

JOINT PLATFORM OF ANGELA HARRIS AND BERTA HERNANDEZ, JANUARY 2003

Dear Friends/Board Members,

First, we want to thank you for the trust and confidence your nominations of us show. As Frank has posted, we have chatted and we would like to work as LatCrit co-chairs together with Frank. We think that our ideas are synergistic in various ways, and that the novel proposal we present actually will allow us to maximize our ability to continue LatCrit's substantive and programmatic evolution organically.

Angela is primarily interested in fostering LatCrit's scholarship projects. Frank and Lisa have coauthored several reflective essays that set forth LatCrit's research missions from a theoretical perspective. There are now at least two very concrete scholarship initiatives that LatCrit is ready to embark on, or recently has -- the Student Scholar Program, which Angela is currently administering in its first year, and the prospect of a LatCrit "house" journal to be sponsored by the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico. These projects, one focused on student scholarship and one principally on faculty scholarship, have the potential to be interdisciplinary vehicles not only for the wider dissemination of LatCrit ideas but for building a pipeline of critical, progressive, engaged scholarship on intersections of power and privilege. These are the two concrete collective projects to which Angela will devote her principal efforts. In addition, Angela is interested in working with Margaret Montoya on the development of a K-12 curriculum on race and ethnicity. As Randall Robinson has argued, the project of reparations for United States slavery and colonial domination in the Americas must involve cultural transformation. Education and scholarship are crucial to this cultural transformation: that is the project to which Angela is committed, and to which she will dedicate her time as co-chair.

Because of Berta's interest in matters international, many of which are already in place or in development, this is the area on which she'd like to focus. Specifically, she would work towards securing NGO consultative status with ECOSOC for LatCrit so that we can participate actively, formally and substantively not only in international and regional conferences but also at UN meetings on matters relevant to LatCrit theory and praxis. In addition, she would like to continue to develop the international contacts and initiatives that have been started, particularly so that LatCrit can continue to enrich its substantive knowledges of cross/intra cultural ties that bind us. Berta will also work with Frank and the existing project teams to follow up with the established CGC program, including the planning of the International and Comparative Law Colloquium, as well developing the Policy and Theory Institute that has been proposed in partnership with Celina Romany's Ford Foundation project on Race, Ethnicity and Gender in the Americas. In sum, she proposes to concentrate her tenure as cochair in consolidating and developing the LatCrit portfolio of international programs.

We hope that in light of the above description of what we would like to accomplish as a team, you will let us serve as co-chairs with Frank. We know our proposal is a novel idea, but we think it will be a productive one in many synergistic ways. Again, thank you for your continued trust and support. We all will be working together in this transition to strengthen and grow our community and its projects as we always have - a form of collective and communal LatCrit praxis. Thanks for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted, Angela and Berta

This concludes Angela's and Berta's joint platform, which we hope helps to update you on the vibrancy of our ongoing work and the brightness of our future ... while we never can lose sight of the fact that LatCrit, like other experiments in outsider jurisprudence, is a fragile enterprise that remains perpetually "under construction," we also should pause from time to time, as a community, to reflect on the progress and trajectory

of our collaborative endeavors. With this brief Community Report, we hope both to bring you up to date on programmatic developments as well as to invite you to become actively involved with any of the above projects in which you may have a special or specific interest.

Abrazos y paz to all,
The LatCrit Board