

**Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
February 2, 2024**

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR NORA CHAPA MENDOZA
A Recommendation**

1. **Division and Department:** Academic Affairs, Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.
2. **Introduction:** In accordance with Article IX of the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees, honorary degrees may be awarded by the Board of Trustees in recognition of distinguished accomplishment and service within the scope of the arts and letters, sciences, professions, and public service as recognized and supported by the University. The awarding of honorary degrees reaffirms Oakland University's scholarly, creative, and humanitarian values and ties the University to the community at large.

Ms. Mendoza truly demonstrates the high level of achievement and leadership this award is meant to recognize, as evidenced by her long career as an artist and activist. Her many accomplishments are leaving a lasting impact on communities throughout Michigan. Ms. Mendoza was born in Texas to Mexican parents. She studied art at the Detroit Center for Creative Studies and Madonna University, then trained under Michigan abstract artists Richard Koslow and Ljubo Biro.

In 1978, Ms. Mendoza was joined by other Latino artists to form Nuestras Artes de Michigan (NAM), and she was a founding member of the Michigan Hispanic Cultural/ Art Association (MHCC). In 1996, she was one of eight artists who were part of the renovation of Detroit's Music Hall. In 1999, Ms. Mendoza was the recipient of the Governor's Arts Award. Ms. Mendoza was the recipient of the 2011 Wayne County Council for the Arts, History & Humanities Visual Arts Award, and that same year she came to OU to paint alongside students during the Annual Hispanic Celebration Month. In 2017, she was named to the 70 over 70, Next Chapter Awards for Art list.

Ms. Mendoza's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. Her work is in the collections of Detroit's former Mayor Dennis Archer, singer Aretha Franklin, actor Edward James Olmos, and former president of General Motors Jack Smith, as well as many other well-known Detroiters. Ms. Mendoza was commissioned by Cesar Chavez to create artwork for a greeting card promoting the United Farm Workers (UFW) American Children in the Fields program. In addition, Ms. Mendoza's work is in the collections of Ford offices in New York and Detroit, General Motors offices, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan offices.

Approval of Honorary Degree for Nora Chapa Mendoza
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
February 2, 2024
Page 2

Her work is more than art. She is a champion for the Latino community. Giving of her time to help the betterment of others. She taught art to area children and strives to help others express themselves and understand others. The community work Ms. Mendoza does "...is really an investment in helping others to grow and to understand themselves and others. I want to pass on what I have learned to those who are less fortunate or less able to express themselves. I am more concerned about our survival and less with money. I want a world that I can survive in, and I do this with color and brush."

It is our suggestion, with your approval, that Nora Chapa Mendoza be awarded a Doctor of Arts *honoris causa* from the College of Arts and Sciences at the 9:00 AM ceremony on Saturday, April 27, 2024. Should you determine that a more appropriate (different) degree be awarded, or at a different ceremony, the Honorary Degree Committee supports your recommendation (without further review).

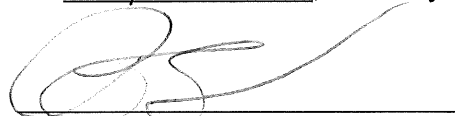
3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees periodically awards honorary degrees at its Formal Sessions.
4. **Budget Implications:** None.
5. **Educational Implications:** The awarding of honorary degrees is an established tradition in academe, by which the University reaffirms its scholarly, creative, and humanitarian values and its ties to the wider community.
6. **Personnel Implications:** None.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** The Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost has recommended approval of the recipient to receive an Honorary Degree.
8. **Recommendation:**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees awards the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities *Honoris Causa* to Nora Chapa Mendoza.

Approval of Honorary Degree for Nora Chapa Mendoza
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
February 2, 2024
Page 3


9. Attachments: None.

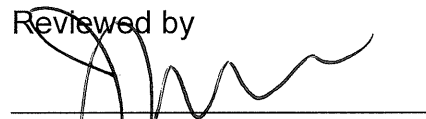
Submitted to the President
on 1/29/, 2024 by



Britt Rios-Ellis, M.S., Ph.D.
Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommended on 1/29, 2024
to the Board for Approval by


Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President

Reviewed by


Joshua D. Merchant, Ph.D.
Chief of Staff and
Secretary to the Board of Trustees