

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Immigrant celebrations found to aid assimilation

Scores of cultural festivals, ethnic street fairs and art shows held yearly in Silicon Valley serve a dual purpose for immigrants: They help immigrants maintain cultural identity, and by engaging them in civic life, help them assimilate, according to a study released Wednesday.

"Immigrant Participatory Arts: An Insight into Community-building in Silicon Valley," by local anthropologist Pia Moriarty, examines the way immigrants in the valley participate in the arts.

The study was commissioned and released by Cultural Initiatives, a group working on developing cultural arts in the valley.

The six-month study focused on Santa Clara County's largest immigrant and refugee communities, documenting 100 cultural arts and ethnic events.

— *Jessie Mangaliman*