

2016

Alma Becerril Salas, Student Spotlight

University of Nebraska at Omaha

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Alma Becerril Salas

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• **Alma Becerril Salas**

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Thank you for all you do for your community!

Community engagement and service are fundamental components of UNO's identity.

Alma Becerril Salas exemplifies UNO's commitment to community engagement.

Additional Resources

[Latino Art Exhibit Poster \(English\)](#)

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Through the Office of Latin/Latino American Studies (OLLAS), Alma Becerril Salas helped create the Latino art exhibition 'Latino-Latin American Artists: Exhibition & Conversations'. This art exhibit is the first of its kind to feature solely Latino artists from the Omaha metro area.

Alma graduated in May 2016 with a triple major in Art History, Studio Art and Latino/Latin American Studies. Inspired by her thesis *Taller de Gráfica Popular: Art, Revolution and community*, which focuses on Latino representation in art - Alma partnered with a group of UNO students and faculty to form the Latino Art Involvement. It was the Latino Art Involvement organization that created the Latino-Latin American Artists: Exhibition & Conversations.

Latino Art Involvement

The Latino Art Involvement's goal is to create a space in the community for Latinos to have, to congregate, and to explore new ideas. The art exhibit is a new and unique project, as it is the only one that features solely Latino artists from the Omaha metro area – many of which are up-and-coming young artist.

Students from [Marrs Magnet Middle School](#) and [Holling Heights Elementary School](#) were brought in to view the exhibits and participate in interactive activities. Alma says that the group saw a need for more Latino representation in the arts, and the Latino-Latin American Artists: Exhibition & Conversations was a means for Latinos to celebrate themselves. "To see yourself represented makes students think they can do it too. It is an opportunity to see their culture outside of their homes and it expands other people's minds... [For some of these students,] it was really great to see them enjoy experiencing their culture in a space. They've gone to other places but they had never seen representation of their culture on the walls. They were excited to bring their families and share."



Office of Latino/Latin American Studies (OLLAS)

Smithsonian Latino Center

Nebraska Arts Council

Humanities Nebraska

El Museo Latino

Sponsored by the [Nebraska Arts Council](#) and [Humanities Nebraska](#), the two-week long event took place in September 2015 and included an art exhibition, workshops and artist talks. The event featured youth and community workshops by artists Pepe Coronado (New York, NY) and Fidencio Martinez-Perez (Oaxaca, Mexico) as well as discussions by nationally prominent art directors, Dr. Gilberto Cardenas of the [Notre Dame Center for Arts and Culture](#) and Eduardo Diaz of the [Smithsonian Latino Center](#).

Community engagement is a very important aspect of Alma's time at UNO. This project gave her firsthand experience of cultivating a collection and curating an exhibit. Upon graduating, she wants to continue her studies and work within the Latino arts community. Alma hopes to one day become a professor.

Share Your Story:

Did you organize or participate in a community-oriented project or service? UNO wants to hear from you!

UNO is committed to community engagement in its broadest form, and wants to feature your community service story.

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