

# CREATIVE ACTIVISM

SUPPORTING & PROMOTING THE ARTS AND BORDER JOURNALISM

In the second branch of our mission on the US side of the border, we strive to change the narrative about migration by building awareness and deepening understanding through shared stories from “our families” in Nogales, Sonora, providing accurate information and credibly-sourced journalism. Using the arts as a vehicle for creative activism, we organize events that create a more holistic and empathic understanding about the lived experience of migration and the effects of immigration policies on human lives.

## Current & upcoming!

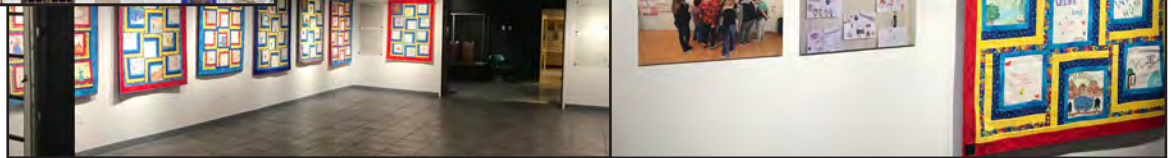
### WELCOME QUILTS: MIGRATION, ART, & HOPE



This unique exhibit highlights a series of quilts that were stitched together as messages of hope. These beautiful quilts include drawings created by migrants, local students in Patagonia, and children and adults in Arizona and across the United States. This exhibit will be open to the public starting April 19 and will run through June 2024.

### Arizona History Museum Exhibit

Voices from the Border is pleased to announce that quilts made with drawings created by Patagonia, Arizona students as part of our 2020 event, “**Leaving Home: Migration Through the Eyes of Children**”, are now on display at Tucson’s Arizona History Museum and will be there *until June of 2024!* Stay tuned for information about upcoming events and special programming related to this exhibit. *Museum Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm*



### A Peek Behind The Curtain — The Making of a Podcast



*Watch investigative journalism in action*

### The Tin Shed Theater, Patagonia, AZ Saturday, Aug. 19 3:00 PM

A reprise of an event we created in 2022 along with Sierra Club Borderlands, award winning journalists, Todd Miller and Melissa del Bosque, interview artist/researcher David Taylor before a live audience. The interview and audience questions will be a future podcast of *The Border Chronicle*.

**David Taylor** is a Professor of Art at the University of Arizona, a member of the Advisory Board of the UA Conflucenter for Creative Inquiry and on the Board of Directors of MOCA Tucson.

His work can be found in numerous museums and collections nationally and internationally (see: <https://www.dtaylorphoto.com/>). His current project depicts the industrial landscape of immigrant detention as an extension border space. A selection from that work is included in the 2023 Arizona Biennial at the Tucson Museum of Art, and will be shown at the program start.



# 2022



Voices co-sponsored an event with Sierra Club Borderlands called **A Peek Behind the Curtain: The Making of a Podcast** at the Tin Shed Theater in Patagonia, AZ. An enthusiastic audience was able to participate in the creation of a podcast for *The Border Chronicle* while border journalists, Todd Miller and Melissa del Bosque, interviewed Erik Meza from Sierra Club Borderlands. You can find it at: <https://www.theborderchronicle.com/p/nature-has-no-borders-a-live-podcast#details>

## Also in 2022

Voices supported several events initiated by other organizations including **All The Walls Must Fall** in Tucson.

# 2021



During Patagonia's annual Holiday Art Walk, Voices exhibited quilts made from Patagonia-area children's drawings in welcoming response to the artwork of children of asylum seekers displayed in the 2020 exhibit featured in the **Leaving Home: Migration Through the Eyes of Children** series of events.

Also featured in this 2021 exhibit were four quilts made from the original artwork of asylum-seeking children staying at Casa Alitas in Tucson, AZ. Some people saw the exhibit as a "conversation" between the migrant children and the children of Patagonia, AZ.



## Also in 2021



Voices hosted visiting New York City artist, **Susan Crile**, giving her a border immersion as subject matter for a prospective future project. As part of her trip, we arranged for her to accompany Tucson artist, **Alvaro Enciso**, on a cross-planting trip in the desert. Alvaro and his team mark the GPS locations where the bodies of deceased migrants have been found with crosses he makes from recycled materials.

You can learn more about Susan Crile at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan\\_Crile](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan_Crile), and learn more about Alvaro's project here:

<https://www.facebook.com/democracynow/videos/where-dreams-die-why-artist-alvaro-enciso-places-hundreds-of-crosses-in-the-sonora/411463876169796/>



## Additionally in 2021

We hosted a book launch and discussion at the Patagonia Library with author Todd Miller, about his new release, *Build Bridges, Not Walls*.

## 2020



Along with the involvement of about 100 local individuals, business and organizations, Voices organized **Leaving Home: Migration Through the Eyes of Children**, a ten-day series of children and migration-focused events in Patagonia, AZ. The centerpiece of the event, and open to the public, was an exhibit called **Hope and Healing: The Art of Asylum**, curated by arts and activities director, Valarie James, from the artwork of children staying at the Tucson shelter, Casa Alitas. The exhibit was paired with a structured curriculum, focusing on lessons of empathy and belonging, that was created specifically for the trauma-informed exhibit. Nearly 100 Patagonia children and teenagers experienced the exhibit with the companion curriculum.



2019



Voices sponsored a screening of the multi award-winning film, **Undeterred**, about community resistance in our sister border town of Arivaca, AZ. The screening included a panel discussion with the director, Eva Lewis, and several people interviewed in the film. See the film here: <https://undeterredfilm.org>

**Also in 2019 and 2018**

In the communities of Ambos Nogales (“both Nogales”) at the US/MX border, Voices was one of the sponsors of **Beyond the Wall**, a binational art show and giant puppet performance aimed at making the border wall disappear by transforming it into an object of play and imagination. Learn more about the two puppeteers and the collective who spearheaded the event at: <https://www.jesskaufman.net/beyond-the-wall>



2018



Voices helped organize and lead the ~500 person **Families Belong Together March** in Nogales, AZ in protest of the newly instituted policy of family separation under the Trump Administration. We also commissioned local artist, Cassandra Dixon, to create a 15-foot tall “Statue of Captivity” that was featured at the protest.



## Also in 2018

Voices brought the **Lens on the Border** exhibit to Patagonia's Cady Hall. This traveling exhibit, billed as *Creative Resistance Through the Eyes of Borderlands Photographers*, was organized by the Sierra Club, part of an international art project about dismantling walls and borders. <https://www.sierraclub.org/borderlands/lens-border>



## 2017 (Ambos Nogales)

The flagship event of a newly formed Voices from the Border was an event at the border wall called **Mothers Across Borders**.

