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Ozomatli at UCLA today for interactive Chicano Studies session

By Randy Lewis

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Ozomatli is taking its polyglot music and attitude from the streets into the halls of academia.

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In preparation for Ozomatli Day on April 23 in Los Angeles, the long-running East L.A. rock-R&B-punk-funk ensemble will visit UCLA's Chicano Studies Research Center at noon Monday for a question-and-answer session and an acoustic performance. Unlike many such sessions where attendees are advised against documenting them with smartphones or tablets, Ozomatli is encouraging the audience to shoot the session, then personalize it and share it on the group's web site.

The band's label, Vanguard Records, also is giving students permission to use the title track from Ozomatli's latest album, "Place in the Sun," as a soundtrack for their video pieces.\

PHOTOS: Concerts by The L.A. Times

The goal is for Chicano Studies Research Center students to create videos explaining how they expect to apply their studies to their lives after they leave UCLA and what they plan to do in the way of social activism.

The thrust of Monday's program is to underscore how music and art can be used as tools for advocacy. Ozomatli plans to post videos that students submit on the group's website for Ozomatli Day.

The session is set to run from noon to 1 p.m. in the CSRC Library, 144 Haines Hall, Westwood.

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