

Fernando Escalera Hernandez

Fernando Hernandez is a third-generation Californian from Mexican immigrants.

Born in the Imperial Valley in 1951, he soon after moved to the San Joaquin Valley.

He worked along side his brothers and sisters picking fruits and vegetables.

This was to be a learning experience he never forgot and in turn made him study harder in school. He soon excelled in his art classes and as an 11th grader he drew the original “California Dancing Raisin” for an art assignment. He continued on to college, graduating with a BA in Art and teaching credentials.

Fernando Hernandez is credited for starting the first Latino art gallery in Fresno, along side Ernesto Palomino, Francisco Barrios and Salvador Garcia. The group was named “La Brocha del Valle, Inc.” which employed over 40 local artists. He volunteered as a board member, grants writer, and administrator for 5 yrs. He is happy to see others doing artwork and above all in creating an art audience among Latinos in Fresno.

Fernando has taught for 33yrs in many grade levels and subjects: elementary, secondary, and college courses. He has been with the RSA Program since 1992 and has taught Art-1, Art-II, Intro to Design, 3-D Design, Mexican Art History, and Media Graphics. He is responsible for most of the murals on campus, done by his art students. He solicited artworks for the school campus offices from Gallery M.. He has worked on many community murals starting back in 1975, but is most proud of the 168 freeway mural titled; “The Wilderness” on Shields Ave. He is also a former Arte Americas Board Member.