

ART IS JUSTICE

## Sandra Cisneros on how art changes lives

"Can art save lives? That's the question I asked myself in my twenties." Author Sandra Cisneros explains how this question has shaped her work and life.

This video is part of the #ArtIsJustice series. Throughout U.S. history, artists and cultural leaders have been at the forefront of social change. Today, in the face of growing intolerance and widening inequality, artists stand up to these injustices, reminding us all that Art IS Justice.

### **Transcript begins.**

[The words "Art is" appear, followed by scrolling words...Empathy, Political, Hope, Powerful, Social Change...it stops at Representation. Art Is Representation.]

**Sandra Cisneros, writer:** "Can art save lives?" That was a question I asked myself in my 20s. I was working in a school where I had to bring my own chalk. And I thought, "Why am I teaching my students poetry and fiction, and how's that going to save my students from the beatings that life gives them?" So I wrote about the things they told me, and that was my first novel.

[Photos of the novel "The House on Mango Street."]

And it certainly has allowed many, many young people to finally see themselves in a book where they're loved, where they're not despised or criminalized.

[Students and fans holding Sandra's novels "Caramelo" and "The House on Mango Street."]

If you don't see yourself reflected in the story, you can't imagine you can make any difference in the world. Art does change us for the better.

[The words "Art is" appear, followed by scrolling words...Representation, Expression, Change, Creativity, Healing...it stops at Justice. Hashtag Art Is Justice. Agree? Share this video.]

[Ford Foundation logo: a globe made up of a series of small, varied circles.]

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**End of transcript.**