



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2026 Volume II: Latinx Histories, Cultures, and Communities

The Roots That Heal: Chicago's Latinx Odyssey and Art of Liberation

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Rooted in the healing philosophy of *La Cultura Cura* (culture cures), this curriculum unit empowers 6th grade students to anchor their cultural identity, build resilience, and regain an appreciation of their ancestral background through a combined exploration of historical lineages and artistic expression—specifically in the City of Chicago. In synthesizing the socio-political with creativity, this unit examines the profound impacts of U.S. interventions in Latin America, subsequent migration trends, and the vibrant as well as transformative role of the Latino community in Chicago. Moreover, by analyzing art as an alternative archive of origin, diaspora, as well as survival, students can learn to decode visual narratives and potentially challenge historical misconceptions themselves. Introducing inspiring artists and public art serves as a mirror for self-reflection and a catalyst for visual cultural empowerment. Ultimately, this approach will connect ancestral heritage with current realities, inspiring young students to utilize art as a powerful tool for social justice while embracing their culture, and transforming creative expression into their own individual superpower.

(Developed for Visual Arts, grade 6; recommended for Visual Arts, History, and Social Studies, grades 6-8)

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