

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kathleen Gallegos  
**Date Submitted:** 02/28/2023 04:07 PM  
**Council File No:** 22-1583  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Case No. CHC-2022-5945-HCM; ENV-2022-5946-CE Project Name: Tenochtitlan: The Wall That Talks Project Address: 6029 - 6039 North Figueroa Street Hearing Date: 03/07/23 Council file No. 22-1583 The Avenue 50 Studio is writing this comment in strong support of the historic nomination of the Tenochtitlan Wall that Talks that is up for Cultural Historic Monument status. This mural is a true example of how muralism is used in service of education. Having been in existence for over 25 years, our community loves and respects this mural, not only because of it's colorful beauty, but because of the pride our community feels knowing our history is a foundational contributor to the history of the Americas. Please support its nomination. The Board of the Avenue 50 Studio: President: Kathleen Gallegos Treasurer: Geraldine Simmons Secretary: Raoul de la Sota Board Member: Francisco Fernandez Board Member: Susanna Urquiza

Statement by Anthony “Eagle” Ortega, founding member of the Quetzalcoatl Mural Project:

**HISTORY: WE NEED TO PRESERVE THE PAST IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THE PRESENT AND PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.**

Anthony Ortega, Founding Director of the QMP, was moved to create this culturally significant mural when his best friend, Daniel Robles, was killed on July 2, 1995. Raised in Boyle Heights, Daniel was an intelligent young man, a talented artist, musician and honor student who graduated from Roosevelt High School at the top of class just days before he became another innocent victim of street violence. Daniel’s hope was to paint murals that would educate others about their cultural heritage and the many contributions made by Mexican-Americans in the arts, science and the humanities.

Twenty-three years ago, and within a year of Daniel’s death, a core group of friends and artists were inspired to create a community-based mural in Highland Park, a Los Angeles historic community known for an abundance of street art.

After several unsuccessful attempts to secure a wall and while continuing undaunted to finalize a design, we received permission from Lee Lodes, former owner of the Arroyo Furniture Store building, to use the 100-foot wall at the corner of Avenue 61 and Figueroa for a mural that would honor the culture, history and heritage of the Mexican-American community.

**“Mexico-Tenochtitlan: The Wall That Talks” was unveiled on December 20, 1996.** Daniel Robles inspired the artist to create the “Mexico-Tenochtitlan” mural which is dedicated to his memory, as well as to UFW leader Cesar Estrada Chavez, the leaders of the Chicano civil right movement of the 1960’s and 1970’s, and to those who have committed their lives to social justice for all. These vanguards direct us towards a shared sense of community and cultural identity for all generations.

Our mural received generous support from various non-profit organizations, philanthropists, individuals, and local politicians who funded the completion of this mural in 1996, along with the participation of students, artists, and Highland Park residents who contributed their talents and energy.

The **Original mural artists** were: Andy Ledesma, John “Zender” Estrada, Anthony Ortega, Isabel Martinez, Oscar DeLeon, Jesse Silva, Jerry Ortega, Ralph Corona, and the youngest members, Jaime and Dominic Ochoa. **Community artists** were: Eugenia Ortiz, Joseph “Nuke” Montalvo, Juliette Flores, and Joe Bravo

**Assistant Artists included:** Asylum, Fernando Bustos, John Duran, and Mario Mencias.

**Thank you to the following sponsors for their generous support:** Not Just Us Foundation; Arroyo Arts Collective; Highland Park Heritage Trust; La Tierra De La Culebra; Lead singer from “Rage Against The Machine,” Zack De La Rocha; Attorney Jorge Gonzalez; The Montes Family; El Arco Iris Restaurant; Adolfo V. Nodal; Artist Sam Baray; City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Los Angeles Councilman Mike Hernandez’ Office; Frank Sifuentes, Con Safos Magazine (C/S); C/S Literary Group; Arroyo Furniture Store; Self-Help Graphics & Art Inc.; Sister Karen Borccalero; Lee Lodes; Attorney Danilo Becerra; Manuel Lopez; the Robles Family; Art in The Park Advisory Council; Dr. David Diaz; Arroyo Books; Anthony Gonzalez; Grace Sanchez; John & Ileana Cataldo; “The Doors” legendary drummer John Densmore; and the Northeast community. Most recently, thank you to Los Angeles Councilman Gil Cedillo’s office, Kathleen Gallegos of Avenue 50 Studio, Inc., and the DCA for the \$5,000 2017-2018 grant.