

# MAESTR@S

## A Movement for Raza Self-Determination by Living Racial Justice

### Manifesto

MAESTR@S is an educational movement founded on a politicized, anti-oppression analysis of the condition of raza and the powerful role of hegemony: racism/white supremacy, patriarchy/sexism, homophobia/heterosexism and capitalism/colonialism, in shaping that condition. We attack institutional, interpersonal, and internalized oppression/colonization with a specific focus on dealing with how we as individuals experience oppression, which is internalized by way of both the media and the schools. We engage in collective spiritual development with daily applications so that we can Live Social Justice in our communities and with our youth.

Our work strives to **challenge oppression** by focusing on helping youth and youth workers to understand this reality. We do this by challenging and then replacing the methods in which our youth are schooled as we provide them *Educación Xicana/Indígena*.

Much of our work centers on **healing** -> helping youth and youth workers alike to use indigena wisdom to uncover the complexity of our condition and to find real answers to that condition—to find concrete ways of transcending that reality.

This work is based on the understanding that the contemporary oppression of raza has its foundation in the **soul wound** inflicted on our spirits and communities through the conquest and the on-going measures taken to disconnect us from our stories--from our spirits.

For this reason, much of our work also focuses on **countering the media** because the media works to hide and distract us from this reality and seeks to control and shape our **desires** so that we cannot see the spiritual void it is attempting to fill/hide.

Our work is an effort to **disrupt the continued colonization and conquest of our bodies**, which now takes place through the occupation of our spirits. It is an effort to awaken our spirits and in so doing to **build a movement** through daily action.

This is our path in the pursuit of **liberation**. We are working to *liberate ourselves from educational apartheid, capitalist seduction, and spiritual genocide* as we move toward *pro-active, intellectual, spiritual and community-based, self-determination and sovereignty through revolutionary educación* .

We prepare well-rounded, caring, committed, and intellectually powerful **freedom fighters**, by helping people to *live social justice* [the path of our great grandmothers and grandchildren].

We, therefore, focus on creating our own ethic/way of being as we develop and share educational **decolonizing and healing strategies**. *All of our work is action-based. It is lived work and not only theory.*

*We will not compromise our vision.*

*We will not give up any part of our moral authority to reclaim our education:  
as students, as families, as raza whose wisdom and teachings are powerful beyond imagination.*

For more info, contact Marcos Pizarro, [marcos.pizarro@sjsu.edu](mailto:marcos.pizarro@sjsu.edu)