

Fiesta Friday  
September 11, 2015 at 2:00 pm  
Santa Fe Plaza-East  
Entrada de Don Diego de Vargas

Every year on Fiesta Friday, a dramatized re-enactment of one moment in history is held on the plaza - "Entrada of Don Diego de Vargas." This re-enactment depicts when Don Diego de Vargas "peacefully reconquered" Santa Fe. However there is another narrative of this land. Locals, supported by prayers from global and local communities, are working to re-envision the Santa Fe Fiesta celebration, specifically *without* "Entrada of Don Diego de Vargas." The goal is to expand the narrative of *the history of this place* that is celebrated each year in effort to tell a collective story with accuracy at the forefront.

We will gather together for the future of our communities to move forward by acknowledging our faults and our past transgressions. Our example will reflect a deeper historical truth as we invite our community to have hard (*difficult*) conversations. By reaching inward to examine our traditions steeped in racism and conflict we will break the chains of violence and oppression.

Before we can claim to be inclusive and celebrate 400 years of living in harmony and peace with multiple cultures, we as a community need to publicly acknowledge our complicity in colonialism and racism. *We must 'decolonize' Fiestas is we are to make it welcoming to all.* Only then can we move forward for the sake of our youth and future generations. Their anger is our responsibility to unpack. We can change the story we currently live in; one that fosters our people feeling oppressed in public then returning home and taking out those feelings of anger and oppression on loved ones resulting in domestic violence and sexual abuse. Our brothers and sisters are often imprisoned or plagued with drug and alcohol addiction resulting in high rates of suicide, homicide and more violence, often underpinned by cyclical poverty. By coming together and retelling these stories with truth and reconciliation we can move forward from perpetuating racism and conquest to depicting the factual and multi-layered history of this land.

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