Definition of a Batey Poet

Jovannie Vargas

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Cover Page Footnote
This article is from an earlier iteration of Diálogo which had the subtitle "A Bilingual Journal." The publication is now titled "Diálogo: An Interdisciplinary Studies Journal."

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I am poet, walking through flames everyday. Talking to Boricuas as I walk in the rain. Straight out the Cultural Center and into the Bente. I act out for better opportunities to gain. Within a Puerto Rican Latino space, we create. Reinventing our visions, our infinite mind state. Clashing handshakes, decreasing the death rate. Uniting with my Mexican cousins collaborate. Every risk that I take must be taken in our fate. From the moment I awake. To the risks I take when it’s late. No time to be thinking about yesterday’s mistakes. The future is on my mind and I ain’t taking no shake. Cause I penetrate these flaws for the growth of our sake. Got to move, got to turn visions to missions and sky scrape. Up high, so people will know that we don’t play. Organizing ourselves in “El Barrio” so we can stay. Up late, but ex-d the drinking my mind’s straight. Taught to be making moves, not to be causing delays. It generates through body and physical mind strength. Once you build your pride you can take it through all gates. The mission’s rebuilding unity all the rest of it’s take. Bring yourself to the circle, our center the Batey.

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Jovannie “DVS” Vargas is a former student of the Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Alternative High School. He is a member of the Batey Urbano collective and president of the Union for Puerto Rican Students at Northeastern Illinois University.