



Dear Self Help Graphics Community and Friends,

The team here at SHG is still processing the atrocity of the attempted coup in DC last week, an insurrection rooted in racist and white supremacist values. What is clear, however, is that BIPOC communities are not surprised - we have dealt with this double standard of policing for decades and the Black community for centuries. We also don't want to forget

the historic senate wins that took place in Georgia on the same day - this duality is our country. Instead of losing hope, we're staying focused on the coalition-building and mutual aid that takes place locally and through which we can make short and long-term impacts.

Nonetheless, we begin 2021 with good news and additions to the SHG community and some farewells. The ripple effects of 2020 will continue to challenge us, but the year also included incredible moments and achievements that we're excited to share with you.

In the Fall, the [Andrew Mellon Foundation](#) awarded Self Help Graphics with the single largest non-capital grant the organization has received to date - \$350,000 over two years. This grant for Capacity Building and Radical Future Visioning will support the hiring of two key positions as well as a critical process of reflection and future planning that will fortify Self Help Graphics as we approach the benchmark of our 50th anniversary year in 2023/2024, with the support of arts leaders Quetzal Flores and Alison De La Cruz. At a time when Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has come to the forefront

in the arts, we are grateful for the leadership of the Mellon Foundation who came to us and said “what do you need?” As a nationally recognized legacy Chicax organization with 48 years of community building through art under our belt, this trust and confidence in our work is exactly what steps toward equity look like. More to come on this process and our progress.

In 2020, we welcomed three new board members - **Linda Essig**, **Martha Gonzalez**, and **Maribel Norris Valderrama** (read more about them below), all of whom have stepped up to be part of our leadership during a time of great uncertainty. And we said farewell to **Alexa Kim**, our Program Manager. She’s joined the team at [Koreatown Youth and Community Center](#) and while we are sad to lose her, Alexa’s impact will remain. Please join us in congratulating her on this next step in Alexa’s career. We wish her the best! We also saw the beautiful blossoming of former Studio Coordinator, **Andi Ramirez**, and her store [Latinx with Plants](#). She has opened up two locations in Boyle Heights to support our community with healing through plants and to support her family. She remains connected to SHG as a teaching artist and we are grateful for her time in the studio. You can learn more about both [Alexa](#) and [Andi](#)’s tenure on our [blog](#).

And finally, with the support of the Mellon Foundation, the Getty Foundation, and because it is simply overdue, our team is growing! We currently have five [open positions](#) (two full-time, two part-time, and one temporary). We have often lauded our ability to do so much with a lean and mighty team, but as we move toward a cultural practice that is sustainable and prioritizes the health and wellness of our staff, we must grow. We recognize the privilege of this position at a time when many of our peers in the field are struggling, and we are tremendously grateful to the community of supporters who have ensured we can continue to do our work and have helped to get Self Help Graphics & Art to this point.

Wishing you all health and abundance in 2021 and hoping we can safely see you in person soon.

Warmly,



Betty Avila  
Executive Director

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## MEET OUR NEW NEW BOARD MEMBERS

**Linda Essig**



Dean, College of Arts and Letters,  
CSULA

"I heard Self Help artist Phung Huynh describe her practice as "giving voice to the stories of oppressed people." For the last decade or more, my passion and vocation has been empowering

artists to do just that: from teaching workshops to help artists from communities of color maintain and sustain their creative practice, to board membership or other volunteer opportunities. Having moved to El Sereno two years ago, I appreciate the opportunity to become even more embedded in my new community by supporting one of the most important Latinx-serving cultural institutions in Los Angeles through membership on the SHG Board of Directors."



**Maribel Valderrama**

Assistant Vice President, Business  
Analysis Manager, Capital Group

"I was inspired to join Self Help's Graphics & Arts board because I understand what expression, advocacy, and a sense of belonging can do for an individual's or a community's development. SHG has a long history of promoting artistic excellence and empowering our community therefore

it's an honor to be a vocal advocate."



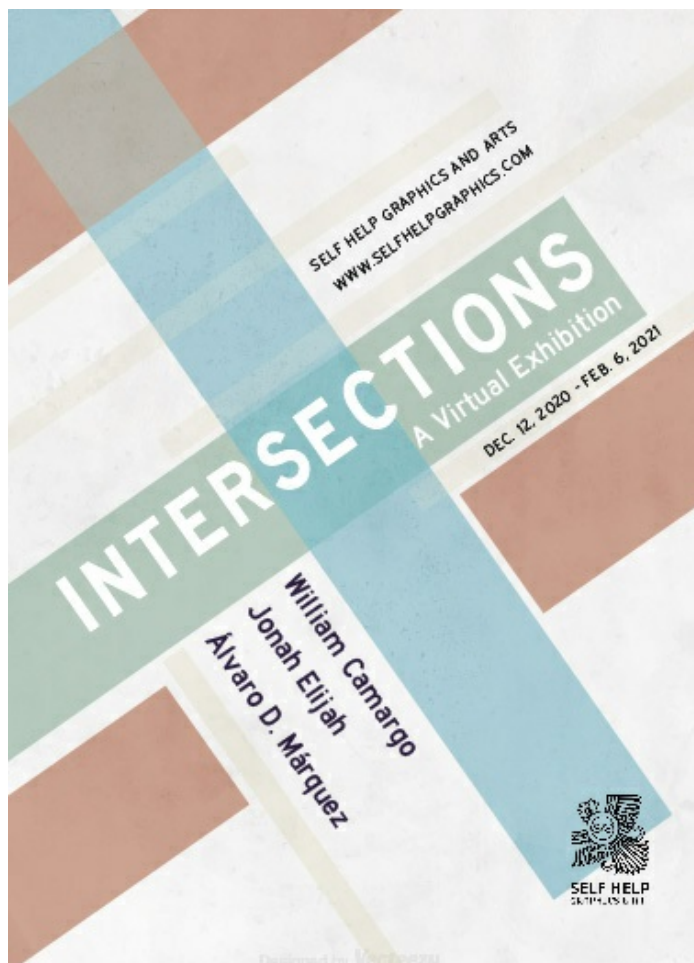
**Martha Gonzalez**

Artivista and Associate Professor,  
Scripps College

"Although I have been a part of the Self-Help community for more than 25 years, it is especially exciting to be able to serve in a much deeper capacity and as a member of the board. Self Help is the pride and joy of our community and I want to do all I can to strengthen and add to their

innovative social justice legacy!"

# INTERSECTIONS VIRTUAL EXHIBITION ON VIEW DECEMBER 12 - FEBRUARY 6



## [Intersections Exhibition](#)

On view December 12, 2020 -  
February 6, 2021

[Online](#) | Free | All ages

[Intersections](#) features works by recent MFA graduates, Artists **William Camargo** (MFA Claremont Graduate University), **Jonah Elijah** (MFA Claremont Graduate University) and **Álvaro D. Márquez** (MFA California State University, Long Beach).

The three artists utilize seemingly disparate aesthetic strategies (photography, painting, and

printmaking) to address overlapping conversations about the development of the urban environment and enforcement of racial hierarchies, be it through social and economic policies or police enforcement of racist and classist legal structures. View the full online exhibition [here](#).

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## ARTIST LAB: IN THE STUDIO WITH

# ARTISTS FEATURED IN *INTERSECTIONS* JANUARY 13 Live on YouTube at 7:00 PM



## [Artist Lab: In the Studio](#)

with artist featured in the exhibition, *Intersections*

**January 13**

7:00 p.m. | Free | All ages

Live on YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/shgtv](http://www.youtube.com/shgtv)

Save the date for our next **Artist Lab: In the Studio** on Wednesday, January 13 with *Intersections* artists, **William Camargo, Jonah Elijah** and **Álvaro D. Márquez** at 7:00 p.m. on our [YouTube Channel!](#) The artists will discuss their artistic practice and share further about their artworks in the show. Learn more and view the

exhibition [here](#).

Artwork image: "Hoop Dreams" by Jonah Elijah.

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# WELLNESS WEDNESDAY: INTRO TO HERBALISM JANUARY 20 Live on Zoom at 6:00 PM



## [Wellness Wednesday:](#)

### [Introduction to Herbalism](#)

**Wednesday, January 20**

6:00 p.m. | Free | Ages 15+

RSVP: [bit.ly/intro-herbalism](http://bit.ly/intro-herbalism)

This workshop is an introduction to working with plants and how to lean on them for support in various ways; including teas to support our bodies and energetic medicine to help support our wellbeing and spirit.

Please note that our Wellness Wednesday workshops do not air publicly on social media. [Registration](#) is required to receive the Zoom link. For any questions regarding Wellness Wednesday or other youth led programming, please contact our Community Engagement Coordinator, [Natalie Godinez](#).

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## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR YEAR-END #LACULTURACURA CAMPAIGN



On behalf of Self Help Graphics & Art's staff, community of artists and youth, we would like to thank you, our donors and supporters, for contributing to our success in 2020.

The generosity and commitment of people like you make it possible for us to continue advancing Latinx art and social justice in LA. To learn ways how you can encourage others to get involved, visit our website: [www.selfhelpgraphics.com/donate](http://www.selfhelpgraphics.com/donate).

