

Lizeth Garcia

“Por favor regrese a los estados unidos y dígale a todos de nuestra comunidad, nuestra cultura, y de los cinco héroes.”

Growing up I never imagined that I would have been granted the opportunity to travel to Cuba. The short time that I spent in this beautiful country was truly a transformative experience. One of the most powerful experiences during the trip was during our visit to a CDR in a *barrio* in the city of Santa Clara, otherwise known as ‘*La Ciudad de Che.*’ *Los Cinco Heroes* (The Cuban Five) were the focus of much of the discussion during this event. The powerful messages portrayed through art, such as poetry, echoed the emotions that are felt throughout the island regarding the *Cinco Heroes*.

I had the privilege of interacting with a group of young students who gave me insight on their view of the *Cinco Heroes* and their lives in Cuba, while I simultaneously answered their questions about American and Mexican culture (I am a first generation Mexican American.) It was a wonderful experience to engage in such an enthusiastic and passionate dialogue. This interaction allowed me to create such a beautiful, positive connection to the younger generations in Cuba. Before we left, I explained to the kids what a ‘selfie’ was and made sure to take plenty. Additionally, we made pinky promises to each other. I hope to return to Santa Clara someday to make sure we all fulfilled our promises.