Traditional Indigenous Healing in Prisons
Rose Elizondo
The need for Societal Healers and Curanderas/Curande ros in Social Justice Movements.

Can we do Limpias on the Criminal Legal System and Mass Incarceration?
Justice is served when the victim is made whole, the transgressor is redeemed, and harmony is restored to the community. We are all in this together, we are all connected.”  Van Jones
Rose’s Story and Artist Carmen Lomas Garza From *Family Pictures* book of South Texas life
Historical Harms and Expanding Mass Incarceration

We can’t talk about healing and rehabilitative programs in prisons without talking about root causes of mass incarceration.

Michelle Alexander’s book: The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

1. Slavery: Prisons are a continuation of the “Plantation Economy,” Mission System Colonization, and Migrant Worker Field Work.

2. The US incarcerates disproportionate numbers of Blacks, Latinos, and Native Americans.

3. Historic Incarceration and cultural genocide of Native Americans. The 150 year anniversary of the government sanctioned incarceration of thousands of Navajos on the Navajo Long Walk. Forced incarceration of Native American children in residential schools. (Photo exhibit in Maxwell Museum)

4. Immigrant Detention Centers
Justice System Status Quo:
The US Criminal Legal System is punitive and criminalizes the impacts of poverty and trauma.

“We harm people, who harm people, to show that harming people is wrong... Yet we know that if these people are not rehabilitated, they will continue to do harm.” Fania Davis
Indigenous justice as healing: conflict is natural, we can look to our ancestral traditions to create healing for our future generations. When we hold and honor different perspectives and afflicting emotions with compassion and self compassion we get to a state of harmony.
Embodying the Indigenous Restorative Values:
Returning to our traditional indigenous wisdom and roots.
San Quentin Restorative Justice Interfaith Roundtable. Rose co-founded with incarcerated men and grassroots community members in 2005, Over 150 men and transgender sit in circle each week. It is a model program in the United States.

- Flipping the charity model
- Values Based Program and Process.
- Leadership of those most impacted in a council style
- Talking Circles
- Accountability Program
- Taking Responsibility for harms.
- Looking at cycles of violence and victimization.
- Making Amends and Agreements
- Public Education and Restorative Dialogue
Restorative Justice Saying:

- Hurt People
- Healed People
- Loved People

Hurt People → Healed People → Loved People
Escape From Alcatraz Prison

Rocking the Rock in 2011 with Modern Indigenous Ceremony
Celebrating the Leadership of those most impacted by the issues who have innovative solutions in Northern Califas:

**Young Women’s Freedom Center**, San Francisco

**CURYJ**: Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice, Oakland, Native and Latino

**Noxtin**: Chicana Girls Empowerment and Policy Change, San Jose

**New Fire**: Aztec Dance, Traditional Teachings

**Chicana Girls in Detention Conference**, San Jose

**La Cultura Cura Network**  San Jose, Watsonville, Salinas

**RJOY** Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth,