



## DOLORES HUERTA FOUNDATION

**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
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***“Dolores Huerta: Revolution in the Fields/Revolución en los Campos”  
from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service opens at  
Bakersfield College***



*Jon Lewis, Dolores Huerta with a bullhorn, 1965 © Yale University. All rights reserved.*

***Traveling exhibition exploring the Latina activist’s ground-breaking role in California’s  
farm workers’ movement to show in Bakersfield, California***

**BAKERSFIELD, CA. — Feb. 09, 2021:** Bakersfield College announced the exhibition “Dolores Huerta: Revolution in the Fields / Revolución en los Campos” organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). The exhibition will be on view at The Wylie and May Louise Jones Gallery website as a virtual tour beginning February 12, 2021. After April 25th the exhibition will travel to the Park City Museum, but the Bakersfield College Jones Gallery virtual tour will be active through January 2022.

To view the exhibition and find a schedule of publicly programmed events visit  
<https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/art/jones-art-gallery>.

The exhibition was Inspired by “One Life: Dolores Huerta” at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Portrait Gallery, which was on view at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington DC in 2016. Dolores Huerta made history as the first Latina and the first living person ever to be featured at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery. The exhibition explores the life and legacy of the legendary Latina activist through reproductions of historic photographs, a documentary video and a smartphone audio tour app. The Bakersfield College installation will feature supplemental artifacts on loan from Huerta’s personal collection and other institutions, reproductions of historic and personal photographs

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and graphic elements as well as a free, user-friendly, mobile tour smart phone app featuring interviews with Huerta, and a short bilingual documentary video.

“It’s an honor to be recognized in this exhibit,” said Dolores Huerta. “It’s incredibly important that the contributions that women and people of color have made to our nation’s history be brought to the attention of the mainstream. I’m grateful that people across the country are having a chance to view this traveling exhibition. Much of my work supporting civil rights for farm workers and Latinos has been centered in Kern County and the surrounding rural areas, so it’s fitting for this to show at one of our community’s most important institutions of higher learning. Art is an incredible vehicle for transmitting culture and moving people to action. I hope that this exhibit, and the featured historical artifacts, inspire many of our young leaders to get involved in creating a better future for all through activism and community organizing and teaches students the value of labor unions and the importance of workers’ rights.”

The exhibition will detail Huerta’s life from her early influences—such as her mother Alicia and mentor Fred Ross who led to her groundbreaking time as the female voice in the traditionally male-dominated farm workers’ movement—through the United Farm Workers’ grape boycotts and landmark agreements with the grape-growing conglomerates. The exhibition will also feature many of the people who worked with Huerta in the farm workers’ movement, including fellow organizers Larry Itliong and César Chávez and artistic contributors like Xavier Viramontes and El Teatro Campesino.

Before the movement, the California grape laborers faced open discrimination, below-poverty wages and dangerously unsafe working and living conditions. Huerta and her colleagues sacrificed their own well-being to challenge the system and galvanize solidarity for a better life for them. Yet often Huerta’s name and impact are overlooked, including the misattribution of her coined phrase, “Yes, we can! / ¡Si, se puede!” to other historical figures. When most women were still expected to play primarily domestic roles, Huerta introduced new models of womanhood as an energetic picket captain, persuasive lobbyist and unyielding negotiator.

The Bakersfield College virtual installation will feature a supplemental display of artifacts further illustrating Huerta’s ground-breaking activism over more than six decades and the history of California’s farm workers’ movement in the 1960s and 1970s. Highlights include dozens of rarely-seen items on loan from Huerta’s personal collection, including a circa 1970s hand-knit sweater with the United Farm Workers’ logo and her Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded in 2012 by President Barack Obama.

## **ABOUT “DOLORES HUERTA: REVOLUTION IN THE FIELDS/REVOLUCIÓN EN LOS CAMPOS”**

“Dolores Huerta: Revolution in the Fields/Revolución en Los Campos” is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, in collaboration with the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery. This exhibition received Federal support from the Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center. For more information, visit <https://www.sites.si.edu>.

### **About Dolores Huerta Foundation**

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The Dolores Huerta Foundation is a 501 (c)3 organization whose mission is to inspire and organize communities to build volunteer organizations called Vecinos Unidos chapters empowered to pursue social justice. Vecinos Unidos members develop their community organizing, civic engagement, and leadership skills by working on policy advocacy on issues such as health, environment, education, and youth development in their communities. Learn more about the Dolores Huerta Foundation at [www.doloreshuerta.org](http://www.doloreshuerta.org).

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