



DECLARATION

Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx de Aztlan (MEChA)'s Fountain of the Indigenous People of the World Restoration Committee is declaring further action from Mt. San Antonio College's administration to restore the Fountain of the Indigenous People of the World.

BACKGROUND

On September 18, 2003 the Associated Students dedicated the fountain to the Indigenous Peoples of the world. For this Fountain to be dedicated to the Indigenous People of the world, it carries a heavy significance. This fountain therefore represents a people who have faced violent colonialism, genocide, removed from sacred lands. Moreover, they have been systematically oppressed and marginalized.

For years, Mechistas have noticed a consistent lack of maintenance for the fountain. Students have had to constantly remind the administration to turn on the fountain and keep it maintained. However, the fountain continues to be ignored by the administration for the majority of each passing year.

Today, the Fountain for the Indigenous People of the World is rarely kept on and is in poor conditions that include: dirt and dirty leaves, mold, dried up mud, common waste, bird feces, rust on metal parts, and spider webs. In cases where rainwater is allowed to accumulate due to lack of maintenance, mosquito larvae begins to grow and swim in the rainwater. Therefore, the Fountain of the Indigenous People of the World is not given the proper or any maintenance that it should be given.

It is our concern that the fountain continues to be kept in poor condition. Mechistas have found the same evidence that past Mechistas have described: dirt, leaves, trash, bird feces, rust, mold, spider webs and mosquito larvae. During week 10 of the 2018 Fall Semester (and counting), the Fountain has not been turned on once, including during Indigenous People's Day



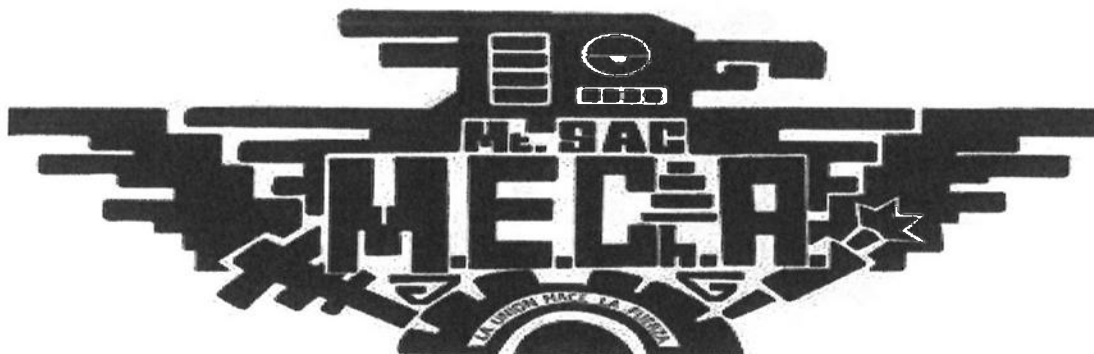
(Oct. 8, 2018) when MEChA and the Native American Inter-tribal Student Alliance (NAISA) were in celebration in and around the Fountain area. In addition, students have said to see the Fountain last turned on and cleaned during the 2018 summer semester.

RECENT EFFORTS

MEChA has brought attention to many Mt. SAC students about the significance of the fountain as well as the conditions the fountain is kept in. We have encouraged Mechistas and allies to fill out Feedback Cards from the Founders Hall to bring awareness to the conditions of the fountain. Since then, MEChA has been able to turn in 80 to 100 Feedback Cards regarding the fountain to Founders Hall. According to one response email a Mechista received on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 4:00pm from the President's office, the Fountain was supposed to be up and running "in approximately 2 weeks". It has now been three weeks, and the fountain still remains to receive maintenance.

Most recently, MEChA and allies have attended an Associated Students meeting, overwhelmingly reaching max capacity of the Council Room seating. We voiced our concerns about the Fountain for the Indigenous People of the World during open forum. During this open forum the MEChA board, Mechistas, and unexpected attendees spoke in support of restorations of the Fountain for the Indigenous People of the World, as well as the creation of a Chicanx/Latinx Center and Support Program, and the implementation of a Gender and Ethnic Studies Program. The Fountain has still not received any maintenance whatsoever and remains in the same conditions.

As Indigenous people of this continent and students attending an institution that prides itself on diversity, we see the poor condition of the fountain during Indigenous Peoples Day, the poor condition of the fountain during the Day of the Dead when we must honor our ancestors,



and the overall persistent lack of maintenance over the years, as a sign of the utmost disrespect and tokenism of Indigenous People and the cultures of all people of color in general.

OUR DEMANDS

It is because of the issues stated above that MEChA's Committee for the Fountain of the Indigenous People of the World form a Committee Statement to list the following demands:

- 1) Clean and fix any damage of the fountain immediately:
 - Fountain must be drained and resurfaced before water is added
 - Fountain and bench must be repainted, and all cracks must be sealed
 - Metallic sculptures must be repaired to remove rust
- 2) Have the fountain turned on and running year-round
- 3) Have a proper year-round maintenance schedule for the fountain
- 4) Paint a mural on the fountain depicting the Indigenous people of the world

We, the Committee for the Restoration of the Fountain of the Indigenous People of the World along with the rest of MEChA, expect each demand to be met by the end of the semester.

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Fountain of the Indigenous People of the World Restoration Committee
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