

Gluck Fellows Program at UCR in Focus: Spring 2013



COMMUNITY FOCUS

Graduate Art Fellow Chelsea Rector led an 8-month arts and crafts activity for the Culver Center of the Arts' Family Funday on First Sunday events series. Each first Sunday of the month, the Center opened its doors with free admission for families to bring their children. Rector designed crafts activities related to the art exhibitions up at the Culver.



PROJECT FOCUS

On April 19th, The Gluck Fellows Program at UCR collaborated with UCR Poetry Professor and California Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera on his *i Promise Joanna* project, an anti-bullying awareness campaign, for a special *Gluck Day of the Arts on the UCR campus*. The project is named after Joanna Ramos, a ten year-old girl from Long Beach who died as a result of an after-school fight. The Gluck Fellows program coordinated with Towngate Elementary School in Moreno Valley and brought in 100 5th graders (the same age as Joanna Ramos) who met with Herrera and listened to his poem about her. They then broke into groups and did special workshops with Gluck Graduate Creative Writing Fellow David Campos in which they brainstormed ways to avoid conflicts and find peaceful solutions. These were recorded on special posters they made.

FELLOW FOCUS

Aisha Jenkins, Graduate Fellow in Theatre

Drawing on her research in the migration of African dance culture from Brazil to Louisiana to California, Jenkins created a dance-based workshop that demonstrated the legacy and influence of African-American cultural forms in contemporary American culture. Her workshop was given primarily in February to coincide with African-American History Month school curricula. "In my graduate program, I am the only student who writes for a youth audience. The Gluck Fellows Program of the Arts is a singular opportunity to engage with my intended audience and participate in a community that shares my values about the importance of children, art, and education."



SCHOOL FOCUS

Kathy Nitta, 5th grade teacher, Mission Bell Elementary School

"Our students loved all of the performances. Many of our students do not get opportunities within their families to attend museums, art exhibits, or concerts, so Gluck provides experiences that they would not have otherwise. It is difficult to single out certain presentations because they were all wonderful! That being said, the self-portrait presentation was a big hit with students. Andrea Brown's storytelling with photographs was also well received. Erin Thompson on the Bagpipes was another favorite with teachers and students."

