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**Rosemarie Ashamalla,
Ph.D.**
Executive Director and
Founder
Sunrise Outreach

August 17, 2023

Re: Guatemalan Square

To Whom It May Concern:

Sunrise Outreach provides services to the many residents of the Westlake - MacArthur Park area. Within this letter we are expressing our support for the Guatemalan Square that is before the Los Angeles City Council awaiting approval. This project recognizes the countless efforts and contributions that the Guatemalan Community has made in the City of Los Angeles.

We support this project as it is important for the constituents of City Council District 1 which has a large proportion of the Guatemalan Community on Los Angeles. The City of Los Angeles has designated and recognized Koreatown, Little Tokyo, El Corredor Salvadoreño, Little Armenia, Historic Filipinotown, and Little Bangladesh just to name a few ethnic neighborhoods in our immediate area. Westlake - MacArthur Park should be recognized as the Guatemalan Square so that the Guatemalan community in Los Angeles may be honored, just as other cultures in the city are celebrated.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time at (323) 816-1505. Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Ashamalla, Ph.D.
Doctorate in Urban Anthropology, UCLA
Executive Director

Artfull Marlené
"Art is the highest form of hope"

Oct. 19th 2023

Re: The Guatemalan Square

To whom it may concern,

My name is Marlené Nancy Lopez, this year's UCLA activist in residence, local teaching artist and muralist based in my hometown of MacArthur Park, CDC 1. I teach community members of all ages about self-healing/exploration, community identity and the creative economy via visual arts projects and community art activations with my partners: HOLA, cityLAB, Polos Pantry, Mundo Maya Foundation and many more. My entire career is based on uplifting and finding new avenues of helping my community, especially through art and culture.

With this letter I wish 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 of the Guatemalan people in Los Angeles.

It is important to support and recognize the rich culture of the Guatemalan community, so that we as descendants of Guatemalan migrants can feel proud of our roots and indigenous culture. Studies show that low-income neighborhoods with cultural resources have **14% fewer cases of child abuse and neglect**, and **18% less serious crime**. These numbers can be life-changing in our neighborhood. Naming this section of Westlake, the Guatemalan Square will bring a sense of pride and will open up opportunities for culturally relevant programming.

Having the City of Los Angeles give this gift to the Guatemalan community will continue Los Angeles's rich tradition of recognizing the diverse cultures that make Los Angeles what it is.

Should you have any questions or comments about this letter please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Gracias y bendiciones,

Marlené Nancy Lopez

Marlené Nancy Lopez
310.936.5905



Mission: To empower Latino Indigenous Immigrant communities through Education, Culture, Health, Technology and Tourism, at a local and global level.

Los Angeles, CA

November 3, 2023

To whom it may concern:

We write this letter in support of the Guatemalan Square project that has been presented to the Los Angeles City Council and is waiting for approval.

The Guatemalan community is one of the most predominant indigenous immigrant communities in the Westlake, MacArthur, Wilshire areas whose contributions in terms of labor, culture, language, etc. have given visibility to the community for decades and will continue to do so.

Several communities have received designations such as the recent Oaxacan community and we applaud the City of Los Angeles for these historic designations along with the El Corredor Salvadoreño, Little Tokyo, Koreatown, Little Italy, Historic Filipinotown, Chinatown, etc. It shows the diverse cultural tapestry in Los Angeles. With these designations, we also give the national and international tourists opportunities to visit these areas based on their likes and interests, bringing some revenues to these LACDs. And the Guatemalan community will shine and thrive with the designation of the Guatemalan Square to showcase their culture, colors, gastronomy, etc., but above all, the pride of their culture in Los Angeles. A pride that their youth, children, and future generations will identify, feel good about it, and as a city council person you have the power to make the Guatemalan Square a reality.

Mundo Maya Foundation, is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, IRS Tax Exempt, 23 year-old organization, serving the Maya immigrant communities including the areas of Westlake, MacArthur and more and stand in solidarity with the petition of the designation of the Guatemalan Square.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We sincerely hope that you will take our recommendation and others to cast your vote favorably to make the Guatemalan Square a reality in paper to validate this community and build a future where indigenous voices are heard, valued, and respected such as the Mayas from Guatemala in Los Angeles.

In solidarity,

Sara Zapata Mijares
President/Founder