

# Portola At Play: 4 Artists' Biographies

## Kate Connell and Oscar Melara, Visual Artists

**Part 1: The Portola: Neighborhood Pictures**, a book

**Part 4: Porto-Loteria**, a neighborhood board game

Kate Connell and Oscar Melara have collaborated for fifteen years on storytelling projects that take the form of installations, murals, exhibitions and events. Their work makes use of a variety of media, from digital to ceramic. Their most recent collaboration was a labor history mural installed inside public commuter buses. As collaborating artists who are also a bus driver and a librarian, they see their artwork as a kind of public service with the same goal as their day jobs—to work together with their community. Connell and Melara's roots go back twenty-five years in the arts community of San Francisco's Mission District and their individual work has been shown at the Alternative Museum, Berkeley Art Museum, Capp Street Project, and the Smithsonian. Their projects have received support from the Creative Work Fund, California Arts Council, Zellerbach Family Fund and Peninsula Community Foundation among others.

**Website:** [www.ourworklife.org](http://www.ourworklife.org)

## Gustavo Vazquez, Filmmaker

**Part 2: Out the Road and Other Portola Stories**, a movie

**Gustavo Vazquez**, originally from Tijuana and currently residing in San Francisco, is an independent filmmaker who has directed over thirty productions, including documentaries, video installations, and dramas. Some of his work focuses on the Chicano-Latino experience and social and political commentary on the cultural dynamics of the changing American landscape. His latest documentary *Que Viva La Lucha* delves into the world of Mexican masked wrestling. He is a co-author of *Documentary Filmmaking: A Contemporary Field Guide*, published by Oxford University Press in February 2009.

Vazquez is an associate professor in the Film and Digital Media Department at UC Santa Cruz. He is the recipient of several awards, including a Rockefeller Media Fellowship and a Eureka Visual Artist Fellowship from the Fleishhacker Foundation.

**Website:** [http://www.vdb.org/smackn.acgi\\$artistdetail?VAZQUEZG](http://www.vdb.org/smackn.acgi$artistdetail?VAZQUEZG)

## John Calloway, Musician and Composer

**Part 3: Musical Reflections of the Portola**, original music compositions

John Calloway is a multi-instrumentalist, composer and arranger who has performed throughout the United States, Europe and Latin America, with "Cachao" Lopez, Max Roach, Omar Sosa and Dizzy Gillespie, among others. In the San Francisco Bay Area, John performed and arranged work with Pete Escovedo, Jesus Diaz, John Santos, and Wayne Wallace. His recording credits as a performer and composer include his debut CD *Diaspora* and his recently released *The Code* (Bombo music).