

Introduction

Hello and welcome to the University of California, Santa Barbara Associated Students Isla Vista Community Relations Committee...! Or IVCRC for short.

If you're watching this, it means we believe in you. We think you'll be a great contributor to the Isla Vista community, which IVCRC serves, and IVCRC itself. So, congratulations.

By now you should know what position you'll be holding soon, and before I continue, I just want to say something about that. While it is important that you fulfill all the duties that your position requires, by no means should you feel constrained in your position. I think a common fallacy is that only chairs or "official" leaders can actually be leaders, or have great ideas, or fundamentally change the structure of their organization.

It's a fallacy because we're all human, and as humans we should all be afforded the same opportunities at making a difference no matter what we're called. Really the only difference between a chair and a non-chair is the title and having a few extra buttons to push, and I think sometimes people in power let this get to their heads too much. So be your own leader. Share your own ideas. Leave a part of you in IVCRC when you're no longer here, as I and the rest of the chairs will leave soon enough.

About IVCRC

Okay, with that, let's get into a bit more detail about what IVCRC actually is and does. You likely already have some idea of that or you wouldn't be watching this video, but let's just make sure we're all on the same page.

IVCRC is a part of UCSB's Associated Students, which is pretty much like ASB if you're coming from high school, but bigger and with more money and drama and frustration directed toward it. I doubt anyone joins AS because they're looking for drama and frustration, but, well, money and power tend to bring out the worst in people, and that's just kinda how things are. That's not to say that student government can't be a force for good, and I choose to consider IVCRC as one of those examples. IVCRC mainly operates and interacts within Isla Vista, the small town surrounding UCSB—we don't even meet on campus—so we're pretty insulated from all the shenanigans going on over there I'd say.

Essentially, we give free money to people so that they can do cool stuff with it. And we hold our own events every quarter like Pardall Carnival **[photo]**, where we stick an actual 40-foot Ferris wheel in the middle of the street.

But the main difference between IVCRC and other philanthropic organizations at UCSB, like the Community Affairs Board (or CAB for short), is that IVCRC can't fund projects that are only open to UCSB students, nor can we fund events that take place only on campus. The project must include people living in IV, or at the very least be accessible to them.

Now, why do we care so much about non-UCSB students? Well, one, because they're humans, and two, there's quite a few of them in IV. According to UCSB and US census data during the 2021–2022 academic year, one in three people in IV are not students. That is, one in three people you meet on the street here are kids, parents, long-term residents—people who don't really give a damn about the hijinks we as college students get up to... and vice versa.

Our mission, then, is to bring students and non-students together so that they can talk with each other, have fun with each other, and humanize with each other. And if we get enough people to talk with each other, maybe—just maybe—we can stop global nuclear armageddon, which, unfortunately, seems to be an ever-present threat nowadays.



About AS

Now for some terminology. If you're coming from high school, you're likely familiar with what clubs are—gatherings of students with common interests with regular members and some student staff. And IVCRC is sorta like that, except we don't really have any regular members—it's all just staff. So while you might be used to something like tens or hundreds of people in an organization, for us it's more like 15-ish in a good year.

Here's another way of thinking about it: AS is basically a really big club with lots of members, and IVCRC is a group within that club that does a very specific thing—for us, it's funding and hosting events and other projects in IV. **[Show [this image](#) and zoom in and circle IVCRC.]** There are a lot of other groups within the AS club, like CAB, which I mentioned earlier, and stuff like the Zero Waste Committee and the Program Board and the Department of Public Worms (which isn't actually an academic department but it's just called that). And formally, all these groups are called BCUs, which stands for Boards, Committees, and Units.

About the Chumash

I'd be remiss to talk about IVCRC without mentioning the "IV" part of it. But I'm not gonna tell you about the "college town vibes" part of it, because I'm sure you've already heard lots of things about that, and a lot of that stuff is true in its own way, and I don't really want to add to the noise.

Instead, I'm gonna focus on a people called the Chumash. In case you don't know (and there's a good chance you don't if you're new to UCSB) the land that the university is built upon used to belong—and in many respects, still belongs—to the Chumash Native American people, who were subjugated and forced out of the area by Spanish colonists beginning sometime in the 18th century.

We are, in effect, living and learning and playing on stolen land. Now, individually, none of this is our fault. We were born long after all of this happened. And part of the promise of UCSB is that we get an education here to make the world a better place.

So, do our good intentions of the present cancel out the evil of the past? Well, the fact is... I don't know. It's a complicated issue, that's for sure. And I think each of us needs to find our own answer to that.

But we can, at the very least, acknowledge and learn about the history and the legacy of the Chumash people. I mean, they're still around, after all. For example, you'll often hear something called a "land acknowledgement" spoken at the beginning of events and meetings in UCSB and IV, and IVCRC is no exception. I'll also include a link with this video to a document with more information about the Chumash if you're interested.

Closing thoughts

Okay, that should do it as an introductory video. We have more videos in the pipeline that cover the specifics of IVCRC, like communication and meetings. The next one will cover being actually paid for your work, and, like Spider-Man, the great responsibility that comes with that.

And before we go, I suppose I should introduce myself. My name is Yiu-On (don't bother trying to spell it), pronouns he/him. I am a rising fourth-year at the time of this recording—that is to say, Summer 2022—and I am majoring in English and applying for the Professional Writing Minor. My first two years here were as the

treasurer, my last year was as the internal chair, and next year I'll still be the internal chair.

Well, that's all. Please remember I and the rest of the chairs are here to help, not sit on a gilded throne utterly detached from reality and look scary, so if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to message us on Slack (or shoot us an email, if you don't have access to Slack yet).

Anyway, have a nice day, and I'll see you around. Bye-bye.



Attachments

- [About the Chumash](#)