

Internationally Known Mapuche Poet Visits Washington-2013



Graciela Huinao (right) welcomed by member of Suquamish Tribe, Bainbridge Island

In May-June 2013, the Washington Partners hosted well-known Mapuche poet from Chile, Graciela Huinao. Her agenda was arranged by Patricia Mazuela, with assistance from Carlyne Wright, Bill Zachmann and Susan Sola. Patricia and Susan hosted Graciela in their homes. Her visit was funded by the U.S. Dept. of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, under a Partners Education and Culture grant. Partners Board member Eugenia Toledo-Keyser made the initial connections to invite Graciela to Seattle after a trip to Washington, D.C., where Graciela took part in the international congress of the Latin American Studies Association.

Graciela's program of visits and events included readings of her poetry at The Northwest School, Seattle University, Hugo House, Café Cintli, South Seattle Community College, Seattle Central Community College, and the University of Washington; at Seattle Peace Chorus and Sin Fronteras performances in Seattle; and at an indigenous culture festival, "Poetics of Displacement: Indigenous Identity in Unwelcome Space," hosted by Evergreen State College on June 6 in Olympia. Her agenda also included visits with Native American and immigrant groups in the Seattle area and Yakima.



Graciela (left) with immigrant farm women in Yakima and Patricia Mazuela (kneeling in front, right)