

Labor Activist Highlighted in New Latino Urban Leaders Archiving Project



Rudy Lozano working in his campaign office at Ridgeway and 26th Street in the early 1980s. Photo Courtesy of Lozano Family.

The life, activism, and memory of the late activist Rudy Lozano has been brought to life through the Latino Urban Leaders Archiving Project, a partnership between UICNI and the Lozano family, friends, and colleagues. Since August 2005, UICNI has carefully archived materials from Lozano's life to preserve this important piece of Chicago's Mexican-American heritage. UICNI's collaboration to archive materials is slated for completion in late Spring 2006.

Rudy Lozano, born in 1951, was a well-known progressive organizer who worked to mobilize and empower Latino workers and further the labor movement and immigrant rights in Chicago during the 1970s. He worked as the Midwest Regional Organizing Director of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, helped elect the first African American mayor of Chicago, Mayor Harold Washington, and was later appointed by the late Mayor to serve as the Latino community liaison in the final years of his life. He was assassinated in his home in June 1983.

Project members are currently completing the final stages of archiving and moving ahead on finding a suitable location for the materials. In the future, Nacho Gonzalez, UICNI Associate Director, envisions the information provided in the archives will be used by elementary, middle, and high school students. "[In history classes] students can study people like Ponce de Leon, Pancho Villa, and others, but those people lived over one hundred years ago." Gonzalez pointed out. "[Students] can study people who walked down the same street as they do today, that built institutions closer to home. It becomes a mentoring thing, they did it, [and] we can do it."

Gonzalez and other team members see technology as an additional opportunity for providing access to Lozano's life and history. Interactive computer programs and

websites would add another dimension of access for students and other interested individuals.

Finding a library or institution that will allow access and use by family members, friends, and people seeking to learn more about Lozano is the next step in this project. The ease and ability by which people can access the materials is particularly important in searching for a suitable location. Materials must not only be stored, but actively used and accessible.

"Archives are active units, not storage places," pointed out Barbara Denmark Long, UICNI project consultant. " [Through this archive] people can learn about Lozano and Mexican-American heritage in Chicago. The project is not only about the materials. This project is about the heritage; the materials only channel the information. We really want to make people aware of this history."

The archive currently contains pictures, notes, papers, newspaper clippings, clothing, political buttons, photographs and more. "The most interesting thing are the photographs. You can see chronologically how [Lozano] changed, how events got bigger, how his girlfriend became his wife, how meetings in his home got bigger, then him standing next to Mayor Harold Washington," Emily Tapia, UICNI research assistant, explained. "I like that I'm a part of this process. I am helping to make this [history] accessible for future generations."



Rudy Lozano and Mayor Harold Washington at a press conference outside City Hall in the early 1980s. Photo courtesy of Lozano family.

The project came about as the 20th anniversary of his death neared in 2003. Friends and family searched for ideas to commemorate and recognize the activist. The Friends of Rudy Lozano Library, and a handful of people that include family and friends wanted to determine the proper way to preserve and store files from Rudy Lozano's life and work. An archiving project seemed the most appropriate way to manage the wealth of information available.

Next steps include seeking additional funding to record an extensive oral history of Lozano through interviews and exploring how this project will evolve by using examples from other archives from across the US. In the future, UICNI hopes to begin archiving materials and information from other urban leaders, organizations, and other activists. A meeting this spring (to be scheduled) will announce the Latino Urban Leaders Archiving Project's progress and next steps.

For more information on this project, contact Nacho Gonzalez at nacho@uic.edu or 312-996-7194.

Professional Education Supports International Learning Exchange

Professional Education has provided online learning opportunities for working professionals from around the globe for almost six years. A program of the UIC Great Cities Institute, Professional Education currently offers online courses targeted to the needs of community service organizations, specifically with a focus on the non-profit and housing sectors.

The online program contains a core of six courses. Participants receive a Certificate in Non-Profit Management following the completion of all core courses. Each course is designed to stand alone, so that participants may choose to take a specific class, or pursue the full certificate. Course topics include: Strategic Management, Non-Profit Governance, Marketing, Operations Management, Fundraising, and Financial Management. Over 600 people have participated in the courses and 120 have received the certificate since 2000.

The program's approach is unique. It utilizes the facilitated learning approach, where participants are provided with principles and practices, relevant readings, and other background materials, and an expert in the field provides overall guidance. Students learn from each other by sharing their knowledge and experiences. The learning takes place in the form of an online discussion board that participants can post questions and ideas.

John Mudd, E-Learning Initiatives Specialist, first became involved in the program when he took one of the classes. He was amazed at the way that individual personalities could exist in an online environment, and how sharing experiences could build relationships that can be sustained after the class ended. One of the biggest unexpected successes he has seen is its popularity with international professionals. "We have at least two to four international participants in each class. We've found that our courses really cross borders. It provides an amazing opportunity for global knowledge exchange among non-profit professionals," he added. People from 38 states and 25 countries, including Honduras, India, Morocco, and Senegal have participated in the courses.

New courses begin every five weeks. For more information, contact Sarah Rothschild, Program Coordinator, at sroths1@uic.edu or 312-413-0558.



For information on the UIC Professional Education Online Certificate in Non-Profit Management, visit <http://cnm.cuppa.uic.edu>.

Partner Profiles: Radio Arte and the UIC Center for Urban Business

Radio Arte

Sounds of Latin music, hip hop, electronica, local DJs, salsa and reggae emanate from the airwaves. What station could broadcast such an eclectic mix of music? It's Radio Arte, a youth-led and youth-driven community radio station that has served the Pilsen and Little Village communities for over six years. A youth initiative of the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum, the station provides skills necessary to produce radio shows and access on-air training. The station broadcasts over a 14-mile radius on the Southwest side of Chicago.

Silvia Rivera, former Communications Director and now the General Manager for the station, recently gave us an update on future plans and her experience working with community and university partners.

UICNI: *What are the current projects you are working on at the station?*

Silvia Rivera: Right now, we are working on "First Voice," the station's first public affairs show. We began a new training session and have chosen 30 students and adults to participate. The focus of the year-long course (in English and Spanish) is on developing stories, writing scripts, digital production and interviewing techniques. We are incorporating mock training shows into the classes and will be developing the format in the coming months. We hope to be ready to work on the show by Fall.



Silvia Rivera (L) interviews a student at Radio Arte.

UICNI: *What has been a positive outcome of your partnership with UICNI? Where do you see Radio Arte going in the future?*

SR: We partnered with UICNI on the Placeworx afterschool program, working with youth to explore the issue of gentrification in Pilsen and other communities using photography, spoken word, and audio arts. UICNI brought research and expertise in planning and community development, while Radio Arte brought teaching and technical expertise in interviewing and spoken word. Through this, we found that students learned about the impact of gentrification on their community, gained perspective on its impact, and identified solutions. We wanted to build on this momentum by creating more thematic programs that tackle the issues impacting our community. An outgrowth of this is "First Voice," a space to report news and issues through a local, community driven voice.

For more information, contact Silvia Rivera at srivera@radioarte.org or 312-455-9455.

UIC Center for Urban Business

For the past 13 years, UIC's Center for Urban Business (CUB) has provided emerging and existing businesses in Chicago and beyond with assistance and consultation on how to grow their business and become successful entrepreneurs. Originally, CUB was founded with a mission to work with businesses located in Chicago, with a particular interest in the neighborhoods surrounding UIC. Over the years, however, the scope has expanded to include businesses all over Chicago, the suburbs, and anywhere in Illinois.

Today, CUB offers workshops and one-on-one consultations to people interested in beginning a business and people already in a business looking to improve. In many instances, CUB partners with UIC students enrolled in technology or business courses to provide businesses with specific assistance. CUB helps to identify a feasible semester-long project and matches the business with a student project team. "The student teams really help [provide this service.] We couldn't provide this kind of [specific] service otherwise to businesses," noted Freida Curry, Director of CUB.

The services provided by CUB are available to any interested individuals. According to Joseph DeLaGarza, Associate Director of CUB, people come to CUB through referrals from local chambers of commerce, former clients, and other local organizations that are familiar with CUB's work.

CUB is a designated Small Business Development Center (SBDC), which is a collaborative arrangement between the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), and UIC. Additionally, it is part of the Illinois Entrepreneurship Network (IEN), a network of SBDCs throughout Illinois. IEN was created by Governor Blagojevich to assist small businesses to create jobs and revenue.

For more information, contact 312-413-8130 or 312-413-4478.



CUB staff (L to R): Freida Curry, Director; Camelia Williams, Depart. Information Supervisor; Johanna Romero, General Office Assistant; Joseph DeLaGarza, Associate Director.

Evolving with Our Partners

One exciting yet challenging aspect of the UICNI approach to university/community partnerships is the dynamic nature of relationships. For both the university and its partners, the test of commitment to genuine partnerships is the ability to weather change, as each entity reacts, repositions or redefines itself. The past five years have brought many changes including changes in landscape, community demographics, local leadership, university administration and residents' needs. From the perspective of UICNI, we have experienced change as some of our partners evolve in response to local circumstances. Other partners have simply ceased to exist. The importance of maintaining close ties has never been more necessary, if we are to evolve with our partners.



A message from UICNI Director Cynthia Barnes-Boyd

To quote the young at heart among us, we have "been on it." Translated, this means that we have been actively involved in nurturing relationships and collecting information that will enrich our understanding of changes occurring around us. During this academic year, we have benefited from new internal partnerships that have contributed to our progress in this area. Working with the Colleges of Urban Planning, Nursing, Social Work and Public Health, we have engaged students and faculty in "reassessment projects" that have produced update profiles of communities where we have worked for years and created baseline information for new communities. Involving students from different UIC colleges has been exciting since each group brings a different and fresh perspective. We are indebted to our community partners who so patiently received and assisted our students in the community. I would also like to thank UIC faculty who guided these students in the collection and final presentation of information. Looking around us I can see that there is still much to do but again, "we're on it!"

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