

The Pan Valley Institute

One conversation in many languages

Our Mission

To provide a place where immigrants and refugees gather to learn from each other and rebuild their world.

Our Vision

We provide a space where people come together to converse, create, and learn as equals in an environment where all people are respected, cultural diversity is embraced, and immigrant communities actively participate in the social, civic and political life of the Valley.

Our Work

The Pan Valley Institute (PVI) brings grassroots immigrant and refugee leaders together for education, training, and relationship building. PVI uses popular education methods to help participants build networks, create strategies for change, and develop a voice in the civic life of the Central Valley.

The PVI was established in 1998 by the American Friends Service Committee with funding from the James Irvine Foundation.

Popular Education

The Institute organizes intensive educational workshops. When needed, AFSC identifies and recruits resource people.

The role of specialists is carefully defined and limited. At the end of the workshop, the facilitator secures commitments for action from the participants and helps prepare the participants to return to action back home.

Accomplishments

PVI and Pacific News Service were key to building a network of ethnic media outlets from the Central Valley.

PVI helped organized labor and community activists start a dialogue to build collaborative relations so these two sectors could together advocate for better policies for immigrant worker.

PVI helped build a network of immigrant women representing different ethnic communities throughout the Central Valley. The group produced a calendar in 2001 and a book in 2003, *Immigrant Women: A Road to the Future*.

A group of youth from Hmong, Mixteco, Mexican, Pakistanis, Puerto Ricans, Hawaiians and American Indian communities grew out of the women's group and reformed around

Tamejavi to perform their own theater piece on peer pressure, the loss of their individual cultures, and intergenerational conflicts.

PVI organized gatherings, dialogues, and learning forums with the member organizations of the grass roots Civic Action Network (CAN). The gatherings provide civic awareness through community education, leadership development, and cultural expression.

Work with CAN led to the Valley-wide multicultural festival and learning process called Tamejavi. Learning Groups grow understanding between immigrant communities of the issues they share as residents of California's Central Valley. The Tamejavi Festival is only one visible outcome of months of encounters between immigrants who have come from all over the world to live in the Central Valley.

As part of the Tamejavi process, the Pan Valley Institute also brought together indigenous peoples of Mexico and California around their concerns for culture and development, territory and mobility.

For more information, contact PVI at (559) 222-7678