

Life Frames®, Inc.

New York, San Francisco

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Dear Selection Committee:

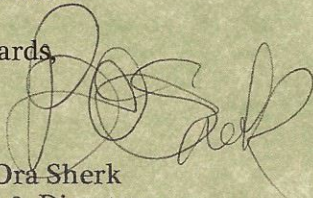
I'm writing this letter to recommend Ms. Shelley Cook-Contreras as a special educator and artist. I have many years of experience as an educator, and in the creation of public and community based art. As the founder and director of **Life Frames, Inc** and **A Living Library**, I can say from first hand experience that working with Ms. Cook-Contreras is a pleasure. Additionally, I know her to be an artist of great talent and insight into contemporary art making. She brings an enormous energy and creative ability to her work. I believe that Ms. Cook-Contreras has the vision and focus to carry a university position with success and brilliance.

A Living Library is a systemic art approach that links biological, cultural, and technological resources creating awareness and celebrating diversity. Ms. Cook-Contreras was an excellent match for our program. She is a brilliant and versatile teacher. The classes that she designed required integration of students of great age differences and socio-cultural backgrounds. She was able to do this, while also successfully teaching an interdisciplinary program, including media literacy, creative writing/thinking skills, and traditional art techniques. She has a very strong social conscience and inspires her students to collaborate in work that builds community, observes social issues, and explores cultural roots. In this way she was especially suited to our program, which has a high level of new immigrants.

She was an important part of **A Living Library** for one school year, designer of a media program to assist with the ongoing documentation of our multi-disciplined educational program for public schools. Cook-Contreras has a special quality of dedication and goes above, and beyond what is expected, and teaches her students to do the same. She brought considerable technical skills to our media program, edited examples of our work, and created DVDs of the highlights of the Media Project.

Shelley Cook-Contreras receives my highest recommendation. I wish her the best in continuing her life's work.

Best regards,



Bonnie Ora Sherk
Founder & Director
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A Living Library works with all sectors of community, incorporates local resources and transforms them to become vibrant, content-rich, ecological learning landscapes; each Branch linked to another.