in Guatemala.

Park neighbor Salud Dacumos glowed with the thought that the partnership will transform Fruitvale by connecting immigrants to education. Her husband Joseph Samaniego, a Peralta Hacienda neighbor since he was four years old, now 69, mentioned that old people are isolated. "How can they get connected? Their life histories should be valued."

ESL teacher Marilyn Noble knows dozens of low-income mothers who are eager to study, but they ask her, "Teacher, who can help us pay for

it?"

Ideas came forward about food security, advocacy, extended education and more. All are ready to dig in to work on the community's most pressing issues.

Neighbors talked about new facilities needed to make the partnership work. The need for safe places for Oakland's artists and cultural groups was tragically dramatized in the Ghost Ship fire.

Oakland's infrastructure bond passed in November could build these desperately needed facilities if the political will is found at City Hall and in the private philanthropic community.

Peralta Hacienda received a \$500,000 challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the \$4 million dollar budget three years ago, which can only flow into the project if it receives a match of three times that amount, or \$1.5 million dollars. Councilmember Gallo voiced his strong support and pointed out that the new charter school right next door to Peralta Hacienda will bring 500 high school youth into the neighborhood.

The centerpiece of the hoped-for new facilities at Peralta Hacienda is the Museum Without Walls, a gallery which converts to an assembly hall for community dialogues and artists' events. A fully-equipped stage and audience area is planned to host local and visiting performers. An outdoor kitchen with an adobe oven and community banquet table will host food events. An archaeological viewing station will enable community youth and adults to learn how to excavate and all visitors to see into the East Bay's past. It's all been designed by Oakland's renowned landscape architect Walter Hood.

In his Oral Traditions projects starting January, Dr. Salomon wants to raise public awareness about people now living in Fruitvale who have fled oppression all over the globe, how colonialists have taken the land from the indigenous peoples worldwide, and how gentrification threatens cultural diversity in Fruitvale week by week, block by block. He will collaborate directly with community members to document their stories, and plan action to root out oppression today, echoing Professor Albert Gonzalez' vision of a campus at Peralta Hacienda where courses serve the immediate needs of the neighborhood.

Dr Gonzalez is looking forward to high school interns participating in his spring course on archaeological fieldwork, looking at artifacts from the Peralta rancho. This course is outdoors and active, and involves quantitative science, deductive reasoning, imagination, and history.

Under Professor Ivey, students and community members will create an exhibit about Fruitvale for a large outdoor display at the site in her project-based course on Bay Area History. She will also explore environmental history with students and neighbors, from the 1868 earthquake (the last "big one") that destroyed the old Peralta adobes, to the culverting of Peralta Creek in the 1980s.

Native Americans and Peraltas built the settlement commemorated at Peralta Hacienda Historical Park. The six-acre site, known as Oakland's Birthplace, reflects the area's earliest cultural negotiations and struggles. The organization dedicates its efforts to historical healing, culture, arts, the environment, and community-building. It is on the National Register of Historic Places and a California State Landmark as well as being on the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

California State University East Bay is designated a top-tier institution among master's-granting universities in the west by *U.S. News & World Report* and is recognized by the Princeton Review as a "Best in the West" college. CSUEB's student body of over 13,000 is the most diverse in California.

About Peralta Hacienda

Peralta Hacienda is the birthplace of Oakland, where the Peralta family built their adobe houses in 1821 in his cattle ranch of 45,000 acres. The Peraltas were part of the group of settlers who arrived in the Bay Area in 1776 as part of the expedition led by Spanish military leader Juan Bautista de Anza. This was the era when the Kingdom of Spain claimed the New World's territories, Mexico and the American Southwest. Luis Maria Peralta accompanied his father, mother and three siblings on the trek; he would later serve many decades as a soldier in the Spanish Colonial Army.

Visitors can see permanent historical exhibits in the Peralta House museum that tell the story of the transformation of the East Bay during the Spanish and Mexican periods through sound, images, and touchable objects, inside the evocative architecture of the 1870 Antonio Peralta House, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

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