

## ICR Pachappa: Navigating Place

Spring 2022

Envisioned by a newly-established Indigenous Choreographers at Riverside (ICR) Advisory Circle centering Cahuilla guidance, this gathering is a week-long, community-led, multi-part, embodied engagement with the land upon which UCR is located, called Pachappa by Íviatem (Cahuilla) peoples. The collaborative process of creating this conference, with local Íviatem, Máara'yam (Serrano), Tóngva , and Payómkawichum (Luiseño) community members providing primary guidance, is part of its outcome. In this, we follow walangax, a Cahuilla concept meaning from the beginning, the base of strength and a dynamic point of potentiality via interconnectedness. ICR Cahuilla Advisory Circle leaders proffer a deep, decolonial, and reparative engagement with the cosmology of this land. In Cahuilla bird songs, human existence emerges through migration, honoring ancestors' journey around Turtle Island three times, and thus forming Cahuilla people in interconnectedness. In this and other ways, Cahuilla cosmology registers how those who are now here already form part of the Cahuilla story. The conference might involve Native leaders articulating protocols for connection with those on their own paths of Indigenous migration; those trafficked through forced labor; and descendants of colonizing settlers. This might involve people who are not Native to this area enacting their connection with it in a variety of creative ways, such as Indigenous-to-Indigenous sharing of dance practices, and registering how different Indigenous people have followed the path of dance to hold histories of past and future. It might involve practicing being in good relation through various sensory practices (gift exchanges, land outings, Native plant teachings, fireside star stories). Whatever it becomes, it will involve sharing time, knowledge, space, energy, song, dance and food in transformative, reparative, and healing ways, and be guided by a desire for "achaqwa exma unum Temal," may all be in good relationship on Earth, a phrase of good intention offered by Cahuilla elder Katherine Kitchen.

### **Faculty Coordinators**

Jacqueline Shea Murphy (Dance)

María Firmino-Castillo (Dance)