

"I'm not afraid to show my culture. So much of it has already been taken away. I'm learning more about the indigenous parts of my family, from my Huichol great-grandparents on my mom's side. My grandma came to Texas where she stayed for the rest of her life, then my parents met in California, now we're here. I mean, we were more so in Eastern Washington, but now we're here in Renton. But basically it's just a bunch of northern movement in the generations. Also there's more appreciation of indigenous cultures here. I wonder what it would be like to grow up totally among your own. There's lots of Latinos out over the pass and of course all the farmworkers and everything, but that still didn't make it easy in school and stuff. It's still scary racist out there. I guess about 5 years ago I started asking more real questions about my family and about Huichol culture. I try to learn more about the symbols and certain words. I can't read or write or speak the language, but I got really into the yarn paintings and beadwork. The yarn paintings are my favorite but I really want to learn how to bead as well as my people. Have you seen these things? So crazy. Like, the most complicated patterns and amazing color combinations and animals and skulls and masks. I want to be able to make really really good beaded pins and stuff that's easy to wear or just put in people's faces, like that's me and I'm proud of it."

-Diego
Seattle, WA