



AMARA

ABAQUIN-BROWN

At AMD's 2026 Festival of Art, Amara was recognized with The Kristine Diekman Award for Video & Sound

- "In Loving Color," an experimental film celebrating Black and BIPOC femme lesbians through rest, beauty, love, and safety
- A Black Panthers archival edit
- "A Shared Plate," a documentary centered around Shared Plate

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“As a Queer woman of color, receiving this award was a true honor. Our experiences are unique, and our stories deserve to be told. Receiving this award provides me with the confidence to add my voice to the conversations of video art, changing the art dialogue to include video artists of color.”

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Q: How have your identity/experiences shaped your creative/community work?

A: As a Black, Filipina, queer woman, I understand how systemic oppression harms marginalized communities. Inspired by Assata Shakur's words, "Revolution is love," I use art & community care to challenge these systems & help build a world rooted in softness, love, and determination.

- Year: 4th
- Major: Art, Media, & Design
- Minor: Social Sciences
 - Focus: Sociology
 - Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies (Focus)
- President, CSUSM's AMD Club
- Peer Educator, APIDA Center

TOP

TIPS

- Collaborate: collectivism creates impactful work and prevents burnout.
- You don't have to sacrifice your well-being to serve your community.
- Connect with artists, peers, and classmates who may share your goals.



BFS

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

BFSA STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Q: WHAT TYPICALLY GOES INTO THE MEALS & HYGIENE KITS THAT YOU PREPARE?

- We thoughtfully prepare warm, nutritious, easy-to-digest meals that are high in protein & fiber (Pesto pasta, lentils, chicken soup, chicken salad, enchiladas, mac & cheese with turkey)
- Our goal is to help community members feel full and sustained throughout the night
- With donations from local clinics, we assemble hygiene kits (toothbrushes, toothpaste, body wipes, combs, body wash, shampoo)

"Housing & food insecurity are structural issues, and food and water are human rights!"

SHARED PLATE

- Co-Founder, Shared Plate
- Volunteers serve warm meals, hygiene kits, water, pantry items, and harm-reduction supplies at the Escondido Transit Center (Thursdays)

MISSION

We are a community-run, anti-capitalist mutual aid collective that has come together to do a free food distribution in the North County Area. We believe every person has the right to receive the basic necessities of everyday life. We have warm meals, water, snacks, hygiene products, clothing, and more. We work with other mutual aid groups and community members from the San Diego area to build solidarity, share knowledge, and bring necessary care to everyone.

WAYS TO

SUPPORT

1. JOIN CSUSM'S AMD CLUB
2. COLLABORATE ON CREATIVE PROJECTS
3. VOLUNTEER OR DONATE TO SHARED PLATE
4. OFFER MEAL-PREP SUPPORT OR KITCHEN SPACE

