

The Platica Methodology: Connecting Acción y Poder through Storytelling

For many indigenous communities, *platica y cuento* / storytelling, has been central to the way we keep history, values, accountability, and create a future that connects and honors our ancestral knowledge. Tecihtzin, Herminia Acosta Enrique, was such a storyteller and maestra.

Prompt

Write an essay that demonstrates knowledge of the ethics, morals, values, and *pensamientos* of Tecihtzin. Be sure to include a description of how she affected and influenced the arts and was an example of excellence as an Indigenous artista and activista. Once you've done your research, describe how your experiences, hopes, and dreams are reflected or inspired by Tecihtzin and the life she led as an Indigenous artista and activista.

Background

"Herminia Acosta Enrique (Tecihtzin), is best known as the founder of the Ballet Folklórico en Aztlan (1967), and co-founder of San Diego's Centro Cultural de la Raza (1969). She is a life-long art and social justice activist, preserving and teaching dance and the arts while promoting dialogue among Indigenous tribes of the Americas. Since childhood in the 1920s, Enrique designed costumes, composed plays, produced local musical theatre productions, and taught folklore. Tecihtzin was an early advocacy for two-spirit, LGBT people and youth. In 1978, she participated in the Smithsonian Folklife Program in storytelling sessions on Mexican folktales, myths, legends, superstitions, and was a facilitator of Mexican games. The author of *Chia A Powerful Recuerdo*, several pieces about Folkloric Dance, and numerous short plays, songs, and performance art work, she was a frequent speaker in San Diego and San Antonio, Texas about Southwest folktales, traditional morality tales, she has not only passed on cultural treasures to generations, but helped create a proud identity for thousands of children and adult Chicanas and Chicanos in San Diego for 35 years."

For more information about The Tecihtzin Tribute and Ballet Folklórico en Aztlan, visit: http://balletfolkloricoenaztlan.org/the_tecihtzin_tribute

Writing and Submission Guidelines

Submissions will be welcome from authors aged 13-17 years old.

Submissions must be within 200-500 words, and presented in essay or prose in English or Spanish. Use the following link to Google Forms to submit your entry: <https://goo.gl/forms/htSAhB6dgs0Q70bE2>

If you use outside sources or interview elders or community members, cite references including interview information.

The winners should be available to present their piece on March 4th, 2018 at the Tecihtzin Tribute. If they are not available, a presenter will be selected to highlight their work. All

participants are encouraged to attend the Tecihtzin Tribute regardless of the selection of their essay.

Selection Process

Submissions will be due by February 21, 2018 (a week and a half before the tribute). All submissions received by the deadline will be reviewed by a Selection Committee that consists of:

Alma Hueso

Dra. Claudia Chavez, PhD

Hector Manuel Larios Galvez

Dra. Victoria Rodriguez, PhD

Jaime Carrillo

Criteria

The Selection Committee will use the criteria below to select the winning entries:

1. Comprehension of the ethics and core values that Tecihtzin held.
2. Is able to show an in depth analysis of her life.
3. And able to demonstrate that in depth research was conducted.

Judges will review submitted work between February 22 - February 26, and the winners will be notified by email by March 1, 2018.

Prize

In addition to the recognition and respect from your community, there will be cash awards:

1st prize	\$100
2nd prize	\$50
3rd prize	\$50