



STUDENT-SELECTED PANEL BREN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CLUB

STORIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



MARCOS VARGAS

Executive Director, The Fund for Santa Barbara

JEFFREY C. STEWART

Professor, Black Studies, UCSB

Monday, May 21, 2018 11:00 – 12:00
Bren Hall 1414

"Environmental Justice affects us all. Understanding the problem, its impact, and how to be part of the solution will benefit everyone in the Bren community." — Sarah Salem, MESM 2018

ABSTRACT The Bren Environmental Justice Club presents "Stories of Environmental Justice," an intimate look at how environmental justice issues affect us all. Through the art of storytelling, we aim to engage the Bren community in a thoughtful discourse about the environment, its relationship to humans, and the inequities that impact many communities.

This three-part event will begin with an open discussion framing environmental justice, followed by three Bren students sharing their experience, and closing with the remarks of Dr. Marcos Vargas and Dr. Jeffrey Stewart, who will share their stories, research, and advocacy work in environmental justice.

BIOS Dr. Marcos Vargas is the Executive Director of the Fund for Santa Barbara, a progressive community foundation whose mission is to promote positive social change through the support of programs and campaigns that address the root causes of social problems. Vargas' vast professional experience in the non-profit sector includes his role as the founding Executive Director of the Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE), a community-based social movement organization serving the California Central Coast. CAUSE was able to defeat a mining company to stop an offshore liquefied natural gas terminal that would have heavily polluted the region. Vargas holds a PhD in urban planning from UCLA. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Cesar Chavez 50 in 50 Leadership Award from the United Farm Workers of America. A Sundancer in the Lakota and Mechica traditions, he is actively involved in efforts to expand the knowledge and application of Native American indigenous teachings and ceremonies.

Jeffrey C. Stewart is a graduate of Yale University, where he received his MA, MPhil, and PhD in American Studies. He was Director of Research at the Smithsonian Institution's Anacostia Museum, a curator at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, and a senior advisor to the Reginald Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture in Baltimore, Maryland. The author of numerous articles, essays and books, Dr. Stewart taught at Harvard University, Yale University, UCLA, Tufts University, Howard University, Scripps College, and George Mason University before coming to UCSB as Professor and Chair of the Department of Black Studies from 2008-2016. Currently, Dr. Stewart is finishing his biography of Alain Locke, the queer philosopher and architect of the Harlem Renaissance, the Black Arts Movement.

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