



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

“Modern Warriors” transforming the conversation in Chicago

MURAL CAMPAIGN

**REAL
FRIENDS
DON'T**

CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

The McCain Institute for International Leadership at Arizona State University, in partnership with the Chicago Public Arts Group, unveiled their mural, *MODERN WARRIORS*, in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood as part of its R.E.A.L. Friends Don't campaign. R.E.A.L. Friends Don't raises awareness and creates an open, thoughtful dialogue around online safety.

Designed by two Chicago artists and mothers, Delilah "Zena" Salgado and Gloria "Gloe" Talamantes, the mural is intended to provoke thought and spark conversation among community members – including adults and teens – about safety in the digital world.

The unveiling was attended by former Chicago Bears running back Matt Forté, Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, as well as local high school students and community leaders.

KEY QUOTES

"By involving the local community in every step of the mural process, from design to production, we create space to begin having those difficult conversations, and take the first steps towards changing the way we look at and respond to online exploitation,"

KELSEY SYMS
PROGRAM MANAGER, COMBATTING
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AT THE
MCCAIN INSTITUTE

"As a father, I'm proud to stand with the R.E.A.L. Friends Don't campaign in promoting a safer online experience for our children. With kids spending more time online than ever before, it's important they know how to use the platforms safely and what to watch out for."

"We also know that racial minorities are disproportionately at risk of exploitation, that's why awareness campaigns like this are crucial to ensuring those most vulnerable have the tools and resources to keep themselves and their loved ones safe."

MATT FORTÉ
FORMER CHICAGO BEARS
RUNNING BACK

CAMPAIGN COMPONENTS



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ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



GLORIA "GLOE" TALAMANTES

Gloria "Gloe" Talamantes is a Mexican American graffiti artist, writer, educator, and cultural worker from Chicago. With more than 20 years of experience in the arts, Gloe led Chicago's first all-women graffiti mural with the support of the Hip-Hop collective, Synergy. Her art consists of mural painting, printmaking, photo-documenting, and writing. She has self-funded several murals across the city and is the founder of the Brown Wall Project.

"I can't emphasize enough how important it is to have community involvement in what they will see in their public spaces. Our surroundings, what they look like, the messages and how they make us feel is also a huge part of public health.

Working with students in understanding and experiencing the mural painting process from start to finish is one of the most gratifying processes to me.

We must continue to give them the tools that support them to keep each other safe."



DELILAH "ZENA" SALGADO

Delilah "Zena" Salgado is a Mexican-American artist born and raised on the South West Side of Chicago. She is a multidisciplinary artist, educator, feminist, mother, wife, poet, curator and co-founder of Mujeres Mutantes Art Collective.

"I think that it is imperative that we trust our young people and empower them with the wisdom of past generations. They are the ones inheriting the Earth and they should have a say in what it looks like and how we share this world with each other.

Young people continue to create culture and community now through social media and we as elders need to protect and nurture them and listen to them with not only our ears, but with our whole hearts."

ABOUT THE MURAL - MODERN WARRIORS



As kids' and teens' identities and digital lives become inextricably interwoven it is more important than ever to create space to begin having open and honest conversations about online safety. The McCain Institute's R.E.A.L. Friends Don't campaign is sparking a nationwide conversation utilizing art as a tool to engage parents, caregivers, young people, and communities at large in this important dialogue.

Located in the heart of Chicago's Little Village, and home to one of the youngest populations in the city, **MODERN WARRIORS** is a colorful representation of the physical and spiritual safeguards that exist to protect young people in the digital age. Artists Gloe and Zena's use of vibrant colors and incorporation of folkloric art, indigenous art, and graffiti culture, stimulate the psyche of the viewer, igniting interest and conversation about the mural and its deeper meaning.

The jaguar has long been considered a symbol of fierceness and strength in the indigenous communities of Mexico and Latin America, believed to move throughout the world and see through the darkness. The jaguar headdress serves as a communal spirit, reminding the young figures of the fierceness and power they possess when it comes to facing the dangers that exist online.

Known for its purity and undeniable beauty even in the murkiest of waters, the lotus signifies the resiliency and strength that youth possess. The placement of the flowers is positioned to both nurture and protect the two young figures who sit entranced by their devices and serve as a reminder of the "real" world just outside.

Often used in urban street culture among inner-city youth, the term "I have your back" is an everyday reminder to support and look out for one-another. **MODERN WARRIORS** serves as a symbol to residents that through family and community we are a village, and it takes a village to raise and protect our young people.

MODERN WARRIORS was co-designed by lead artists Gloria "Gloe" Talamantes and Delilah "Zena" Salgado with support from assisting artists, Ashley Busee, Izze Ortiz, and Sandra Antongiorgi. Students from the Instituto Health Science Career Academy were instrumental in the design process.



MODERN WARRIORS

Gloria "Gloe" Talamantes and
Delilah "Zena" Salgado
2021

#

REAL
FRIENDS
DON'T

For parents/caregivers

IT'S TIME TO GET

R.E.A.L.

ABOUT PROTECTING KIDS ONLINE

Our kids are growing up in a digital world. Children and teens are on their phones and laptops nonstop. But all that screen time could be putting any child at risk. Online, it's harder to tell if people are really who they say they are. It's our job to help kids recognize who their real friends are—and aren't.

For teens

IT'S TIME TO GET

R.E.A.L.

ABOUT WHAT YOU DO ONLINE

We all know the internet can be an awesome place. But, just like IRL, there can be some creeps out there who can make it a very dangerous place for kids and teens. It's important to be educated and empowered so you know how to protect yourself and your friends.

WHAT

Developed by the McCain Institute & Ketchum, [R.E.A.L. Friends Don't](#) increases awareness while educating parents and caregivers about online safety. The program has evolved to empower parents to protect their children from harmful content, grooming or online exploitation and inform kids about what to do if they find themselves needing help.

HOW

Reaching millions across the country since its launch in December 2020, the campaign, offered in both Spanish and English, continues to provide caregivers and kids with comprehensive resources and actionable support.

SUPPORTING PARTNERS



Governor's Office
of Youth, Faith
and Family



JPMORGAN CHASE & Co.



ABOUT US

About the McCain Institute for International Leadership at Arizona State University

Inspired by the character-driven leadership of Sen. John S. McCain and his family's legacy of public service, the [McCain Institute](#) fights to advance freedom, prosperity, security and human dignity for all Americans and the world.

About Arizona State University

[Arizona State University](#) has developed a new model for the American research university, creating an institution that is committed to access, excellence and impact. ASU measures itself by those it includes, not by those it excludes. As the prototype for a New American University, ASU pursues research that contributes to the public good, and ASU assumes major responsibility for the economic, social and cultural vitality of the communities that surround it.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you are interested in partnering or supporting the R.E.A.L. Friends Don't campaign, please contact us.

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THANK YOU