











## **Mural: The Plight of Children in Migration**

Aurora County is one of [the most diverse counties](#) in the state of Colorado with 20 percent of the population originating in other countries. It is also the home of the largest children's hospital in the region and a teaching hospital that is currently ranked #7 nationally. Given the large immigrant population served on the CU Anschutz campus, it is critical that students, faculty, and staff have some understanding of the complex traumas that some of their patients, clients, and colleagues may have experienced during their journey to the U.S.

The Fulginiti Pavilion is located approximately 250 yards from the hospital in a major foot traffic corridor. An external mural on Fulginiti Pavilion could be seen by thousands of healthcare students, faculty, and professionals. David Weil and Professor Binford have obtained support from CU Anschutz leadership for the installation of a temporary mural on the western wall of the Fulginiti Pavilion. The theme of the mural is *the plight of children in migration*, and a call for proposals will be issued in late 2022 or early 2023. It is hoped that both the mural, as well as the interior exhibits, will also attract visitors from the larger, off-campus community by focusing on a topic that is relevant to many Denver-area residents, including those in Aurora.

## **OVERVIEW OF EXHIBITS AND EVENTS**

### **BACKGROUND**

The University of Colorado at Anschutz recently created the W.H. Lea Endowed Chair for Justice in Pediatric Law, Policy & Ethics. The inaugural chair-holder is Warren Binford, Ed.M., J.D., who is a Professor of Pediatrics (with tenure), a Professor of Law (by courtesy), a core faculty member of the Center for Bioethics and the Humanities, and the Director of Law, Policy & Ethics at the Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect. The university customarily hosts a celebration of newly endowed chairs. The W.H. Lea Endowed Chair celebration is scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2023, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the [Fulginiti Pavilion](#).

Professor Binford's work focuses on children's rights and one of the areas she is best known for is advocacy for respecting the rights of children in migration. Although she herself is an attorney, she supports and collaborates with individuals and organizations in other disciplines, including music and the arts, in projects centered on children's experiences. Some of the projects she has supported include the children's book [Hear My Voice/Escucha Mi Voz](#), which has received 37 awards and distinctions; [DYKWTCA](#), a collection of conceptual art from both established and rising artists internationally, which raised over \$250,000 for children in migration; [The Flores Exhibits](#), which was a series of online readings of children's sworn testimonies organized by the



Broadway community; and [BorderX](#), a comics book published by the comic arts community, which focuses on the border crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border and includes a series of comics about the experiences of children arriving to the U.S.

The W.H. Lea Endowed Chair celebration provides an opportunity to highlight the impact that interdisciplinary work can have in human rights advocacy, especially when music and the arts are engaged. The Center for Bioethics and the Humanities will use the event to showcase the effectiveness of music and art as advocacy, as well as premiere two new projects: an exterior mural highlighting the plight of children in migration as well as a performance of a musical composition, *Soul Echoes*, commissioned from a young, rising star composer who himself was detained crossing the border as a youth. In addition to these artistic endeavors, the W.H. Lea Endowed Chair celebration on September 21 will be preceded by a full-day symposium on multidisciplinary human rights advocacy focused on children in migration, and will include doctors, attorneys, academics, and marketing professionals, alongside musicians and artists, including the composer and the muralist, and possibly two sisters who were at [the Clint Border Patrol facility when Professor Binford collected sworn testimonies from children at that site in June 2019](#).

## **OVERVIEW**

Given the large body of artwork and music that has already been created to amplify the voices and help tell the stories of children in migration, the Center for Bioethics and the Humanities has allocated all of its exhibit space in the Fulginiti Pavilion for most of 2023 to display pieces from this body of work. The series collectively will be called ***Testimony***. The gallery space will exhibit select works of art from [DYKWTC](#) starting in March-April 2023, renamed ***Welcome to America***. On the outside of the Fulginiti Pavilion, an exterior wall mural will be commissioned from an artist to highlight the plight of children in migration. The Center for Bioethics and the Humanities hopes to be able to unveil the mural circa the opening of the ***Welcome to America***, which together will be the launch of ***Testimony***.

On September 12, 2023, an all-day, multidisciplinary symposium will be organized to bring together leaders in art, music, law, marketing, and medicine to discuss the engagement of their respective disciplines for transformative advocacy in advancing human rights and the potential for interdisciplinary collaboration by focusing specifically on their advocacy efforts on behalf of children arriving to the U.S. The symposium will conclude with the W.H. Lea celebration reception, which will include the world premiere of an immersive vocal drama in the Gossard Forum titled ***Soul Echoes: Empowering Sworn Declarations of Children Detained at the U.S.-Mexico Border Through Art*** by [J.E. Hernandez](#), who himself was detained at the U.S. border when he was younger.

## **GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS**

### **Art Exhibit in Gallery Space: *Welcome to America***

Professor Binford will work with the lead organizer of [DYKWTC](#), Mary Ellen Carroll, to procure select pieces from that exhibit to display in the Fulginiti Pavilion's gallery space from circa March-April 2023 through March-April, 2024. Each work displayed will be accompanied by the sworn declaration that inspired it. The artists that contributed pieces to [DYKWTC](#) include Cande Aguilar, Ricci Albenda, Bill Allen, Marina Ancona, Carolina Antich, Catalina Antonia Granados, Polly Apfelbaum, Michele Asselin and Glenda Carpio, Davide Balula, Walead Beshty, Paige K. B., Eric Brown, Robert Buck, Dietmar Busse, Ambreen Butt, Mary Ellen Carroll, York Chang, Mel Chin, David Colman, Beatriz Cortez, Tony Cox, Jessica Craig-Martin, Anna Daučíková, Shezad Dawood, Lorenzo De Los Angeles, Beto De Volder and Leon Villagran, Anne Delaney, Alyssa De Luccia, Liz Deschenes, Vikram Divecha, Cirilo Domine, Trisha Donnelly, Joanne Dugan, The Dufala Brothers—Billy Dufala and Steven Dufala, Jack Early, EIDIA House (Paul Lamarre and Melissa P. Wolf), Manuel Esnoz, Rochelle Feinstein, Patricia Fernández, Avram Finkelstein, Jean Foos, Eve Fowler, Ivan Gaete, Molly Gochman, Camilo Godoy, Terence Gower, Dan Graham, John Hanning, Graciela Hasper, Karolyn Hatton, Dana Hoey, Ashley Hunt, Samuel Jablon, Jesse Presley Jones, Rhea Karam, David Kelley, Maria Kent and Erin Leland, Jon Kessler, Elisabeth Kley, Alice Könitz, Josh Lehrer, Cary Leibowitz, Simon Leung, Siobhan Liddell, Matt Lipps, Tod Lippy, Mary Lum, Eva Lundsager, Brian Maguire, Yeni Mao, Jessica Mein, Julie Mehretu, Lucas Michael, Wardell Milan, Katrina Moorhead, Carlos Motta, Jason Murphy, Antony Nagelmann, Kambui Olujimi, Jeanine Oleson, Anneé Olofsson, Ruby Osorio, Spencer Ostrander, Arthur Ou, Paul Pfeiffer, Pope.L, Gala Porras-Kim, Liliana Porter, Luiza Prado de O. Martins, Barbara Probst, Rob Pruitt, Kim Pterodactyl, Adam Putnam, Michael Rakowitz, Paul Ramirez Jonas, Ugo Rondinone, Kay Rosen, Alejandra Seeber, Alexandro Segade, Kang Seung Lee, Anna Sew Hoy, Amy Sillman, Laurie Simmons, Xaviera Simmons, Pamela Sneed, A.L. Steiner, Berend Strick, Lisa Tan and Johnny Chang, Steed Taylor, Ana Tiscornia, Lincoln Tobier, Julie Tolentino, Fred Tomaselli, Boris Torres, Marguerite Van Cook, Rafael Viñoly, Lawrence Weiner, Judi Werthein, Barbara Westermann, Summer Wheat, and Bob Witz.

[DYKWTC](#) opened at the Whitman Walker in Washington, D.C., in late January 2020, just as the global pandemic was unfolding. As a result of the pandemic lockdowns, the exhibit space was closed and the show was abbreviated. However, the benefit sale of the collection generated over \$250,000, which was donated to organizations serving children and families migrating to the U.S.

The showing of select pieces of [DYKWTC](#) in the gallery and lobby space in the Fulginiti Pavilion will provide the public with a new opportunity to view some of the works in person.

70,000 visitors have viewed exhibits in the gallery space since it opened in 2012 and we are excited to bring pieces from this collection to the Colorado community, which welcomes hundreds of unaccompanied children and thousands of migrating families each year.

### **Musical Performance: *Soul Echoes***

The University of Colorado at Anschutz has commissioned [J.E. Hernandez](#) to compose a musical work inspired by the sworn testimonies of children arriving to the U.S. A naturalized U.S. citizen, Mr. Hernandez was himself detained at the U.S.-Mexico border and has first-hand experience of the traumatic nature of the experience. Mr. Hernandez has titled his composition ***Soul Echoes: Empowering Sworn Declarations of Children Detained at the U.S.-Mexico Border Through Art***. *Soul Echoes* explores the way in which being detained affects the bodies of the children who have been detained. “Our body is intrinsically linked to our voices, with the cold and isolation of these facilities directly affecting what these children have to say,” explains Mr. Hernandez. The work utilizes state of the art motion-capture technology to incorporate the movements of the dancers into the musical production, simultaneously producing visuals projected on stage.

*Soul Echoes* is being choreographed by [Jesus Acosta](#), who was also detained as a teenager. Mr. Acosta is engaging a youth member of the [Houston Contemporary Dance Company](#) to assist him. The work is written for string quartet & mezzo-soprano. We hope to engage a BIPOC quartet based in the Denver metro area. Mezzo-soprano [Luisiana Rivas](#) will perform the premiere of *Soul Echoes*. [FILMATIC Cinema](#) will provide visuals.

The world premiere of *Soul Echoes* will take place on the CU Anschutz on September 21, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the Gossard Forum of the Fulginiti Pavilion.

### **Multi-Disciplinary Symposium**

Also on September 21, 2023, CU Anschutz, and hopefully, CU Law will co-host an all-day multi-disciplinary symposium on human rights advocacy focused on children in migration. The symposium will feature guests from across the country, including doctors, attorneys, musicians, academics, marketing professionals, and, of course, artists.

The symposium will take place in the [Gossard Forum](#) in the [Fulginiti Pavilion](#) from 8:30 to 4:00 p.m. The Gossard Forum has a unique in-the-round auditorium that seats 140 persons. It is located in the drum of the pavilion’s foyer, where ***Welcome to America*** will be on exhibit alongside the children’s declarations. Panels and discussions will include topics including “Using Arts and Music as Advocacy,” “Centering Children’s Voices and Experiences,” “Medical

Standards for Children Arriving to the United States,” and “Legal Strategies for Defending the Rights of Children in Migration.” Students and faculty from all four campuses will be invited to the event, which will be live-streamed. We are hopeful that during the lunch break, [True North Duo](#) will perform “[The Ghost of Abuelito](#),” which was inspired by the children’s sworn testimonies and was selected as a semi-finalist for a Grammy in the Americana genre in 2020.



## Mural Review Panel

<a href="#">Warren Binford</a>	CU professor and international child advocate
Steven Burton	<i>LGBTQ+ Hub Program Manager,</i> <a href="#">CU-AMC Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Community Engagement</a>
<a href="#">Mary Ellen Carroll</a>	<a href="#">MEC Studios:</a> Conceptual Artist and curator of the <i>Welcome to America</i> exhibition at the Fulginiti Pavilion.
<a href="#">Jasmine Chu</a>	Art Coordinator at Children's Hospital Colorado
<a href="#">Arturo Garcia</a>	Artist and studio owner. Exhibited at the Fulginiti Gallery in 2018, Garcia is widely connected to Denver's Mexican art community.
<a href="#">Frank Garza</a>	Muralist and coordinator of <a href="#">Colorado AHEC mural projects</a>
<a href="#">J.E. Hernández</a>	Commissioned to compose a musical/dance work, <i>Soul Echos</i> , inspired by the testimonies of migrant children, which will premiere at the Fulginiti in September, 2023
<a href="#">Sam Michael</a>	Member, Aurora Immigrant and Refugee Commission
<a href="#">Theresa Nino</a>	College of Nursing Faculty and Chancellor's DEI committee member
Josina Romero O'Connell	<a href="#">Director of Colorado AHEC</a>
Andre Vite	CU-AMC Campus Architect and Vice-Chancellor for Facilities
<a href="#">David Weil</a>	Manager of Operations & Educational Technology at the <a href="#">Center for Bioethics and Humanities</a>

Please use the following criteria matrix to rate each proposal. This matrix will help ensure that each criteria will be viewed the same way by graders.						
Note- the first four criteria are more open to personal interpretation and graded on a scale from 0-5. The final three criteria are more objective yes/no and graded on a scale from 0-3						
Criteria Matrix	0	1	2	3	4	5
Tells story of migrant children	unclear narrative	basic narrative	increasingly thoughtful narrative	clear narrative and social context	clear narrative, social context & vision	unique narrative, social context,
Artistic style	style does not meet expectations	adequate artistic ability	good artistic ability	excellent artistic ability	unique artistic ability and techniques	emotionally compelling artistry and style
Vision	does not convey message	simple message	More compex, nuanced messaging	compelling, emotionally impactful	complex, layered, emotionally impactful	Impactful, uniquely presented, historic or
Use of 7' x 32' format	format not considered	adequate use of format	Appropriately scaled/good use of format	Unique management of scale and	Powerful use of scale, perspective and	High impact use of space, scale and
Overall quality of proposal	Does not meet criteria	Somewhat addresses criteria	Strong ideas and concept	Unique concept and artistry	Outstanding ideas and technique	Powerful, emotional, technically expert