



July 19, 2023

CULTIVALA, INC.

RE: Letter of Support for Guatemalan Square

To Whom This May Concern:

On behalf of CultivaLA, Inc., pleased to submit this letter of support for the Guatemalan Square that is before the Los Angeles City Council and awaiting approval.

CultivaLA currently operates the Westlake Community Garden in the Westlake/Pico Union District and have been serving the growing community of Guatemalan residents through urban agriculture, food and nutrition security & wellness. Moreover, we support all projects that recognize and respect the contributions of all groups that everyday build the cultural fabric of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Jose Miguel Ruiz, MSW

Founder & CEO

213-925-3145

www.cultivala.org



Los Angeles, January 26th 2023.

Mindfulness Dental

Re: Guatemalan Square

To whom it may concern:

I, Iramaia Yassim the CEO of Mindfulness Dental, located at W 7th St. With this letter I want to express my support for the Guatemalan Square that is before the Los Angeles City Council awaiting approval. It would be great for them to have a place where they can connect, so they can raise their kids with pride.

The Guatemalan people are working class people and they have contributed for the community. I support this project because it is important to recognize the Guatemalan community, just like other cultures in the city. As for example the city has designated Koreatown, Little Tokyo, El Corridor Salvadoreno to name a few.

Kind regards,

Iramaia Yassim, DDS

Los Angeles CA Zip Code 90017

A: Autoridades y representantes de LA Ciudad,

Un cordial saludo, a nuestros representantes y autoridades de la ciudad de LA CA

como residentes del area del distrito #1 especificamente del area Macarthur Mark y Westlake,

doy mi apoyo a la iniciativa del SQUARE GUATEMALTECO, para que todos los pequenos negocios y vendedores se conviertan en grandes emprendedores; Y ellos

sean una fuente de mas ingreso y desarrollo, para la ciudad y la comunidad nuestra; quienes residimos en su mayoría en esta area.

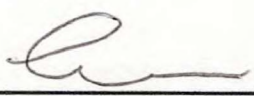
Ya han sido creados otros Squere como CHINATOWN LA , de esta misma manera nostoros deseamos contar con la misma oportunidad de tener un Squere Guatemalteco.

Por toda el apoyo que la ciudad nos brinde agradecemos de antemano, y deseamos siempre prosperidad en nuestra area y en nuestra bella ciudad de LA.

De:

Nombre: Edmundo Gutierrez

Direccion: Manya VISION

Firma  Fecha 01/26/2023



September 20, 2023

Greetings,

This is a letter of support in favor of the Guatemalan Square designation in the Westlake area of Los Angeles. As a performing arts organization that is located at MacArthur Park, est. 2007 the presence and contributions of the Guatemalan community are significant. The mission of Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles (Levitt LA) is to make live music accessible to all, creating stronger and more connected communities while celebrating the diversity of our city and beyond.

The work we do thrives due to the diversity of the city we are part of and there is a missed opportunity to have the Guatemalan Square designation. There are many diasporic communities who have received this type of designation such as Little Armenia, Little Bangladesh, Historic Filipinotown, Koreatown, the El Salvador Corridor and more. Although some may view this type of designation as divisive, Levitt LA sees this as a way for communities to build an identity that promotes pride and resilience and the ability to leverage much needed resources especially in the world of grants.

Over the course of 16 years in the Westlake/MacArthur Park area there are many things that make it a vibrant and dynamic place to be. There are many members of the Guatemalan cultural community such as Chapincitos Los Angeles with Genara Cor and AJUDISGUA who build strong networks of mutual support often heavily reliant on volunteer labor. This is like what we see with other groups we have the honor of working with such as the Organización Regional de Oaxaca, FilAM Arts, Mundo Maya Foundation, Centro Cultural Techantit and the Little Ethiopia Resource and Cultural Center. Efforts like this show the need for heritage preservation work in a world and time that is increasingly global.

Festival Chapin which is held at LaFayette Park is wildly popular, drawing thousands. To Levitt LA this demonstrates a hunger to see oneself reflected in the realm of cultural work and relevance in the Guatemalan community. This sort of designation would help promote positivity in an area of the city that faces many challenges such as mental health issues, drug addiction, wealth and health disparities. Levitt LA is aware of the Maya Business corridor which would also be of benefit. The framing although inclusive given the demographics of the area, does not specifically honor the contributions of the Guatemalan peoples.

Perhaps there is a way for this all to coexist as the erasure of Indigenous cultures is a global issue. Often we may think of things as an 'either/or' situations like this lend themselves to an 'and.' Thank you all for your time and consideration of this proposal and Levitt LA looks forward to continuing the work of bringing free music to MacArthur Park for years to come in ways that honor tradition and leave room for contemporary creative expression. Cultural work and those who are committed to making it happen is a big part of what makes Los Angeles a wonderful city so please ensure Guatemala is represented to the degree it deserves.

Sincerely,

Allegra Padilla, Executive Director
allegra@levittlosangeles.org



Beacon of Hope

810 Beacon Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90017
213-263-2492

February 10, 2023

RE: Guatemalan Square

My name is Augustus Charles, Managing Director of Beacon of Hope, a sober living facility near the Pico - Westlake area.

This letter is in support of the Guatemalan Square project recognizing the effort and contributions the Guatemalan community has made in the city of Los Angeles.

I've had the great pleasure of working on various projects with "*Quetzal Fest USA*", "*Zonas Urbanas*", "*The Scholars Factory*" and other Guatemalan groups, joining efforts to provide much needed support for our communities regardless of economical, educational, political and racial status.

Although Guatemalan Americans constitute a very small percentage of the American population and are one of the most recently established American ethnic groups, in Los Angeles, their numbers have grown substantially among the Central American populace. Guatemalans have contributed significantly to Los Angeles life through political and cultural organizations and as individuals. Personal contributions have been especially numerous in the arts and sciences.

It is vitally important to the Guatemalan community to have their voice, efforts and contributions recognized and validated much like all other cultures that make up the beauty that is Los Angeles. It seems right that "Guatemalan Square" is that fitting tribute.

Should there be any questions, feel free to contact Beacon of Hope at the above telephone number or my mobile 714-788-8521.

Augustus Charles

Augustus Charles
Managing Director
Beacon of Hope



COMPTON
125
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

July 24, 2023

Re: Guatemalan Square

To whom it may concern,

I, Rev. Charles L. Brown Founder and President of The Compton 125 Historical Society, express my support for the Guatemalan Square that is before the Los Angeles City Council that is awaiting approval. This is a project that recognizes the efforts and contributions that the Guatemalan community have made in the city of Los Angeles. The Guatemalan community would like their own square like; Koreatown, Little Tokyo, and El Corridor Salvadoran, just to name a few.

Establishing a dedicated square for the Guatemalan community would be a powerful symbol of inclusivity, cultural recognition, and social cohesion. It would provide a much-needed space for the community to gather, celebrate their rich heritage, and share their traditions with the broader society. Such a square would foster a sense of pride among Guatemalan residents, reaffirming their identity and contributions to the local culture. Additionally, it could serve as an educational platform for the general public, promoting cross-cultural understanding and appreciation. By creating this communal space, we promote unity and diversity, strengthening the social fabric of the city and contributing to a more inclusive and harmonious society overall.

In His Service to Serve,

Rev. Charles L. Brown, President

Compton 125 Historical Society

"Preserving History for future generations."

"When an old man dies, a library is burned to the ground."

homies unidos inc.

January 27, 2023

Re: Guatemalan Square

Alex Sanchez
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Patrice Wagonhurst
Board Chair

Steven Osuna
Secretary

Jorge Gonzalez
Treasurer

Claudine Ben-Arosh
Board Member

Jasmin Tobar
Board Member

Cristina Pineda
Board Member

To whom it may concern,

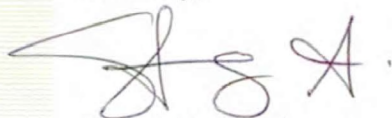
My name is Alexander Sanchez, Executive Director of Homies Unidos and we serve the Westlake, McArthur Park community. We are a Non- Profit Organization who has been serving this community for the last 20 years. We work to diminish violence and provide positive alternatives for youth and adults in our community who are looking to improve their lives. I am writing this letter of support naming the proposed areas the Guatemalan Square.

With this letter I want to express my support for the Guatemalan Square that is before the Los Angeles City Council awaiting approval. This is a project that recognizes the efforts and contributions that the Guatemalan community has made in the City of Los Angeles.

It is important to support and celebrate the rich culture of the Guatemalan community specially for our youth to understand and be proud of the Guatemalan history and indigenous culture. In our violence prevention programs we use culture to steer youth away from negative activity. Naming this section of Westlake, the Guatemalan Square will bring a sense of pride and recognition to the Guatemalan people.

Having the City of Los Angeles give this gift to the Guatemalan community will add to richness of cultural diversity that Los Angeles City has acknowledge makes Los Angeles who it is. As for example, the city has designated Koreatown, Little Tokyo, El Corridor Salvadoreño, Historic Philipinotown to name a few. To designate Guatemalan Square to the map of Los Angeles City will continue its tradition to recognize the beautiful cultures this city is composed of.

Sincerely,



Alexander Sanchez
Executive Director
Homies Unidos Inc.
asanchez@homiesunidos.org
213-793-1050



February 1st, 2023

**Guatemalan Community
City of Los Angeles**

Re: Guatemalan Square

To whom it may concern:

This letter is in support of the Guatemalan Square in the Westlake Area District 1.

Casa De La Cultura Maya recognizes the efforts and contributions that the Guatemalan community have made in the City of Los Angeles and as such we feel it is important that the Guatemalan community has its own recognition just like other cultures in the city.

This support is in conjunction with the efforts and recognition that other countries and ethnic groups have received. Such recognitions as the Korean Town, Chinatown, Japanese Town etc.

Sincerely,

Marco Antonio Pacheco
President
Casa De La Cultura Maya
Los Angeles, CA
Email: mpacheco@casadelaculturamaya.org
Cell +1 (213) 610-2030

Pedro R. Soto
Mathematics Teacher
Newmark Continuation High
Pedro.Soto@lausd.net
(323) 774-3868

10/12/2023

Re: Support for the Guatemalan Square

To whom it may concern,

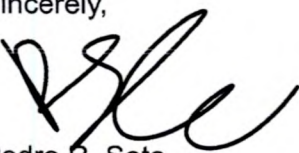
I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the proposal to establish a Guatemalan Square in our city. As a dedicated teacher working in the very community where this square is proposed, and as the son of two Guatemalan immigrants who migrated to Los Angeles, I have had the privilege of witnessing the rich tapestry of cultures and backgrounds that make up our community.

This square could become a focal point for celebrating the rich traditions, art, music, and cuisine specific to Guatemalans. By doing so, we not only acknowledge the contributions of Guatemalan immigrants to our city but also provide an opportunity for all our residents to learn about and appreciate the vibrant culture of Guatemala. This project could also play a vital role for my Guatemalan students, helping them connect with their heritage and strengthen their sense of identity. It would serve as a source of pride for them and the rest of the Guatemalan community. A well-planned Guatemalan Square would not only enhance the cultural landscape of our city but could also contribute to the economic growth of the area by attracting visitors, and promoting local Guatemalan owned businesses.

I urge you to consider this proposal with great care and enthusiasm. Let us seize the opportunity to celebrate Guatemalan culture and honor the contributions of Guatemalan Americans to our great city. Los Angeles has always been a city that welcomes and embraces people from all corners of the world. Much like the Salvadoran Corridor or Filipinotown, let us continue this tradition by establishing a specifically designated Square that reflects our commitment to the Guatemalan community here in our city.

Thank you for your dedication to making Los Angeles a better place for all its residents. I look forward to seeing the realization of the Guatemalan Square and the positive impact it will have on our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Soto', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pedro R. Soto

1/25/23

Name: Adela Morales

Guatemalan Square

To whom it may concern,

I, Stephanie Perez am a resident of the Westlake, McArthur Park area. I'm writing this letter to show and express my support for the Guatemalan Square. With this letter we are hoping that the Los Angeles City Council members approve this awaiting project that means a lot to the Guatemalan community in the Westlake, McArthur Park area. To many in our Guatemalan community, this project acknowledges the hard efforts and contributions that the Guatemalan community has made in the City of Los Angeles.

I support this project because it allows our community to express and share our culture with others that live and pass by the Westlake, McArthur Park area. Moreover, this project is important to me because the Guatemalan community should be recognized just like other cultures in the city. Some examples that the city has designated are Koreatown, Little Tokyo, and Filipinotown to name a few. So, I believe the right and fair thing to do would be for Guatemalan community to have the same recognition in our city.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Adela Morales', written over a horizontal line.

1/25/23

Name: Brittney Perez

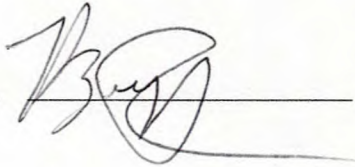
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Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Brittney', is written over a horizontal line.

1/26/23

Name: Melanie Perez

Guatemalan Square

To whom it may concern,

I, Stephanie Perez am a resident of the Westlake, McArthur Park area. I'm writing this letter to show and express my support for the Guatemalan Square. With this letter we are hoping that the Los Angeles City Council members approve this awaiting project that means a lot to the Guatemalan community in the Westlake, McArthur Park area. To many in our Guatemalan community, this project acknowledges the hard efforts and contributions that the Guatemalan community has made in the City of Los Angeles.

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Kind Regards,

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1/26/23

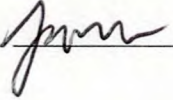
Name: Jason Perez

Guatemalan Square

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Kind Regards,  _____

1/26/23

Name: Wendy Perez

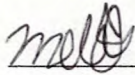
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Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Wendy Perez', is written over a horizontal line.

1/26/23

Name: Stephanie Perez

Guatemalan Square

To whom it may concern,

I, Stephanie Perez am a resident of the Westlake, McArthur Park area. I'm writing this letter to show and express my support for the Guatemalan Square. With this letter we are hoping that the Los Angeles City Council members approve this awaiting project that means a lot to the Guatemalan community in the Westlake, McArthur Park area. To many in our Guatemalan community, this project acknowledges the hard efforts and contributions that the Guatemalan community has made in the City of Los Angeles.

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Kind Regards,

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1/27/2023

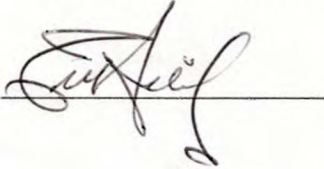
Name: Lorenzo Sanchez

Residente del área de Los Ángeles, CA Westlake and McArthur Park

Por este medio demostrando mi apoyo al proyecto cuadró guatemalteco. Apoyamos este proyecto con nuestros esfuerzos y con las contribuciones de nuestra comunidad que ha hecho en la ciudad de Los Ángeles.

Apoyo este proyecto porque creo que es muy importante para nuestra comunidad guatemalteca que tenga su propio reconocimiento como Plaza México, Little Tokyo y otras culturas. LO correcto seria que nuestra comunidad guatemalteca tenga su propio reconocimiento en la ciudad de Los Ángeles. Gracias.

Atentamente,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lorenzo Sanchez', written over a horizontal line.

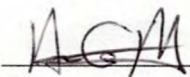
1/27/2023

Name: Audilia Gonzalez

Residente del área de Los Ángeles, CA Westlake and McArthur Park

Por este medio demostrando mi apoyo al proyecto cuadró guatemalteco. Apoyamos este proyecto con nuestros esfuerzos y con las contribuciones de nuestra comunidad que ha hecho en la ciudad de Los Ángeles.

Apoyo este proyecto porque creo que es muy importante para nuestra comunidad guatemalteca que tenga su propio reconocimiento como Plaza México, Little Tokyo y otras culturas. Lo correcto sería que nuestra comunidad guatemalteca tenga su propio reconocimiento en la ciudad de Los Ángeles. Gracias.

Atentamente,  _____

1/27/2023

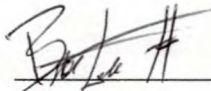
Name: Bartolo Lopez

Residente del área de Los Ángeles, CA Westlake and McArthur Park

Por este medio demostrando mi apoyo al proyecto cuadró guatemalteco. Apoyamos este proyecto con nuestros esfuerzos y con las contribuciones de nuestra comunidad que ha hecho en la ciudad de Los Ángeles.

Apoyo este proyecto porque creo que es muy importante para nuestra comunidad guatemalteca que tenga su propio reconocimiento como Plaza México, Little Tokyo y otras culturas. Lo correcto sería que nuestra comunidad guatemalteca tenga su propio reconocimiento en la ciudad de Los Ángeles. Gracias.

Atentamente,



Los Angeles, California Enero 31, 2023

Yo Byron Toledo

Residente en la area de West Lake

doy mi mi apoyo a este proyecto Guatemalteco de mostrar la comunidad en general aqui en el area de Los Angeles. me gustaria brindar mi apoyo este proyecto.

PROJECT GUATEMALAN SQUARE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Byron Toledo', is written over a horizontal line.

Los Angeles, California Enero 31, 2023

Yo Otoniel Gomez

Propietario de la imprenta Quetzal Graphics residente en la area de West Lake
doy mi mi apoyo a este proyecto Guatemalteco de mostrar la comunidad
en general aqui en el area de Los Angeles. me gustaria brindar mi apollo
este proyecto.

"PROJECT GUATEMALAN SQUARE"