



# Associated Students

## Resolution #1

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Author: **Shawal Bhalli** Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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Subject: **Reformation of Indigenous Peoples Fountain** Date: **10/07/20**

**Whereas:** Associated Students recognize that the fountain located at Kerr's Corner and in front of the library was dedicated to the Indigenous people of the world- enabling an intersectional connection to Native identity roots with the campus community and culture. This resolution declares further action from Mt. San Antonio College for the reformation of the Fountain of the Indigenous People of the World.

**Whereas:** On September 18, 2003 the Mt. SAC Associated Students (A.S.) dedicated the fountain to the Indigenous Peoples of the world. In 2016, A.S. passed a resolution to change Christopher Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day, and all future student handbooks and student calendars have since been changed to Indigenous People's Day. In 2018, A.S. passed a resolution to restore the fountain maintenance after unheeded requests from MEChA- the Chicax Student Union on campus.

**Whereas:** Most recently, College President Dr. Bill Scroggins set a Presidential Initiative this year titled "The Societal Education for Equity Challenge" (S.E.E.C.) for Latinx, Black-African American, Indigenous equity and racial justice. The initiative includes the initial commitment to institutionalize the ARISE Program and expand mission to all indigenous populations.

**Whereas:** Reforming the fountain would strengthen campus visibility of the inter-tribal societal contributions and would create a culture of validation and confidence for the students. The S.E.E.C. is to create Mt. SAC as a "learning community and an experiential learning laboratory" for advocacy, recognition, unity of purpose, and transformation of achieving equity and racial justice. The Presidential Call to Action addresses that advocacy, promotion, and changes in self-identity and behavior are learned processes and actions.

**Whereas:** The fountain has been neglected for years- in both maintenance and service to embody its significance. Cemented are controversial plaques that further harm inter-tribal value. Margaret Mead is the only figure that is respected out of all the other prospected idols: Cesar E. Chavez, Mahatma Gandhi, and Aristotle. Montesquieu is the catalyst of the bunch to further invalidate the indigenous

people of the world by displaying “A nation may lose its liberties in a day, and not miss them in a century.” on the fountain’s framing seats.

**Whereas:** Despite the neglected service, the fountain has relied on the students to carry its burden. The campus has fostered events like Dia de los Muertos and Indigenous Peoples Day to commemorate the lives of our ancestors. Clubs, programs, and the community built a home around the fountain. They would even voluntarily serve maintenance and upkeep. On October 30, 2018, the M.E.Ch.A. Fountain for the Indigenous People of the World Restoration Committee released a statement declaring the Mt. SAC administration to restore the Fountain of the Indigenous People of the World with a list of demands- including proper year-round maintenance schedule for the fountain.

**Whereas:** In consideration of the murals brought to campus by representation of the inter-tribal students population, it is the responsibility of Mt. SAC to uphold that desired intent. The current mural on the fountain hosts figures that are not respectively representative of the Indigenous people that the fountain was dedicated for. Therefore, removal of such figures from the mural be critical, along with the addition of figures that better represent the inter-tribal magnificence.

**Whereas:** Associated Students will continue to advocate for the Mt. SAC student body and the intertribal community by financially supporting the reformation of the fountain using A.S Campus Projects funds, under the condition that a workgroup is established that practices committed community engagement.

**Whereas:** For direct inclusion of the Inter-tribal Native Elder and prosperous student input, the workgroup formation will proceed in-person. The workgroup is advised to include the involvement of the A.S. Cross Cultural Senator, A.S. Campus Community Senator, and the student representative of the Facilities Advisory Committee. As well as the campus clubs- Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (M.E.Ch.A.) and the Native American Inter-tribal Alliance (N.A.I.S.A.), and campus programs- El Centro and ARISE.

**Whereas:** The funding provided by A.S. will cover the perpetual maintenance, service, repairs, and recycling of the fountains functional and aesthetic capacities. Per Associated students vision, it is our responsibility to grow and advocate for the community. We unite, motivate, and empower our students and community while fostering and promoting advocacy for the student body. Our recognition and upkeep of the fountain reflects the attitudes of the campus towards said community. A poorly kept fountain dedicated to Indigenous peoples is representative of potential indifference against them. Be it so that the fountain is not only a reflection of the success in upholding the A.S. vision and mission, but also our support for the multitude of cultures Mt. San Antonio holds.

**Whereas:** Mt. SAC core values harness integrity, social justice, and equity and diversity. The college mission statement states, “The mission of Mt San Antonio College is to support **all students** in achieving their educational goals in an environment of

academics. Specifically, the College is committed to providing quality education, services, and workforce training so that students become productive members of a diverse, sustainable, global society...The College will carry out this commitment by providing an engaging and supportive teaching and learning environment for students of **diverse origins**, experiences, needs, abilities, and goals. The College is dedicated to serving our community through improving economic achievement, advancing civic engagement, enhancing personal well-being, promoting critical thinking, and enriching aesthetic and **cultural experiences**."

**Therefore:** Be it resolved, that the A.S. Senate, the A.S. Executive Board, and the A.S. President approve Indigenous Peoples Fountain Resolution.

<b>A.S. Senate</b>			
For: _____	Against: _____	Abstain: _____	Date: _____
<b>A.S. Executive Board</b>			
For: _____	Against: _____	Abstain: _____	Date: _____
<b>A.S. President</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve	<input type="checkbox"/> Veto	Signature: _____	Date: _____