

Geo 167AC  
Daniela Ceja  
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### Project Narrative: Born and Raised in Hayward California

My mother once told me when I asked about her experience crossing the southern border, she said to me, “You ni sabía dónde El Norte era, pensaba que nomas iba ser mi pueblo Guadalajara y ya llegaría al El Norte.” as she shrugged her shoulders and had a slight smile on her face. It’s been about 3 years since she told me this. “El Norte” is what the people from the part of Mexico use when referring to the USA. This conversation was sparked on my behalf, I have always had a great inclination and curiosity toward the concept and reality that is migration and people crossing the southern border. When I was old enough to understand the stories the questions never stopped and to this day I still ask new questions because from taking courses like one I get new perspectives.

My mother and father are from Pajacuaran Michoacan. They come from two completely different economic backgrounds which has made the beginning of their love story very interesting, but that for a different time. Today in my podcast I focus on my Mother, she crossed the border and settled in Hayward California, now a big, city-like town that was once all new to her. Through exploring her journey, and decision to stay and start a family in this town. I wanted to notice and explore the changes this city itself has gone through. That made my mother feel comfortable and safe to express her Mexican heritage and raise us with our cultural traditions as well. We went as deep as how important it was to live in a neighborhood where we wouldn't get fined for celebrating with a live Banda past 10pm to if she took into consideration that this is a sanctuary city with sanctuary schools. I would like to add that I decided to do this with my

Mother, not my Father for my Fathers Mother was a Citizen, a true Tejana of her time. Their stories defer a great deal.

A topic from class that stuck out to me was the importance of paying attention to the counter narrative. The start of the podcast begins with questioning as to why Mrs. Ceja decided to migrate to the U.S. in the first place. As I'm aware of this negative unrealistically aggressive narrative that is painted about people migrating north, they aren't met with a warm welcome. Due to many factors, with one stemming from people having misconceptions about these migrants due to the lack of exposure to more counter narratives. I asked why she was determined to embark on this journey since it was not going to be an easy one. Much like how Rachel St. John writes, "Nationality did not always determine if someone could cross the border but almost always influenced how they did." As well as how De Leon states, "Territorialization, or the writing of new spatial relations, produces cultural imaginaries that produce different categories of rights-bearing peoples in the same space"

Mrs. Maria's input on this topic connects with the fact that Hayward's population has been increasing more and more since the 1960's and "is home to the second most diverse population in California." as stated on Hayward's website.

She was able to find comfort in seeing people that looked, spoke, and experienced things like her. However before getting to that point like many others she had to leave all she knew since birth, the people she loved and loved her, her costumes and routines behind. In the time span of 2 nights 3 days all of that changed. She came to a new place with complete strangers and was expected to get up the next day and be a functioning member of society. Another topic I wanted to touch on in both her journey and the development of this town was mental health. Mrs. Ceja confirms that especially with the Latinx community, talking to a therapist or even paying

attention to one emotion wasn't ever seen as a positive matter or even addressed. With time and especially due to social media and new advocates and new generations growing up. I feel it has become more socially accepted to take care of one's mental health. To tie it back to this part of the podcast I'll mention that Hayward's Police department has made more of an effort to expose people to new mental health resources. One being through their website, but I'll like to mention that they share these during their school visits and I've seen them have a booth during public events.

Nevis wrote "that we accept these practices and their associated practices-- largely without question-- and have come to do so in a relatively short time is an amazing development." (pg.149) this quote influenced my view on migration a little more. These are ideas from people being pushed onto other people. This then connects to Hayward being a sanctuary city. Knowing this makes us feel more comfortable here, knowing the city itself has our people's backs and since 2016 Hayward's school has also taken part.

I've always heard of the factory job Mrs. Ceja had on a car assembly line. Looking more towards the future I wonder why she felt compelled to stay here and start a family. Bay Area housing prices continued to go up; there were cheaper options in other cities as we see in the census, since 2013 prices have gone up almost \$200,000. After having her first child she became a stay at home mom, my father was the full time provider. The economy was stable enough in this town to provide a good job to afford the living expenses with 3 children. A website states the median household income in Hayward is \$62,691 a year.

After our conversation the conclusion is quite beautiful. My family has called this town home for over 30 years because with time the latinx community has made it their own. With time even more people from Pajacuaran came here and stayed, there are churches for us to practice

our religion and stores that carry our ingredients. Hayward is not as busy and hectic as Oakland but not quite either. We appreciate that it's a sanctuary city, Hayward has a young spirit but has been influenced by all of its inhabitants heritage.

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