**Writing Nepantla**

**Statement**

Nepantla writers believe in bridges not borders. Maybe it is because of the complexity of being from possibility itself, from a dream place that is not this or that, not here nor there. Our geography is uncharted land, fluid as our tongues. With the ability to switch between English and Spanish and all the languages and dialects in between, our work, and how we help others be proud to write in all their tongues, despite being told not to speak, is what this panel and discussion will address.

**Greater Mexico**

Each speaker will discuss the concept of Nepantla as they understand it, taking into consideration the writings of Dr. Américo Paredes which posited that Mexican culture and identity presents itself not only throughout Mexico and on the U.S.-Mexico borderlands but wherever Mexicans and Mexican descendants live. Paredes and several others refer to this region of Mexican cultural influence as “Greater Mexico.”

In addition to our Latinx roots, and citizens of the United States of America our panelists have also been educated in US schools and have been greatly influenced by US American culture in addition to what they learned growing up in their bilingual-multicultural homes. This in essence makes a case that everywhere we go – our greater Mexico if you will -- we straddle at least two worlds; we are neither Mexican nor United-statian. We are from, or *are,* Nepantla.

**Nepantla**In “Light in the Dark/Luz en lo Oscuro” Dr. Gloria Anzaldúa claims that, “las nepantleras (people from Nepantla consciousness) construct alternative roads creating new topographies and geographies of hybrid selves who transcend binaries and de-polarize potential allies…[and] are not constrained by one culture or world but experience multiple realities.”

Those of us who consider ourselves citizens of a broken planet identify with Anzaldua’s concept of rising above nationalism , and isms in general, to work towards other ways of “seeing” and dreaming the world whole again. As poets and story tellers, we believe that another world is possible.

In conjunction with their discussion on the topic authors will read poems and experts of work to amplify the concept of *Writing Nepantla.*