



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
September 25, 2023**

Contact:

Janine Pourroy Gamblin  
Inlandia Institute  
Programs and Marketing Coordinator  
programs@inlandia institute.org  
(951) 790-2548

### **Inlandia to host Arts Walk event – “Free” Speech in America: An Ongoing Paradox**

**Riverside, CA** – Inlandia Institute and Riverside Public Library in partnership with the Civil Rights Institute of Inland Southern California and the Center for Social Justice bring you, **“Free” Speech in America: An Ongoing Paradox** with Dr. Carlos Cortés. Doors open at 6:30 and the program begins promptly at 7:00 PM. The conversation will be followed by light refreshments and book sales/signing.

Free speech in the United States is an ongoing paradox. On the one hand we have the U.S. Constitution’s First Amendment, which restrains government interference but does not guarantee individual free speech. On the other hand we have a nation where organizational rules, online community standards, and physical threats make the lived speech experience of Americans far less than free. How do we reconcile this clash? What does it mean for individual Americans? What does it mean for communities, school districts, and the nation?

Please join us for this important and timely discussion.

**“Free” Speech in America** is part of Riverside Arts Council’s First Thursdays Arts Walk, and will be held at Riverside Main Library Community Room, 3900 Mission Inn Avenue, in Riverside. The event is free and open to the public.

**Dr. Carlos E. Cortés** is the Edward A. Dickson Emeritus Professor of History and currently co-director of the School of Medicine Health Equity, Social Justice, and Anti-Racism initiative at the University of California, Riverside. He has served as Scholar-in-Residence with Univision Communications and was the Creative/Cultural Advisor for Nickelodeon's “Dora the Explorer” and “Go, Diego, Go!” Cortés is the author of the memoir, *Rose Hill: An Intermarriage Before Its Time* and the award-winning poetry collection, *Fourth Quarter: Reflections of a Cranky Old Man*.

**This activity** is supported in part by the City of Riverside and the California Arts Council, a state agency. Learn more at [www.arts.ca.gov](http://www.arts.ca.gov).

**The Riverside Public Library** system serves the City of Riverside. Originally established in 1888, the library began in two upstairs rooms in the Hardy Building, located on what is now University Avenue. It has now grown to a total of eight branches throughout the city. Its new Main Library opened in 2021 at 3900 Mission Inn Avenue in downtown Riverside.

**The Friends of the Riverside Library** came to life in the 1970s thanks to several devoted library fans. Over the years the organization has continued to provide support for library programs and equipment by collecting and selling used books in all the branches, including its own bookstore next to the new Main library.

**Inlandia Institute** is a regionally focused literary and cultural arts nonprofit and publishing house whose mission is to promote literary activity in all its forms throughout Inland Southern California and to celebrate the region in word, image, and sound. During the pandemic, Inlandia launched Inlandia at Home, a virtual events series, and continues to offer many workshops and events online. For more about Inlandia, visit <http://inlandia institute.org>.

####