

Chula Vista OP-ED

Chula Vista is known to be a very diverse community, but there is a separation between the generations. There is a lot of things that stand in the way of the generations interacting, such as technology and language barriers. The Faces of Change project is a way to help build up these communities and to make what's already great even greater.

The Chula Vista cohort has been meeting with "We are Chula Vista" which is the name of the project we are currently involved with as well as the directors of the project. This project is to focus on the different generations and to have them connect over photography. The project is centered around a photo contest idea with a theme of "what WE are thankful for in Chula Vista". In this contest there are going to be 4 different age categories such as 14 and under, 15-25, 25-55, 55 and above. The participants will submit their photos with a brief description of why they took that picture and how it shows what they are thankful for. There will be a panel of judges that select top 3 from each category and the winner from the categories will receive a prize. The winners will be announced at an opening ceremony where the photos of the winners and runners ups will be displayed. This ceremony is open to anyone willing to come, it will be a great opportunity for the generation to interact with one another and look at the beautiful photos. The Chula Vista cohort want to contribute to this amazing project by helping with outreaching to the local schools and retirement homes as well as creating the gallery space where the photographs will be hung. We are also planning on volunteering with the senior homes to help with the integration of the generation and hopefully getting some of the students from other schools to be involved as well. One person from the cohort will also sit on the panel of judges to help pick the winning photos.

Our goal for this project to help the generations come together so there is less of a separation in the community. We feel that this project is the way to do it because it is having people of all ages come together and participate in taking picture of what they are thankful for in their community. We are also volunteering with the seniors to help them learn how to take pictures and to just interact with them through other activities. This project is important to us because we really want a strong united community.