

Museum Relevance: Exhibitions for Social Justice

Welcome!

The webinar will begin at 10:00 a.m. CT



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES



THC Museum Services

- The Museum Services Program provides support, resources, and training to museums in Texas.
 - *Consultations*
 - *Webinars and workshops*
 - *Resources*



THC Museum Services

www.thc.texas.gov/museum-services

- On our webpage:
 - *Webinars*
 - *Workshops*
 - *Grants and Fundraising*
 - *Helpful Resources*
 - *Connect and Learn*



THC Museum Services

- **Laura Casey**
Museum Services Program Coordinator
[*laura.casey@thc.texas.gov*](mailto:laura.casey@thc.texas.gov)
512-463-6427
- **Emily Hermans**
Museum Services Program Specialist
[*emily.hermans@thc.texas.gov*](mailto:emily.hermans@thc.texas.gov)
512-463-5921





Upcoming Free Webinars

- **Sealing the Deal: Making a Compelling Case for Funding with Private Foundations**
 - *Tuesday, February 11, 2:00 p.m. CT*
- **Bringing Objects & Artifacts to Life**
 - *Thursday, February 27, 2:00 p.m. CT*
- **Appraising and Insuring Historical Treasures**
 - *Tuesday, March 3, 2:00 p.m. CT*



Elena Gonzales





Museum Relevance Exhibitions for Social Justice

By Elena Gonzales, PhD

Roadmap for Today:

- What are exhibitions for social justice?
- What is the role of this type of exhibition in museum work?
- What are your experiences and challenges in this area?
- Get inspired! Ideas for your practice

EXHIBITIONS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

ELENA GONZALES

MUSEUM MEANINGS





730 **United States**
(World's Highest)

510 Cuba
Rwanda 527
(World's 2nd Highest)
Georgia 514
Russia 505

438 Belarus
El Salvador 425
Azerbaijan 407

397 Thailand
388 Iran
Panama 366
Ukraine 338

How does the United States compare?
The United States is the largest country in the world by area, with a total area of 3,796,742 square miles. This includes 3,643,854 square miles of land and 152,888 square miles of water. The United States is also the most populous country in the world, with a population of over 330 million people.





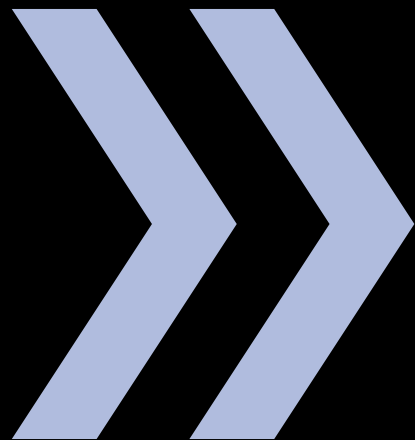
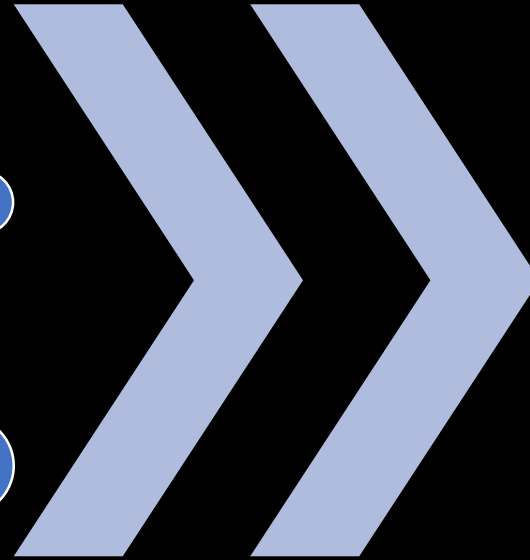
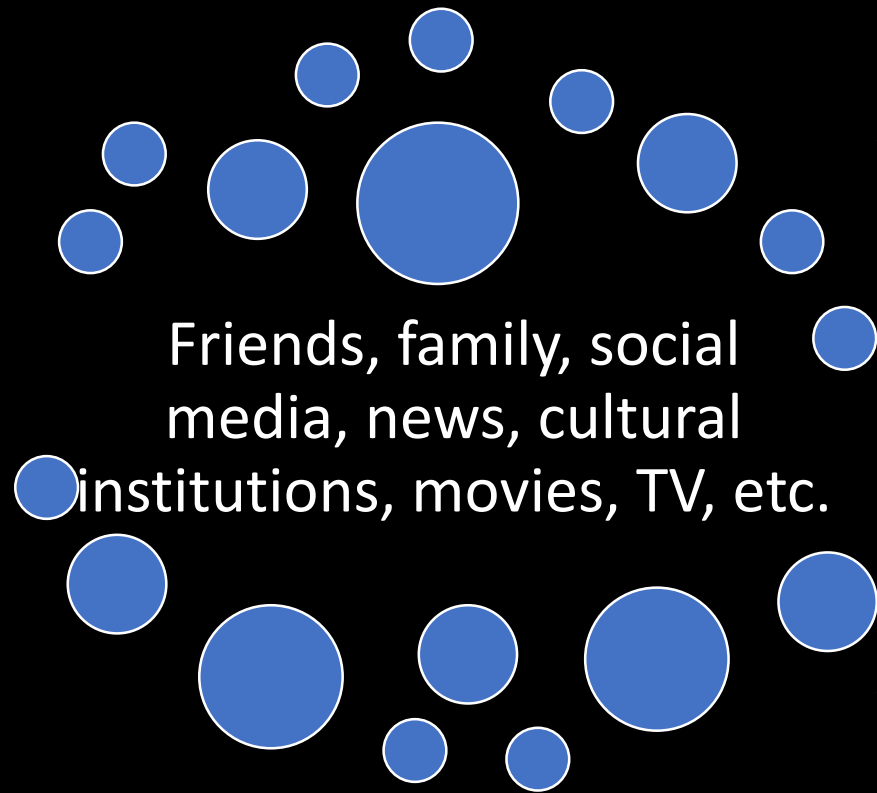




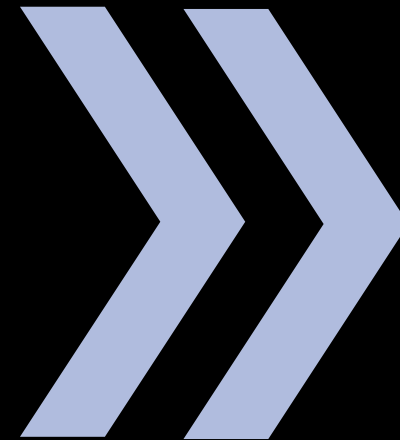
- Empathy
- Memory
- Action
- Institutional context

Roadmap for Today:

- What are exhibitions for social justice?
- **What is the role of this type of exhibition in museum work?**
- What are your experiences and challenges in this area?
- Get inspired! Ideas for your practice

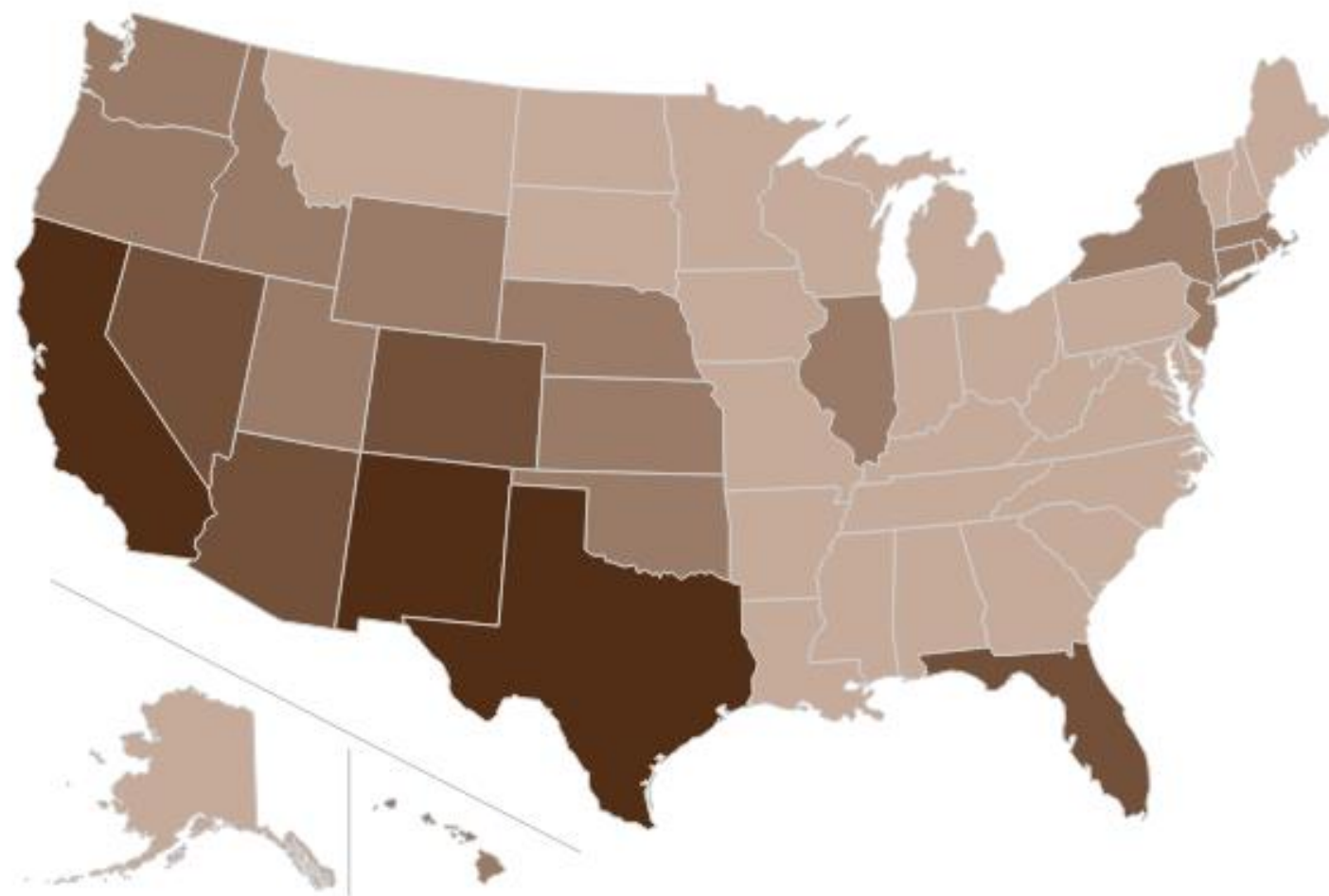


Opinions



Actions

Roll over for state information, click for full state profile.

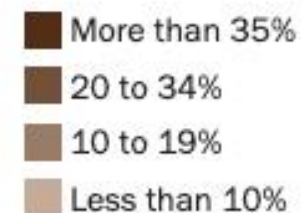


Hispanic population
2,153,000

Among Hispanics,
share foreign born
36%

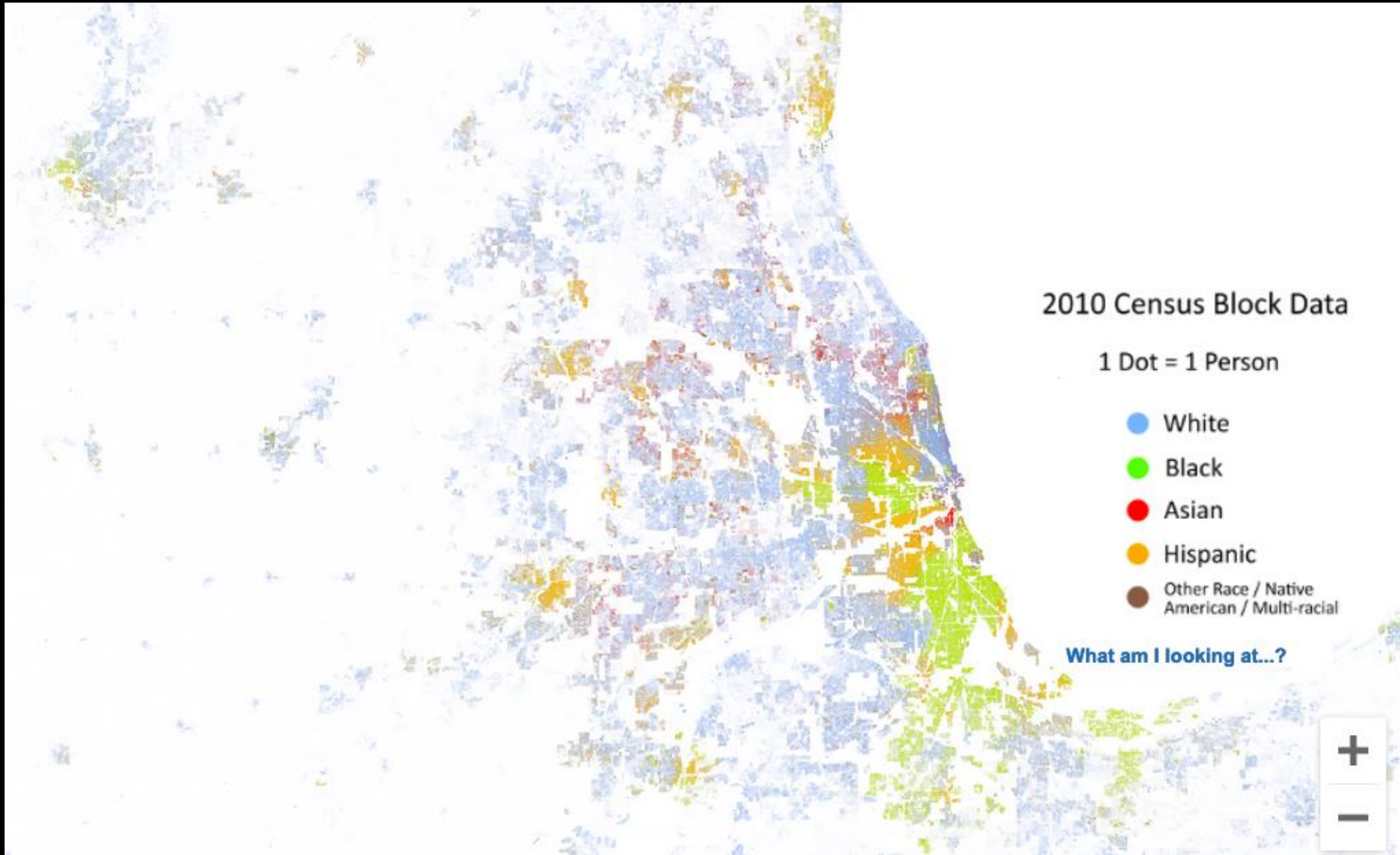
Among population,
share Hispanic
17%

Among under 18,
share Hispanic
24%



X

Download data on all 50 states and D.C.



2010 Census Block Data

1 Dot = 1 Person

- White
- Black
- Asian
- Hispanic
- Other Race / Native American / Multi-racial

What am I looking at...?



Roadmap for Today:

- What are exhibitions for social justice?
- What is the role of this type of exhibition in museum work?
- **What are your experiences and challenges in this area?**
- Get inspired! Ideas for your practice

Q1: Feelings about Social Justice Part 1 (single answer)

Does your museum ever do programs that work for social justice?

- a) Always, it's part of our mission
- b) Often
- c) Sometimes
- d) Never

Q2: Feelings about Social Justice Part 2 (multiple answer)

Please select the statements that best describe your organization.

- a) We're not interested in content involving social justice.
- b) We're interested, but our leadership is not on board.
- c) Our audience resists our addressing social justice.
- d) We'd like help doing more with social justice.
- e) Our latest institutional plan involves social justice.

Q3: Audience Part 1 (single answer)

How does your audience identify (in regards to race)?

- a) Majority white; this reflects our area
- b) Majority white; but this does not reflect our area
- c) Roughly $\frac{1}{2}$ white / $\frac{1}{2}$ POC; this reflects our area
- d) Roughly $\frac{1}{2}$ white / $\frac{1}{2}$ POC; this does not reflect our area
- e) Majority POC

Q4: Audience Part 2 (multiple answers)

Which of these statements best describe your experience?

- a) Social justice content has diversified our audience.
- b) Social justice content has reduced our audience.
- c) Social justice content has diminished our donor base.
- d) Social justice content has increased our donor base.
- e) Social justice content has better connected us locally.

Roadmap for Today:

- What are exhibitions for social justice?
- What is the role of this type of exhibition in museum work?
- What are your experiences and challenges in this area?
- **Get inspired! Ideas for your practice**









EXHIBITIONS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

ELENA GONZALES

MUSEUM MEANINGS





YES

NO

Have you ever broken the law?

Consider

Drug Use?
Drunk Driving?

Insurance Fraud?
Assault?

Shoplifting?
Underage Drinking?

What Are Prisons For?

Prisons exist—officially—for one clear reason: What do you think is the most important?

Rehabilitation	Retribution
Protection	Isolation
Education	Work
Research	Research

Rehabilitation, Retribution, and the Death Penalty

Early Experiences Matter

You're very unusual.

About 70% of American adults have committed a crime that could lead to prison.*

Most of us will never experience arrest, trial, or prison. Why is that?



ROBERT AND JOAN POTTER GALLERY



WELCOME BLANKET

Blanket is a word that has many meanings. It can mean a piece of fabric used to keep warm, or a piece of fabric used to cover something. It can also mean a person who is kind and helpful, or a person who is generous. In this exhibition, we will explore the many meanings of the word blanket and how it is used in different contexts. We will also look at the history of blankets and how they have changed over time. This exhibition is for everyone and we hope you will enjoy it.









WELCOME BLANKET

WELCOME BLANKET is a project by Los Angeles based designer and artist Anna Trevisan, developed in collaboration with the Los Angeles-based organization, The Los Angeles Refugee Relief Fund. The project is a response to the current refugee crisis and aims to provide a sense of community and support for refugees. The project also aims to raise awareness of the refugee crisis and the challenges faced by refugees. The project is a collaborative effort between the Los Angeles Refugee Relief Fund and the Los Angeles-based organization, The Los Angeles Refugee Relief Fund. The project is a response to the current refugee crisis and aims to provide a sense of community and support for refugees. The project also aims to raise awareness of the refugee crisis and the challenges faced by refugees. The project is a collaborative effort between the Los Angeles Refugee Relief Fund and the Los Angeles-based organization, The Los Angeles Refugee Relief Fund.

Los Angeles based designer and artist Anna Trevisan developed WELCOME BLANKET to inspire creative and artistic responses to current issues around immigration, cultural displacement, and geographic relocation. The project also celebrates and celebrates the resilience and strength of the human spirit. The project is a collaborative effort between the Los Angeles Refugee Relief Fund and the Los Angeles-based organization, The Los Angeles Refugee Relief Fund. The project is a response to the current refugee crisis and aims to provide a sense of community and support for refugees. The project also aims to raise awareness of the refugee crisis and the challenges faced by refugees. The project is a collaborative effort between the Los Angeles Refugee Relief Fund and the Los Angeles-based organization, The Los Angeles Refugee Relief Fund.



What are prisons for?



*Sociologists agree: prisons are created with four "official" purposes.
Take a moment to explore these rationales. Then share your thoughts.*



Rehabilitation



Retribution



Deterrence



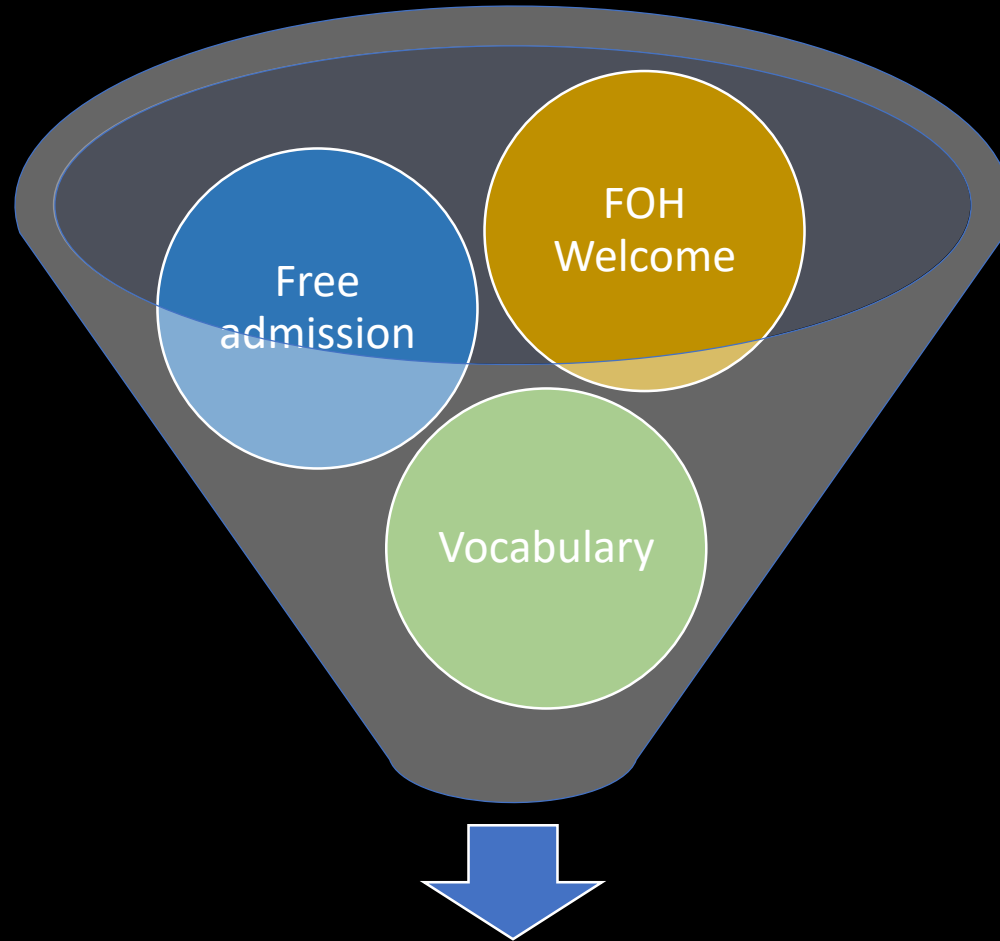
Incapacitation

PRISONS **TODAY**

QUESTIONS IN THE

AGE OF MASS INCARCERATION

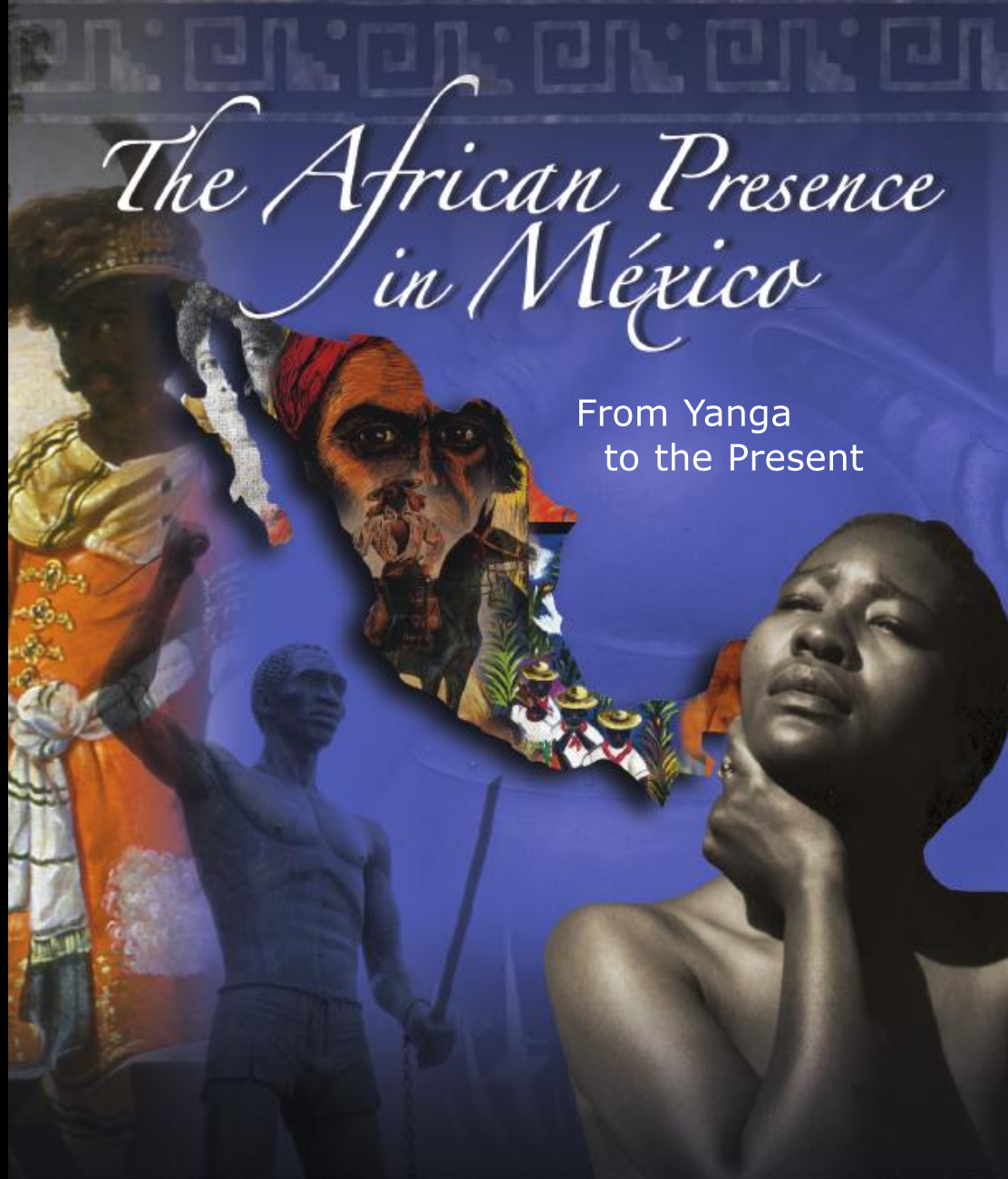




Welcoming / Respect

The African Presence in México

From Yanga
to the Present



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MEXICAN ART

The background of the book cover is a photograph of a foosball table. The table has a green playing surface with white lines. Various foosball players are visible, including some in white uniforms with black hats and others in blue and orange uniforms. A semi-transparent teal rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the title and author's name.

EXHIBITIONS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

ELENA GONZALES

MUSEUM MEANINGS

Image Credits

- Book Cover: Juan and Ricardo Compean
- *Home Economics*: Hull-House Museum
- *Big Graph*: Eastern State Penitentiary
- *Can You Walk Away?*: Lincoln's Cottage
- *Americans*: National Museum of the American Indian
- "Teach your children": Photo by Tim Brown, GPA Photo Archive on Flickr
- Map of Latinos in IL: Pew Center
- Racial Dot Map: Image Copyright, 2013, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia (Dustin A. Cable, creator)
- Love and Labor Tour: Photo by Irina Zadov
- Russell Craig: Still from video by Colom O'Molloy for the BBC
- Rail Car: Photo by Jesús Mejia courtesy of Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center
- Gallery shot of *A Declaration of Immigration*: NMMA
- Bye to Bags: St. Louis Zoo
- Gallery shot of *Prisons Today*: Eastern State Penitentiary
- Free2Choose: Anne Frank House Museum
- *Welcome Blanket*: Smart Museum of Art
- *Unfinished Business: The Right to Play*: Photo by Simon Pyle
- *Inside Ancient Egypt*: Elena Gonzales
- Postcard from *Prisons Today*: Eastern State Penitentiary
- West Wing and Exterior NMMA: NMMA
- African Presence: NMMA

Thank you!

Elena Gonzales

www.elenagonzales.org

info@elenagonzales.org

@curatorilogist