The Art | Global Health Center at UCLA, UCLA School of Arts and Architecture, UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures, The WAC GSO’s Chew on This Series and Imagining America present

JAN COHEN-CRUZ
Author, Scholar, Artist, and Director of
*Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life*

Thursday, May 27, 2010  Noon-1:00pm  FREE!  Glorya Kaufman Hall, room 200

*Imagining America* is a consortium of colleges and universities committed to public scholarship and practice in the arts, humanities, and design. IA articulates how campus-community partnerships contribute to local and national civic life while furthering recognition of the value of public scholarship and practice in higher education itself.

Jan Cohen-Cruz will briefly describe IA’s three current national research projects: the *Tenure Team Initiative* (TTI); *Professional Pathways of Publicly Active Graduate Education* (PAGE); and the translation from research to tools reflecting findings from the *Assessment of Practices in Public Scholarship* (APPS) project. Jan will then provide an update on IA’s upcoming national conference in Seattle, September 23-25. UCLA Associate Professor Dan Froot will introduce UCLA Arts’ Publicly Engaged Arts initiative.

Jan Cohen-Cruz is a scholar, practitioner, and teacher of grassroots, socially-grounded, and activist art. She wrote *Local Acts: Community-Based Performance in the US*, edited *Radical Street Performance*, and, with Mady Schutzman, co-edited *Playing Boal: Theatre, Therapy, Activism and A Boal Companion: Dialogues on Art and Cultural Politics*. As a professor at NYU Tisch School of the Arts from the late 1980s until 2007, Cohen-Cruz produced community-based arts projects with students including one on community gardens, directed by Cornerstone Theater’s Sabrina Peck, and another on gentrification, co-directed by Urban Bush Woman’s Jawole Willa Jo Zollar and NYU Experimental Theatre Wing’s Rosemary Quinn. She is among the founders of NYU's Department and Center of Art and Public Policy. Cohen-Cruz has been a freelance practitioner of Boal's "theatre of the oppressed" for 25 years. Her international research includes art in times of conflict in South Africa and the former Yugoslavia. In addition to serving as Director of Imagining America, Jan is a University Professor at Syracuse University and is writing a book on performance and social justice.