



**American
Friends
Service
Committee**

AFSC West Region News – July 2026

Stories of work from around the region

Welcome to the American Friends Service Committee's West Region newsletter.
Please send feedback to WestNews@afsc.org.



Roots for Peace held its 2026 Open House at the Corazon de La Gente Community Farm. Photo: Jayrol San Jose

Roots for Peace (RFP) Program, Los Angeles

Accompanying immigrant families in building a community farm in LA

Everyone should have access to good nutritious produce and to green space. It's also imperative that neighborhood residents have a say on how land is used in their community. But this has not always been the case in South Central Los Angeles.

Since 2015, Roots for Peace's Community Farm has been a testament to how organizations can walk in solidarity with people directly impacted by injustice to ensure their voices are not only heard but that their hopes are put into tangible reality. We have worked together to make the project completely sustainable to ensure its longevity. Community members and local partners are now fully responsible for the farm. Crystal Gonzalez of AFSC shares some of the [key moments](#) in the history of this effort.



From left, AFSC staff Gabriela Flora, Alonso Oliveros, Pedro Sosa, Erika Gable, Sayrah Namaste and Patrick Jaramillo. Photo: Gabriela Flora

Oregon-Washington Project Voice

From Oregon to New Mexico – a look at resilient communities

Oregon staff Pedro Sosa and Alonso Oliveros recently traveled to Albuquerque for a training session and to meet with New Mexico Program co-directors Patrick Jaramillo and Sayrah Namaste. Staff were grateful for an afternoon of cross-program learning and discussion. Alonso said he returned to Oregon with a deeper understanding of AFSC’s work in New Mexico – and a newfound appreciation for the natural resources in his home state. Read [more](#).



Earlier this year, AFSC staff and supporters traveled to Morocco to learn from local communities. Photo: Cynthia Harris

People of the Land Program, Albuquerque

From New Mexico to Morocco – a look at climate justice

Climate change is an issue that affects us all. We must strive toward a more just, sustainable future that works for all people and our planet. Small-scale farmers and communities in New Mexico and Morocco are showing us some of the ways forward. Though separated by thousands of miles, they are navigating climate change through traditions of cooperation and shared stewardship. Read [more](#) from Sayrah Namaste of AFSC NM and Brett Heinz, AFSC Global Policy Coordinator.



ARC of AFSC speaks at a recent Shut Down GEO vigil. Screenshot: AFSC

Immigrant Rights Program, Colorado

AFSC and allies organize against current and proposed detention centers

AFSC's Shut Down GEO Aurora campaign is sounding the alarm as the federal government seeks to dramatically expand immigrant detention in Colorado, putting lives and communities at risk for the sake of profit. The Department of Homeland Security's rapid no-bid process and proposal to purchase land in Hudson, CO make an end run around state and local public health entities and federal contracting rules. Learn [more](#) from Jennifer Piper of AFSC.

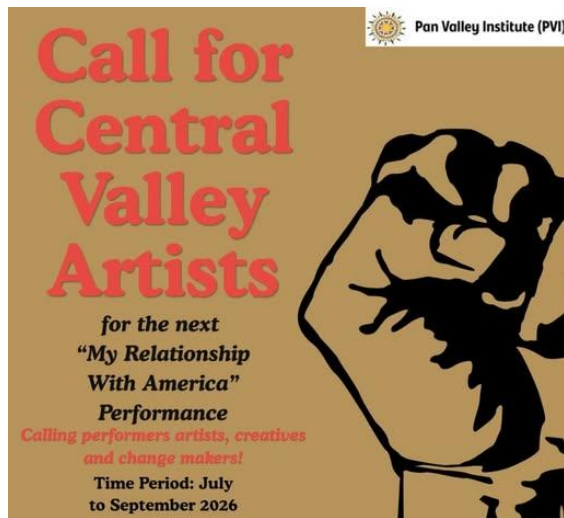


Guerline Jozef, Executive Director of the Haitian Bridge Alliance. Screenshot: AFSC

US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego

AFSC stands with Haitian and Syrian refugees

From [Facebook](#): The AFSC US-Mexico Border Program stood in unity with ICE Out of San Diego coalition partners on a recent weekly protest against ICE terror. AFSC joined with the Haitian community to denounce the revocation of TPS for thousands of Haitian and Syrian refugees. US interventions, invasions and occupations have created instability throughout the world.



Pan Valley Institute (PVI), Fresno

Central Valley artists invited for “My Relationship with America”

Joshua Slack of PVI is **calling** for artists, creatives, changemakers, activists, organizers and community members to join PVI as collaborators and partners for the next performance of “My Relationship with America.” Many art forms, mediums, artistic expressions, and/or practices are welcome. From May through July, PVI hosted workshops supporting participants in exploring personal and collective narratives through performance, storytelling, and creative expression.

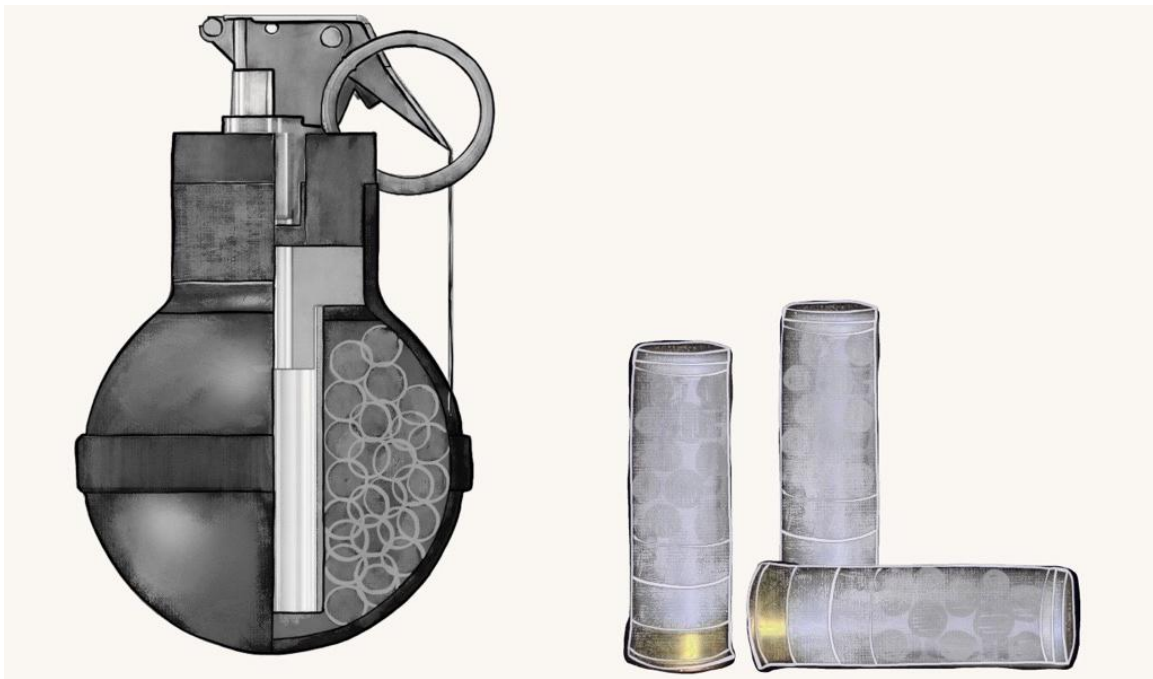


(photo: 67 Sueños)

67 Sueños, Oakland

Young people revisit the fundamentals of painting

From **Facebook**: “Whether this is your first time picking up a paintbrush or you’re working on your third mural, it’s always worth revisiting the fundamentals. Color theory, figure sketching and understanding dimension are the building blocks of every dope and vibrant 67 mural. Thanks to our incredible lead artist, they broke these concepts into easy bite size pieces.” Don’t forget to save the date of November 13 as 67 Sueños **celebrates 15 years of youth power.**



Example illustration of scattershot - image by Jennifer Tu, AFSC

California Healing Justice Program, Oakland

Oakland Police end use of scattershot munitions

Oakland Police will no longer use scattershot -- so-called “less lethal” munitions that indiscriminately send dozens of rubber bullets in all directions. John Lindsay-Poland of AFSC says the move follows years of organizing from AFSC and partners. Visit this [AFSC page](#) to learn more.

Protect, Resist and Build webinar set for July 21

The August congressional recess is soon approaching. This is a great time to engage locally with your representatives. Join our webinar on Tuesday, July 21 at 5 pm PT for tips and tools for engaging with your members of Congress. We will share concrete skills like bird-dogging and hear a report on July 4th Declaration of Resistance activities across the country. We hope to see you there. [Register now](#).

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AFSC Mission Statement: *Guided by the Quaker belief in the divine light of each person, AFSC works with people of all faiths and backgrounds to challenge unjust systems and promote lasting peace.*