



ARTIVISM ZINE

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A monthly newsletter highlighting and connecting initiatives/projects that transform society through the power of art.

Artist of the Month Melanie Rosa-Chaves

Tell us about your college experience and how your journey upon graduation shows your Artivism (academic and research) in practice.



As a student at Adelphi University, I was a Levermore Global Scholars pursuing a dual degree in Communication Sciences & Disorders and Spanish with a Certificate in Translation Studies.

Adelphi has many student clubs and I became involved in several: I was President of the Levermore Global Scholars Student Leadership Council (LGSSLC) as well as the Treasurer of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) and Student Ambassador for **Artivism: The Power of Art for Social Transformation**.

It was through this engagement in addition to my academic work that I discovered my passion for global advocacy in the clinical setting.

Upon graduating this month, I will be embarking on a Fulbright Grant and later, attending Teachers College, Columbia University for my Masters in Communication Sciences and Disorders with a Bilingual Extension in their dual certification program.

The Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board and the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs granted me the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) award to Portugal for 2022-2023.

The goal of the Fulbright program is to increase international diplomacy and global advocacy through an array of teaching and research opportunities for students and professionals in countries around the world.

As part of this grant I will be at a university in Portugal, where I will be teaching the English language and United States cultural nuances to college students.

As part of my teaching grant, I will be conducting a community engagement project where I hope to combine elements of speech language-pathology, art, and culture by highlighting nonverbal communication methods through the creation of culturally and linguistically appropriate programing. More specifically, increasing the accessibility and sustainability of augmentative/alternative communication (AAC) devices in communities throughout the country.

A main goal of this grant is to inspire my students to create communication picture boards, also known as low-tech AAC devices. This would entail the use of graphic design imagery for communication icons/symbols, technological design to create a digital platform for the device. Most of all, a personal objective of this opportunity is to engage and cultivate students' knowledge in the subject to assist in the presentation and implementation of this much needed device necessary for inclusive communication.

Artivism allowed me to foster my interest in social justice as an expressive medium in a way that was unachievable in the traditional classroom setting. I'm elated to continue in my role as an Artist by serving as an advocate for community building, cross-cultural communication, and art as a form of global advocacy both at Adelphi and in the world.

