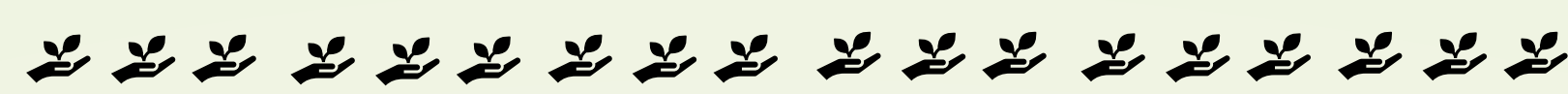


Collaborative Practices for Archiving Farmworker Communities' Histories

Suzanne C. Stapleton & Margarita Vargas-Betancourt
University of Florida



This project helps build a sustainable future where academic libraries are engaged with their communities, highlighting stories of minoritized, misunderstood, and misrepresented people.



Distribution of federal COVID relief funds to farmworkers with the Rural Women's Health Project (Photo: R. Lewy)

Partnership With A Purpose

Two academic libraries and two Florida farmworker community-based organizations are collaborating to design an archival plan to preserve and make accessible their work and impact.



Celebrating 40 years of the Farmworker Association of Florida (Photo: B. Dominguez)



Cuéntame tu Historia (Tell me your story)

Personal stories and recollections detail the struggles and successes of each organization.

Ten interviews were conducted in the first year of this project. Our team employs AI technology for transcriptions and photo editing.



Interviewing Sister Ann and Sister Gail about the origins of the Farmworker Association of Florida (Photo: B. Dominguez)

Essential But Hidden

Academic archives provide a historical record that should mirror the experiences of all citizens in order to inform social progress.

COVID's impact on Florida farmworkers made it clear that farmworkers are essential, but their experiences are hidden.



Garnering public support for immigrants (Photo: B. Dominguez)



Distribution of essential food following Hurricane Ian (Photo: S. Stapleton)



Lending A Hand

Collaboration starts by building trust and making commitments to understand each other by volunteering at community organization events.

Community Archival Material

Content to be preserved and shared is selected by the community organizations.

In year two, this project will focus on farmworker support organizations in south Florida.



Fotonovelas from the Rural Womens Health Project donated to the UF Libraries (Photo: S. Stapleton)



Best Practices Guide

Training materials from lessons learned are being developed to encourage national replicability.



Project background and current status from Hidden Histories podcast 3/7/2023



This project would not be possible without the expert contributions from all team members and financial support from the Institute of Museum & Library Services

