

MOTION

PUBLIC WORKS
NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY
ENRICHMENT

The civil wars of the Central American region in the 1970s and 1980s forced the migration of millions of people. The Central American people fleeing for their lives and in search of better life opportunities had a global reach in their diaspora but the primary destination for relocation was the United States. Los Angeles became home to the largest Central American population and, over the past 45 years, this community has become deeply woven into the City's cultural and economic fabric.

According to the 2020 US Census, there are nearly 1 million Central Americans in Los Angeles County, 600,000 of whom are within City limits. This community continues to play a critical role in shaping the cultural, social, and the economic landscape of Los Angeles, especially in the neighborhoods of Pico Union and Westlake.

In September 2012, the Central American Cultural District Master Plan was released by the Thai Community Development Center, L.A. Commons, and Mia Lehrer and Associates. The plan was informed by multiple stakeholders in the community, including members of two coalitions representing the Central American community in the Westlake-Pico Union area.

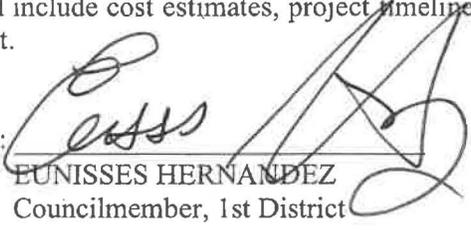
Over a decade later, the outcomes of this report are being brought to fruition by Central American community leaders such as El Rescate, Clínica Monsenor Oscar A. Romero, Central American Resource Center, Salvadoran American Leadership and Education Fund, and California State University, Northridge- Central American and Transborder Studies. Due to the community's outsized contribution to our economy and social and cultural fabric, the Central American community should be recognized through the naming of a culturally designated area.

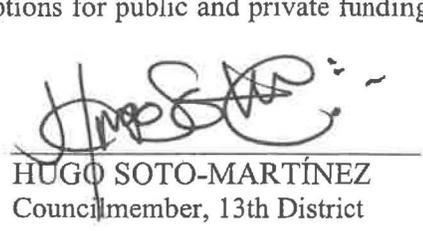
The proposed Central American Cultural District is primarily located in Council District 1 with portions in Council Districts 10 and 13. The Central American Cultural District proposes to identify culturally significant areas, markers, and street renaming with the goal of highlighting and celebrating the history and contributions of the Central American community. Council Districts 1 and 13 are both contributing funds to the project to jumpstart the process.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Street Services, Bureau of Engineering, and Department of Cultural Affairs, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer, Department of Transportation, City Clerk, the Department of Planning, and any other necessary departments, and in coordination with Council District 1, be instructed to report in 180 days with recommendations to develop and implement the Central American Cultural District Project within a 4 to 5 year timeline, including the installation of gateways at the intersections of Pico Boulevard and Vermont Avenue and Alvarado Street and Beverly Boulevard, the installation of ceremonial signage at 7th Street and Hoover Street, 6th Street and Bixel Street, and Olympic Boulevard and Union Avenue, and the restoration and implementation of cultural markers and monuments at the following locations:

- Paseo Romero on Alvarado Street between 3rd Street and Beverly Boulevard
- Plaza Morazan at 8th Street and Valencia Street
- Salvadoran Diaspora Monument and Time Capsule at Wilshire Boulevard and Park View Street
- Plaza Monsenor Romero at 7th Street and Alvarado Street
- Central American Unity Art Installations at 7th Street and Hoover Street and 4th Street/6th Street and Bixel Street

The report should include cost estimates, project timelines, and options for public and private funding to cover costs of the project.

PRESENTED BY: 
EUNISSES HERNANDEZ
Councilmember, 1st District


HUGO SOTO-MARTINEZ
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY: 
DANIEL DE LA PAZ
2024

OCT 15 2024


ORIGINAL