

La Lengua and AlterTheater Play Commission

Bay Area-based independent theater companies La Lengua Teatro en Español and AlterTheater are working together to commission three to five plays, centering the voices of Black, Indigenous, and Latinx playwrights.

We are looking to commission stories that write back against the legacy of European colonization in the Americas in Spanish, Portuguese, Native Languages, or English. These will be developed and featured in La Lengua's Fall 2022 season in San Francisco, CA.

Why Now?

It has been 530 years since European colonizers first arrived in the Americas. What insight do we have from theaters and storytellers of how the First Peoples, mestizos, enslaved Africans and indigenous experienced colonization? How are we surviving and still resisting this legacy today?

On Juneteenth 2020, during the George Floyd protests, a 30-foot statue of Father Junípero Serra in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, was toppled to protest the genocide of indigenous peoples in the Americas.

In the 18th century, Serra was the architect of the Spanish mission to 'convert' and baptize Native Californians to Catholicism through force. Any Native American that tried to leave was beaten. More Natives died at these missions than were being born. The current dominant narrative is that Father Serra was a Catholic hero and a founding father of California. This belief relies on White Supremacy that represents white Euro-Americans who led christening and 'civilizing' missions as heroes, while denying the humanity, rights, and contributions of Native, Mexican, Chicano and Latinx communities, artists and historians.

The Prompt

We are looking to commission one-act plays that share stories of resistance, of celebration and truth telling to debunk and counter the myth of Junipero Serra and other White saviors. We want to invite you to be a part of this decolonizing space.

The Decolonization Stories Commission

We are seeking playwrights who write in Spanish, Portuguese, and/or Native languages (from all the Americas) to send in any scripts or writing samples that they feel is representative of their work in light of this prompt. We will also consider writers writing in Spanglish or English. We especially invite submissions from Indigenous writers throughout the Americas – North, Central, and South America- as well as Afro-Indigenous and Afro-Latinx writers. We will be accepting submissions starting on Indigenous Peoples' Day (October 11th, 2021) and ending once we reach 100 submissions or on December 13th, 2021 (whichever comes first).

From the submissions we receive, we will choose 3 to 5 playwrights for a Decolonization Stories Commission. The Decolonization Stories Commission includes a playwright residency, a workshop, and a production:

- Decolonization Stories Commission playwrights will meet weekly over the course of 12 weeks, beginning in April.
- Each playwright will write a 1-Act play in response to the prompt.
- Each playwright will receive a \$50 stipend on the first day of the 12-week residency
- Each playwright will receive a \$200 stipend when they hand in their finished draft.
- Commissioned plays will be workshopped over Summer 2022
- Commissioned plays will be presented in the Fall of 2022.

We will work to make sure that we have readers who are proficient in any language(s) scripts are written in, and will be in contact with organizations and communities to ensure this.

To Apply:

All materials can be submitted on the [google form](#):

- At least one writing sample
- A one-paragraph statement of career goals and aspirations
- A one-paragraph statement of why you felt drawn to this submission call
- A one-paragraph statement about community ties you have that help you tell this story

Decolonization Stories Commission submissions are being accepted now!