

# Robert Cisneros Papers

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Julian Samora Library at the Institute for Latino Studies  
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## Summary Information

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**Repository** Julian Samora Library at the Institute for Latino Studies

**Title** Robert Cisneros Papers

**Date [inclusive]** 1986-1998

**Extent** 0.5 Linear feet

**Language** English

**Language of Materials note** Materials in English.

**Abstract** Robert Cisneros is a Milwaukee-based artist whose work has long centered around Latino culture and community. His residency at the United Community Center (UCC) has produced many of the items found in this collection, including letters, lecture drafts, and research files and press materials related to three exhibits: "In Divine Light", which features photographs of Penitente moradas by Craig Varjabedian; "Retablos-- Latino Icons", which displays artifacts linked to religious expression; an exhibition on the Tarahumara, which features photographs by John Ruebartsch. These materials are related to projects he curated and are accompanied by collected materials documenting Latino culture in the Midwest: catalog for Tony Gleaton's photographs, a doctoral dissertation on Mexican and Puerto Ricans in Milwaukee, and proceedings from Open Dialogue VI, a national meeting held by the Association of American Cultures.

**Preferred Citation note**

Researchers wishing to cite materials from this collection may use the following acknowledgement: [title of item], Robert Cisneros Papers, Julian Samora Library at the Institute for Latino Studies, University of Notre Dame.

## **Biographical/Historical note**

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Born and raised in Chicago, Robert Cisneros received his BFA from the University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee in 1988 and has been artist-in-residence at the United Community Center (UCC), which serves the Milwaukee neighborhood's multi-ethnic but predominantly Hispanic population. At the UCC's Gallery of the Americas, he has curated exhibits like "Retablos-- Latino Icons". He also participated in Artists Working in Education (AWE), a non-profit organization that sought to enrich young lives with art in the Milwaukee County parks. Known for the murals that he did for the city, Cisneros believes in the power of public art to empower the common man and to reflect concerns from the artists' cultural heritage.

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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This collection contains items primarily related to Cisneros's work at the Latino Arts Inc., located inside the United Community Center (UCC) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Items include letters written for Latino Arts Inc. and documents on three exhibits: "In Divine Light" (En Divina Luz), featuring Craig Varjabedian's photographs of Penitente moradas (chapterhouses) in rural New Mexico and Colorado; "Retablos-- Latino Icons", showcasing artifacts that highlight Hispanic religious expression; an exhibition on John Ruebartsch's photographs of the Tarahumara, or the Raramuri, living in Chihuahua. Articles on the origins of Penitente Brotherhood and information on the Morada Photographic Survey (which gave rise to En Divina Luz), notes on Tarahumara culture, discussion questions and selected bibliography are included. Also included are UCC publications on Midwestern Hispanic artists and on the 130-foot mural "History of Latinos in Milwaukee" dedicated to the Bruce-Guadalupe Community School in 1995. An exhibit catalog of Tony Gleaton's photographs of Africa's Legacy in Mexico, a doctoral dissertation on Mexican and Puerto Ricans in Milwaukee, and proceedings from Open Dialogue VI, national meeting held by the Association of American Cultures, complete this collection.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Julian Samora Library at the Institute for Latino Studies

## Controlled Access Headings

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### Corporate Name(s)

- Hermanos Penitentes.
- In Divine Light. (1995: Milwaukee, Wis.)
- Latino Arts, Inc.. (Milwaukee, WI)
- Open Dialogue. (6th) (1994: Columbus, Ohio)
- Retablos: Latino Icons. (1994: Milwaukee, Wis.)
- United Community Center. (Milwaukee, Wis.)

### Personal Name(s)

- Cisneros, Robert
- Gleaton, Tony
- Ruebartsch, John
- Varjabedian, Craig, b. 1957

### Subject(s)

- African Americans--Mexico--History--Pictorial works
- Art, American--20th century
- Hispanic American art--20th century
- Hispanic American artists--Exhibitions
- Mexican Americans--Wisconsin--Social conditions--20th century
- Mural painting and decoration, American--Wisconsin--Milwaukee--20th century
- Tarahumara Indians--Mexico--Chihuahua (State)

## Collection Inventory

### Professional Activities 1986 - 1997

United Community Center 1986 - 1997

### Curatorial materials 1986 - 1995

"In Divine Light" exhibit 1986 - 1995

"Bright vision shines 'In Divine Light'" by James Auer from "Milwaukee Journal Sentinel" Oct 30, 1995

"Ecclesiastical Origins of the Penitente Brotherhood" by Father Thomas J. Steele, S.J. 1994

"Cofradia" by Thomas J. Steele from "Culture Heritage" Aug 1986

"In the House of God: En Divina Luz & The Morada Photographic Survey" by Therese Mulligan 1995

History & background on the Brotherhood Unknown

Exhibit information on the Penitente Moradas of New Mexico Unknown

Questions list regarding sacred space Unknown

Select bibliography on The Penitente Brotherhood, Moradas & Alabados Unknown

Administrative materials

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"Tarahumara" exhibit 1995

"Photos capture the pain of change" by James Auer [from the "Milwaukee Journal Sentinel"?] Mar 9, 1995

Information on the Tarahumara exhibit Unknown

Tarahumara exhibit announcement [Feb 10, 1995]

Notes/reflections on the Tarahumara exhibit & culture Feb 23, 1995

Piece on Colonia Tarahumara by Joh Ruebartsch Unknown

Worksheet on Tarahumara Indians Unknown

"Retablos- Latino Icons" exhibit

Retablos discussion list Unknown

Visual arts exhibitions descriptions Unknown

Information on the "Retablos- Latino Icons" exhibit Unknown

**Administrative materials 1994 - 1996**

Exhibit attendance statistics Jan 31, 1994



Lecture materials

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"Emerging Latino Artists" new prospects letter template [Feb 14, 1996]

"Emerging Latino Artists" thank you letter for Michael Broderick Apr 24, 1995

"Emerging Latino Artists" congratulations letter for Amanda Aquino Apr 11, 1996

"Emerging Latino Artists" thank you letter template [Jan 20, 1996]

Artists info and contacts list Unknown

**Lecture materials 1992 - 1997**

Frida Kahlo lecture flyer Sep 23, 1997

Frida Kahlo presentation project worksheet Nov 13, 1997

NCLR Hispanic Women's Breakfast: La Raza Cosmica flyer July 22, 1992?

Visual Art Forms Unknown

Photocopy of Robert Cisneros's business card Unknown

Visual Art Forms Robert Cisneros brochure Unknown

Visual Art Forms Robert Cisneros brochure Unknown

Visual Art Forms "Paper Bowl Sculptures" postcard Unknown

**Collected Materials**

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**Collected Materials**

**Catalogs, booklets 1993 - 1997**

"Africa's Legacy in Mexico: Photographs by Tony Gleaton/ El legado de Africa en Mexico: Fotografias de Tony Gleaton"n exhibit catalog, Smithsonian Institution 1993

"Antologia Hispana: Artistas Hispanos del Medioeste/ Hispanic Anthology: Hispanic Artists of the Midwest" exhibit catalog, United Community Center 1993

"History of Latinos in Milwaukee/ Historia de los Latinos en Milwaukee" booklet, United Community Center 1997

**Writings, proceedings 1988 - 1994**

"The Social and Economic Integration of Mexicans and Puerto Ricans in Milwaukee" by Avelardo Valdez 1988

Open Dialogue VI proceedings June 1994

**Miscellaneous Unknown**

Order form for "Discourse: Journal for Theoretical Studies in Media and Culture" Unknown

Works Donated by Robert Cisneros Unknown