Biography
Christina Iglesias is a M.A. Candidate in the Department of Anthropology at California State University, Los Angeles. She graduated magna cum laude with her bachelor’s degree from Cal State LA in 2018 where she spent her undergraduate career working on several archaeological projects. She won a place on the Programme for Belize Archaeological Project where she spent a month in the Lowland Maya region of Belize near La Milpa. Christina applied cave theory and archaeological techniques to excavate man-made subterranean features called chultunes. She then worked in the Mojave Desert and Point Mugu State Park in California, establishing a skill set for working in different environments. Her most recent project was working in Chichen Itza as a member of the Gran Aquífero Maya in July 2018. These international field projects accelerated her growth by presenting at the Society for American Archaeology meetings. She returned to present her research on the importance of rediscovering the Osario Infantil in April 2019. Her academic accomplishments have been recognized with the CSULA Golden Eagle Award of Excellence and Graduate Travel Support Grant. Her master’s thesis will be on the available data collected from the Osario Infantil this upcoming July. Christina is preparing the application for next year’s Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Fellowship and researching doctoral programs in Maya archaeology.

Project Summary
Christina’s research on the Osario Infantil is a direct attempt to relocate and record an ancient Maya sascabera (limestone marl mine) discovered near the Cenote Sagrado at Chichen Itza. Originally discovered in 1967 during the widening of an airstrip, the sascabera contained the skeletal remains of 109 individuals, 97 of which were children from 3 to 18 years of age. Although some notes were taken, the Osario Infantil was never recorded and much of the original archaeological information has since been lost. During the 2018 field season with the Gran Aquífero Maya, Christina excavated several sascaberas in and around the Chichen Itza site. Her experience with these man-made mines provide the theoretical framework to analyze the remaining site. Christina’s research identifies the lack of awareness of the utilization of sascaberas for anything beyond mining. She plans to use the data to confirm the ritualistic activity of human sacrifice within smaller subterranean structures. Christina’s plans are to use the Osario Infantil as the basis of her M.A. thesis, publishing the results in both English and Spanish. The funds from the AIA-OC grant would support her travel fare as well as boarding within 3 km of the suspected site. The other portion of this grant would alleviate the costs of strontium analysis on remaining teeth to be found within the sascabera.