Guide to the MEChA collection CEMA 36


UC SANTA BARBARA

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Guide to the MEChA collection
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Title: MEChA collection
Identifier/Call Number: CEMA 36
Contributing Institution: UC Santa Barbara Library, Department of Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 1.75 linear feet (4 boxes and 1 oversize box)
Date (bulk): Bulk, 1968-1970
Date (inclusive): 1968-1979
Abstract: The "MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan) Collection" was compiled by students who were members of the MEChA organization. Six of these students were appointed by UC President Hitch to an advisory committee on the operations of a newly established Center for Chicano Studies. Ernesto Perez was one such student and a number of these files were addressed to him. The materials are associated with the creation and inception of MEChA, through the JUNTA directiva.

Physical Location: Del Norte.
Language of Materials: The collection is in English.

Access Restrictions
The collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of Item], MECha collection, CEMA 36. Department of Special Research Collections, UC Santa Barbara Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Acquisition Information
Donated by UCSB Center for Chicano Studies via Coleccion Tloque Nahuaque.

Biographical/Historical Note
The civil rights and student movements of the 1960's resulted in the birth of numerous activist and militant organizations. Within the Chicana/o Movement, groups such as the Brown Berets, La Junta and ALMA were organizing in communities and barrios, and by the late 1960's student groups such as MASA (Mexican American Student Association), UMAS (United Mexican American Students) and MASC (Mexican American Student Conference) in California and MAYO (Mexican American Youth Organization) in Texas were working to organize students, faculty and staff in colleges and universities.

In September 1967, Sal Castro, a Mexican American teacher at Lincoln High School began meeting with students at the Piranya Coffee House in Los Angeles and making them aware of the disparities and neglect involving the current educational system. As more students became aware of the bleak conditions the need for an immediate change became apparent. In March 1968 almost ten thousand Chicano students walked out of five Los Angeles high schools: Lincoln, Roosevelt, Garfield, Belmont and Wilson. The next ten days became referred to as the East Los Angeles Blow-Outs that eventually involved over ten thousand students. After the Blow-Outs, a group of student activists, faculty and administrators formed the Chicano Coordinating Committee on Higher Education (CCCHE) with the goal of forming a statewide network of community and campus activists, in order to put pressure on campus administrators for further expansion of equal opportunity programs.

Rene Núñez was a community activist from San Diego who, after visiting many high school and college campuses in California, saw similarities in problems relating to student recruitment and retention. Núñez is credited with having proposed a statewide conference under the support of CCCHE with the purpose of discussion and creation of a plan of action, which would seek to resolve these problems. Meanwhile, in March 1969, Crusade for Justice sponsored the first National Chicano Youth Liberation Conference in Denver, Colorado. It was at this conference that a group of youths drafted the basic premises for the Chicana/o Movement in El Plan de Aztlan. A synopsis of the plan states:
1) We are Chicanas and Chicanos of Aztlan reclaiming the land of our birth (Chicana/Chicano Nation); 2) Aztlan belongs to indigenous people, who are sovereign and not subject to a foreign culture; 3) We are a union of free pueblos forming a bronze Chicana/Chicano Nation; 4) Chicano nationalism, as the key to mobilization and organization, is the common denominator to bring consensus to the Chicana/Chicano Movement; 5) Cultural values strengthen our identity as La Familia de la Raza; 6) El Plan de Aztlan, as a basic plan of Chicana/Chicano liberation,
sought the formation of an independent national political party that would represent the sentiments of the Chicana/Chicano community.

Approximately one month later, CCCHE held their conference; in April 1969 a group of Chicana/o students came to UCSB for a conference to formulate a plan for higher education that would be committed to Chicano cultural nationalism, self-determination and education of Chicano youth. The resulting plan was titled *El Plan de Santa Barbara*, which stressed that every effort be taken to educate la Raza. As part of this plan, student leaders from MASA, UMAS and MASC decided that in order to unify the efforts of Chicanas/os in academia, those student groups involved with El Plan de Santa Barbara would need a new name, which would surpass regionalism and localism while aligning the goals and philosophy of El Plan Espiritual de Aztlán and *El Plan de Santa Barbara*. *El Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán* was a group already in existence on a few college campuses and, due to the intense significance of the implications of each word, the name was accepted and a statewide MEChA was officially born, founded on principles of self-determination for the liberation of Chicanas/os, Latinas/os, and Mexican Americans.

Another important development of *El Plan de Santa Barbara* was in laying the foundation for Chicano Studies departments on college campuses. Today, MEChA is a California statewide network of Chicano and Latino student organizations in the colleges, universities, high schools and junior high schools that maintains its role fighting for the educational rights of Chicana/os: to increase access and retention, to strengthen Chicano Studies and to combat racism.

Series Description

**Series I: Notes from la Junta Directiva.** This series is contained in one box and includes notes, correspondence and documentation of the proposals for the creation of the Center for Chicano Studies and the Chicano Studies Department at UCSB. The series includes documents concerning the organization and structure, requirements and recommendations for faculty, appointment of faculty, coordinating organizations such as EOP (Educational Opportunity Program), the creation of a special section for Chicano related materials in the UCSB library, and a mandate for Chicano scholarship. All the materials in this series are from 1969 and are kept in the order they were in upon their donation. This order was determined by subject matter and thus many documents appear out of chronological order.

**Series II: MEChA, Chicano Studies and Related Organizations.** This series is arranged according to hierarchy and then chronologically within hierarchical groupings. Primarily Ernesto Perez collected materials in Series II during his term as student chairman at MEChA. The files mainly cover the time period from 1968 to 1970. They include notes from MEChA meetings and correspondence from MEChA with other organizations and documentation on many Chicano Issues. The files have been divided into their subject groupings and arranged chronologically when possible.

**Series III: Correspondence.** This series includes general incoming and outgoing correspondence files maintained by MEChA as well as correspondence relating to specific ideas, such as a Chicano Community Film Research project and correspondence with UC Communications. As Ernesto Perez primarily collected this series, much of the correspondence is addressed directly to him. The files have been divided into their subject groupings and arranged chronologically where possible; those correspondence files, which are not related to a specific project, are titled General Correspondence.

**Series IV: Conferences.** This series includes materials gathered by MEChA from various conferences. The files have been arranged chronologically.

**Series V: Subject Files.** This series has been maintained separately from Series V: Miscellany because they were kept under General Research in the original collection. They have been arranged here alphabetically and cover a variety of Chicano topics outside of the MEChA administration.

**Series VI: Miscellany.** This series contains files that could be subject files however they have been maintained here separately from Series IV: Subject Files to maintain the creators provenance and are arranged alphabetically by title. In 1998 Yolanda Marquez, while studying for her PHD in Chicano Studies, wrote a series of detailed notes about this portion of the collection. These notes have been preserved with the collection and provide a very detailed breakdown of the contents.

Related Material

Center for Chicano Studies, Department of Chicano Studies, José Joel García Collection (CEMA 73).

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Mecha (Organization)

Mexican American youth--Political activity--California

Mexican Americans--Education (Higher)--California
Center for Chicano Studies

**Series I. Notes from la Junta Directiva**

- **Center for Chicano Studies**
  - Box 1, Folder 2
    - Correspondence between Chancellor Cheadle and JUNTA 1969
  - Box 1, Folder 2
    - Proposal for Chicano Studies Program, draft 1969
  - Box 1, Folder 2
    - Proposal for Chicano Studies Program, includes charts for table of organization 1969
  - Box 1, Folder 2
    - Proposal for Teatro MEChA undated
  - Box 1, Folder 2
    - Proposals for Curriculum Changes in the Education Department at UCSB 1969

- **Chicano Studies Program, Curriculum Committee Report circa 1969**
  - Box 1, Folder 3
    - Chicano Studies Program, Curriculum Committee Report circa 1969

- **Community Studies, includes Proposal for the Colonia Centro Universitario 1969, undated**

**Correspondence**

- Box 1, Folder 5
  - Appointment of faculty and staff for Junta and Center for Chicano Center 1969
  - Box 1, Folder 5
    - Budget considerations 1969
  - Box 1, Folder 5
    - EOP 1969
  - Box 1, Folder 5
    - Recruitment 1969
  - Box 1, Folder 5
    - Circa 1969

- Box 1, Folder 6
  - Curriculum review, other institutions ca. 1969

**Series II. MEChA, Chicano Studies and Related Organizations**

- **MEChA (El Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán)**
  - Box 1, Folder 7
    - MEChA Operations Office undated
  - Box 1, Folder 8
    - Orientation Fall 1969
  - Box 1, Folder 9
    - Commission to Evaluate Summer MEChA Projects, Committees and Activities, Summer Program Evaluation 1970
  - Box 1, Folder 10
    - Teatro MEChA, notes and proposal for Teatro MEChA Summer Project 1970
  - Box 1, Folder 11
    - Evaluation of MEChA library unit 1970
  - Box 1, Folder 12
    - MEChA Summer objectives 1973
  - **Chicano Studies**
    - Proposal for a Chicano Department within the Third World College at UC Berkeley undated
  - Box 1, Folder 13
    - Curriculum Committee 1969
  - Box 1, Folder 14
    - Chicano Studies positions, recruitment correspondence 1969
  - Box 1, Folder 15
    - Graduate Recruitment 1970
  - Box 1, Folder 16
    - General information 1970
  - Box 1, Folder 17
    - Meeting Notes
  - Box 1, Folder 17
    - Report on Chicano Studies Program in California
  - Box 1, Folder 17
    - Miscellany
  - Box 1, Folder 18
    - History course notes 1970
  - Box 1, Folder 19
    - La Raza National Law Student Association, contains a special issue of The Writ with a section dedicated to the Chicano Student Convention (see Box 5 Folder 1) 1970
  - Box 1, Folder 20
    - Center for Chicano Studies, UC Berkeley's Chicano Studies Newsletter and Santa Barbara notices (see Box 5 Folder 2) 1970
  - Box 1, Folder 21
    - Newspaper articles 1971
  - Box 1, Folder 22
    - Chicano History Calendar 1974
Series II. MEChA, Chicano Studies and Related Organizations

MEChA (El Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan)

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**EOP (Educational Opportunity Program)**
- Box 2, Folder 1: Students 1968
- Box 2, Folder 2: Applicant statistics by school 1969
- Box 2, Folder 3: Evaluation Committee 1969
- Box 1, Folder 4: Newsletter 1969
- Box 2, Folder 5: Roster 1969
- Box 2, Folder 6: Mobilization Committee 1970
- Box 2, Folder 7: Recruitment and support 1971

**UMAS (United Mexican American Students)**
- Box 2, Folder 8: Voz de UMAS, pamphlets for conferences and correspondence pertaining to UMAS n.d.
  - General information 1969-1970
- Box 5, Folder 3: Community Newsletter n.d.
- Box 2, Folder 10: El Gaucho, Vol. 49 No. 17, 1968
- Box 2, Folder 11: Meeting Notes
- Box 2, Folder 12: Miscellany
- Box 2, Folder 13: Statements to Campus by UMAS/MEChA 1969-1970
  - UC Chicano Steering Committee, meeting minutes and agendas 1970-1971

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**Series III. Correspondence**

**Chicano Community Film Project**
- Box 2, Folder 14-16: Incoming 1970-1972
- Box 2, Folder 17: Incoming undated
- Box 2, Folder 18: Outgoing 1972

**General Correspondence**
- Box 2, Folder 19: Incoming 1969
- Box 2, Folder 20: Incoming 1970-1971
- Box 3, Folder 1: Incoming 1972
- Box 3, Folder 2: Incoming undated
- Box 3, Folder 3: Outgoing 1971
- Box 3, Folder 4
  - UC Communications, Ernesto Perez 1972
- Box 3, Folder 5
  - UC Communications Committee, Ernesto Perez 1972

**Series IV. Conferences**
- Box 3, Folder 6: Workshop for recruitment and admissions qssq n.d.
- Box 3, Folder 7: David Chicano symposium 1968

**La Semana de La Raza**
- Box 3, Folder 8: Correspondence 1968
- Box 3, Folder 9: Job description and progress reports
- Box 3, Folder 10: Definitions of La Raza
- Box 3, Folder 11
  - Statewide Conference on Higher Education 1969
Box 3, Folder 12

**UMAS Clairmont conference 1969**

Box 3, Folder 13

**United Front 1969**

Box 3, Folder 13

**Regional Conference 1969-1970**

Box 3, Folder 15

**Chicano Council for Higher Education 1970**

Box 3, Folder 16

**Concilio 1970**

Box 3, Folder 17

**Washington Conference 1970**

**Series V. Subject Files**

Box 3, Folder 18  Additions to bibliographies, including correspondence 1972-1974, undated
Box 3, Folder 19  Alex Maier-leaflets undated
Box 3, Folder 20  Bibliographies 1968-1969, undated
Box 3, Folder 21  Community 1968-1970
Box 3, Folder 22  Galarza *La mula no nacio arisca* undated
Box 3, Folder 23  General Documents 1969-1970, undated
Box 3, Folder 24  LEG council proposal #80 undated
Box 3, Folder 25  LEG council resolutions 1969
Box 3, Folder 26  Newspaper clippings of the late 1960’s
Box 3, Folder 27  People’s Park 1969, undated
Box 3, Folder 28  Regents corporate holdings undated
Box 4, Folder 1  *Relevancy to the Chicano Is*, Santa Barbara High School/School District 1969
Box 4, Folder 2  Santa Barbara Position on Moratorium 1970

**Series VI. Miscellany**

Box 4, Folder 3  Black Studies 1969
Box 4, Folder 4  Brief of Amici Curiae 1976
Box 4, Folder 5  Caucus C.O.R.O, includes *Coro* Vol. 1 Nos. 1-3 (See Box 5 Folder 6) 1979
Box 4, Folder 6  Chancellor’s Letter 1969
Box 4, Folder 7  *Educational Planning for Santa Barbara School District and Santa Barbara High School District* 1979
Box 4, Folder 8  Los Angeles Times articles circa 1989
Box 4, Folder 9  Marquez, Yolanda, Notes for dissertation 1998
Box 4, Folder 11  Position papers, EOP circa 1969
Box 4, Folder 12  UC Caucus Official delegation undated
Box 6, Folder 1  *La Raza Unida de Ohio Newsletter* 1971
Box 6, Folder 2  History of M.E.C.h.A
Box 6, Folder 3  El Plan de M.E.C.h.A
Box 6, Folder 4-7  Immediate Source of Acquisition note
                  Donated by UCSB Center for Chicano Studies via Coleccion Tlaque Nahuaque.

Box 6, Folder 3  Chicano Student Movement
Box 6, Folder 4-7  *Santa Barbara Community Union Newsletters, 1-4 1971-1972*