

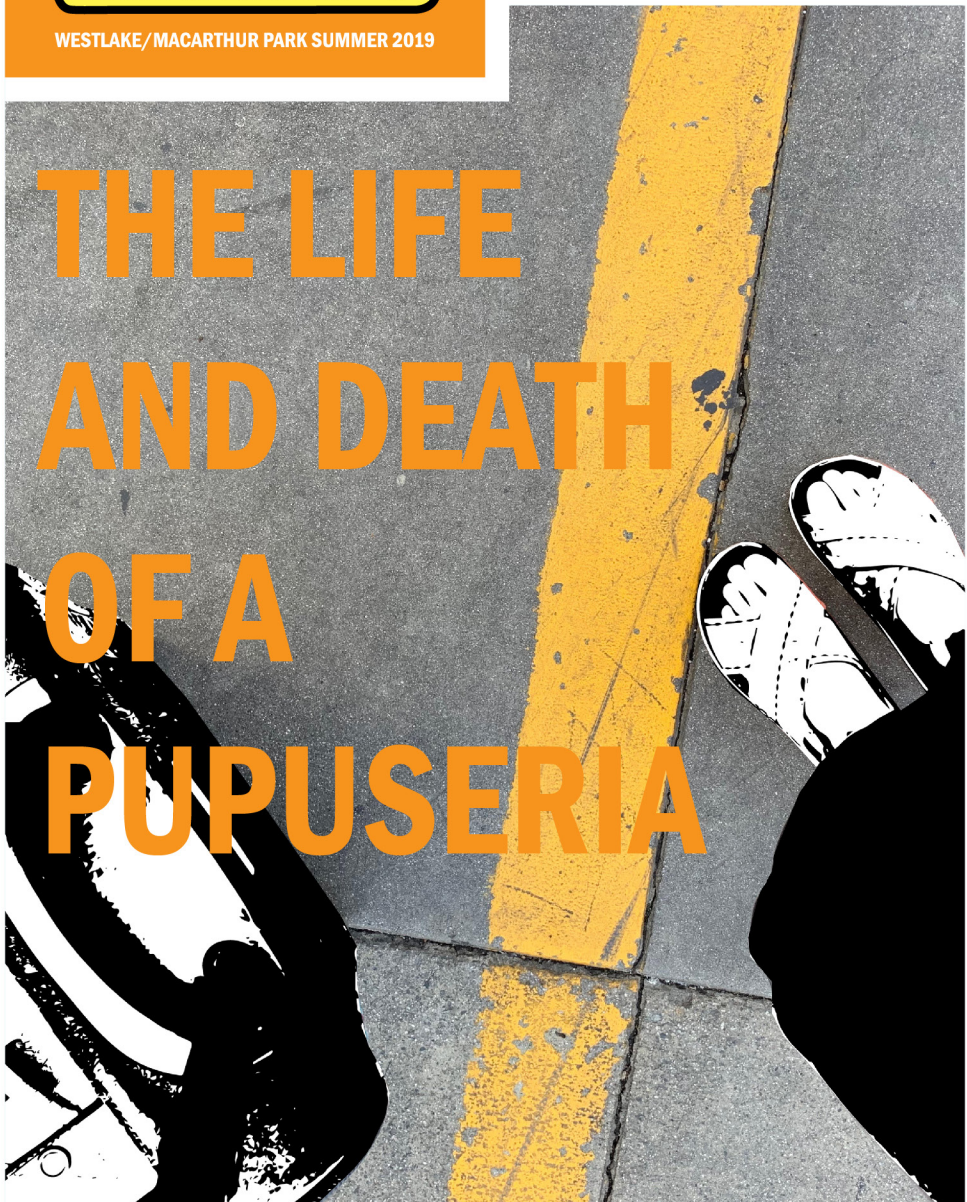
Casos de

**URBAN
HUMANITIES**

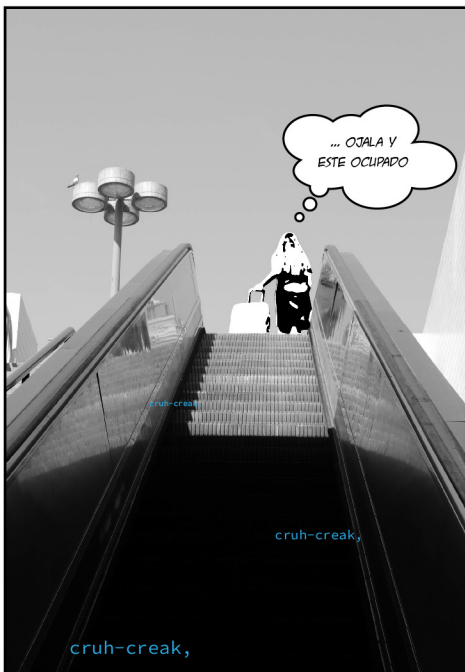
WESTLAKE/MACARTHUR PARK SUMMER 2019

**WILL SHE BE ABLE TO
KEEP HER BUSINESS
AFLOAT? ...OR HAS SHE
CROSSED THE LINE?**

**THE LIFE
AND DEATH
OF A
PUPUSERIA**



NORMA ARRIVES AT MACARTHUR STATION. SHE STRUGGLES TO PULL HER PUPUSA CART THROUGH THE TOLL GATES AS SHE MAKES HER WAY TOWARDS THE EXIT...





PUPUSAS!
PUPUSAS!

SITTE!



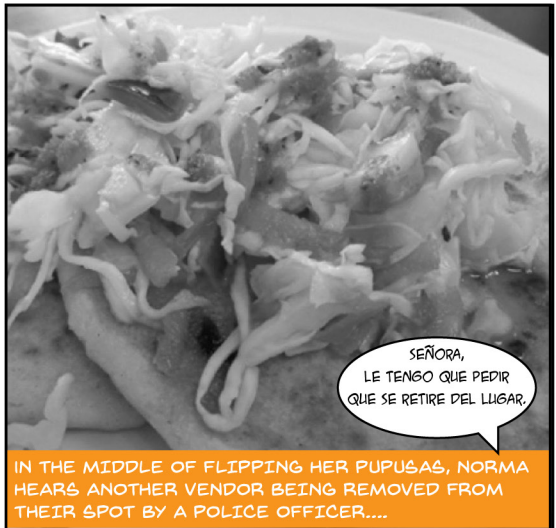


POLICE PRESENCE AROUND THE METRO CASTS AN AIR OF UNCERTAINTY AMONG THE VENDORS. THERE IS A LOWERING OF MUSIC WHILE THE POLICE ARE ABOUT, AND A LULL IN THE CHATTER...





THE NEXT DAY...



IN THE MIDDLE OF FLIPPING HER PUPUSAS, NORMA HEARS ANOTHER VENDOR BEING REMOVED FROM THEIR SPOT BY A POLICE OFFICER....



SUMMER INSTITUTE TEAM:

Zachary Zeilman, Lauren Mitchell, Akana Jayewardene, Raymond Shen, and Beatriz Ramirez

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF A PUPUSERIA

This is a simple, daily life story; one that tells of how a space is owned through voicing out. At MacArthur Park, where all the hustle and bustle rumbles, Norma is a middle-aged pupusa lady who struggles every day to claim her space in the neighborhood. Emerging out of the punctuated mechanical sound of train traffic underground, Norma finds herself confronted every day by the lively but contentious world outside of the Metro station, a squeezed environment over which the sounds of peddling, preaching, singing, and uproaring compete. And then there are the police. Tall, muscular, menacing police who guard this land of opportunity by chasing out those without the permit. To get people to notice her presence, Norma faces a dilemma: is she to be a guerilla fighter sneaking and yelling in the jungle, or is she to wander off to a quieter but safer area where changes are few? Under all the varied layers of sounds and images at MacArthur Park, we can still hear Norma's story, if only we pay attention.