

Communication from Public

Name: Clara M. Solis

Date Submitted: 08/16/2021 01:40 PM

Council File No: 21-0140

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to express my support for the designation of the building proposed by Highland Park Heritage Trust as a Historic Cultural Monument: the Mechicano Art Center located at 5337-5341 North Figueroa Street; 110 North Avenue 54. The Mechicano Art Center was an important part of the Chicano Movement in Highland Park and the artists who contributed to it with their creativity. This history not be erased. The stories of these artists and of their contributions must not disappear. The contributions and stories of the Chicano movement must be preserved. Throughout the City of Los Angeles buildings and murals that were important to the Chicano Movement have been demolished or are threatened by demolition or defacement. The designation of the Mechicano Art Center will preserve it for future generations. The late 1960's through the 1970's saw the birth of the Chicano movement and was an especially formulative time for the eastside youth of Highland Park, El Sereno, Lincoln Heights, Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles. With the Vietnam war raging, Chicano youth in Los Angeles began demonstrating against the inferior education that they were receiving and drop-out rates from 37 to 57 percent at area schools. Chicano youth were dying in Vietnam at rates twice their population percentages. The Chicano movement fostered a need to create media which told a story. It was an especially creative time for Chicano Art. The United Farm Workers began their grape boycott. The Teatro Campesino was born on flatbed trucks performing political art. Thousands of murals were painted throughout Los Angeles making Los Angeles the mural capitol of the world. The Mechicano Art Center was an integral part of this work. Chicano history in Highland Park includes the Mechicano Art. This designation will see that the contributions of Chicano artists in the City of Los Angeles are acknowledged and remembered. The struggle against discrimination motivated Chicanos to become activists in their community. The artists at the Mechicano Art were a part of the Chicano Movement. They were uniquely important in that they both trained future artists and told the very political story of the Chicano struggle. Their artwork lives on inspiring new generations of artists and activists. The Mechicano Art was a community center that involved the community in their projects including murals. The art told the

Chicano's struggle from the Chicano perspective. The designation of the Mechicano Art as a Historic Cultural Monument will motivate conservation of important Chicano works and recognize the contribution of artists to the Chicano movement. It will act for preservation of these artists works such as the murals in Ramona Gardens. With increasing gentrification throughout the historic Chicano communities in the City of Los Angeles the contributions from Chicano artists must not be allowed to disappear. Over the years, many murals have been painted over and are now lost. The designation of the building that housed the Centro de Arte Publico will ensure that their contributions and their history are not likewise lost. It will help in seeing that the murals that remain are not lost. It will help us remember a generation of creativity from artists that contributed to the Chicano movement. With gentrification occurring throughout the historic Chicano communities in the City of Los Angeles contributions from Chicano artists must not be erased. Over the years, many murals have been painted over and are now lost. The designation of the building that housed the Mechicano Art will ensure that their contributions and their history are not likewise lost. It will help in seeing that the murals that remain are not lost. It will help us remember a generation of creativity from artists that contributed to the Chicano movement. This building that housed the Mechicano Art Center is a part of the Historic Highland Park – Garvanza Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ). The building is considered a non-contributor because the period of significance for the HPOZ ends in 1961. This period of significance leaves buildings that were important to the Chicano Movement of the late 1960's and 1970's that are culturally significant without protection. These culturally significant sites are important and must be preserved and designated as such. Please vote in favor of designating the building which housed the Mechicano Art Center as a Historic Cultural Monument. Thank you, Clara M. Solis

Communication from Public

Name: Duncan Gregory

Date Submitted: 08/16/2021 11:56 AM

Council File No: 21-0140

Comments for Public Posting: Hello members of PLUM, My name is Duncan Gregory, I am the new President of the Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council. Last term, our board approved two letters that voiced the support of the historical designation of the building being discussed tomorrow for 21-0140 Mechicano. I am attaching these letters to this email just in case they fell through the cracks somewhere between now and when we voted. Do let me know if you need anything else from me, thanks so much for your consideration. Best regards, Duncan Gregory President, HHPNC
Zip 90042

HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
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www.highlandparknc.com
Certified as NC #33 May 28, 2002

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HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

December 3, 2020

Cultural Heritage Commission
200 North Spring Street, Room 272
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Support for HCM Nominations of Proposed Monument: Mechicano Art Center,
CHC-2020-5211-HCM**

Honorable members of the Cultural Heritage Commission.

We are writing to express our strong support for the designation of the building proposed by Highland Park Heritage Trust as a Historic Cultural Monument: the Mechicano Art Center located at 5337-5341 North Figueroa Street; 110 North Avenue 54

The building that housed the Mechicano Art Center serves as an important reminder of the history of the Chicano Movement in Highland Park and the artists who contributed to it with their creativity. It is essential that this history not be erased. The stories of these artists and of their contributions must not disappear. Latinxs cultural contributions and stories must be preserved. Throughout the City of Los Angeles buildings and murals that were important to the Chicano Movement are under threat of demolition or defacement. The designation of the Mechicano Art Center will preserve it for future generations.

The late 1960's through the 1970's was a turbulent time in the Eastside of Los Angeles. With the Vietnam war raging, Chicano youth in Los Angeles began demonstrating against the inferior

education that they were receiving and drop-out rates from 37 to 57 percent at area schools. Chicano youth were dying in Vietnam at rates twice their population percentages. It was a turbulent time and a creative time. The United Farm Workers began their grape boycott. The Teatro Campesino was born on flatbed trucks performing political art. Chicano Art exploded. With thousands of murals painted throughout Los Angeles, Los Angeles became the mural capital of the world. The Mechicano Art Center was an integral part of that explosion.

The Mechicano Art Center is an important part of Chicano history in Highland Park. Chicano history has been a story of struggle against discrimination and the activism that it motivated. Mechicano Art Center was a part of the Chicano Movement that told that story and inspired future artists. The Mechicano Art Center was a center for Highland Park artists who involved youth - some who were gang members - in their projects creating a new generation of artists and activists. Much of this art was political. It aimed to educate and tell the story of the Chicano from their own perspective. It was a history and a narrative that had long been ignored. In a recent interview, artist Ernesto De La Loza now 71, stated, ““These murals represented our struggles and our stories that weren’t being taught in history books.” (<https://www.dailychela.com/la-murals/>). Some of these murals still remain today inspiring a new generation of youth and artists and telling a story from the Chicano perspective. The designation of the Mechicano Art center as a Historic Cultural Monument will recognize the importance of this contribution to the Chicano movement and will act for the preservation of their works such as the murals in Ramona Gardens.

With increasing gentrification throughout the historic Chicano communities in Boyle Heights, Lincoln Heights and Highland Park it is essential that these contributions do not disappear. Over the years, many murals have been painted over and are now lost. The designation of the building that housed the Mechicano Art Center will ensure that their contributions and their history are not lost. It will help in the cause for preservation of those murals that are not yet lost. It will serve as a reminder of the creativity of a generation of artists and the contribution that they made to the Chicano movement. It will serve as a reminder to future generations of Chicanos of what is possible.

This building that housed the Mechicano Art Center is a part of the Historic Highland Park – Garvanza Historic Preservation Overlay Zone HPOZ. The building is considered a non-contributor because the period of significance for the HPOZ ends in 1961. This period of significance leaves buildings that were important to the Chicano Movement of the late 1960’s and 1970’s that are culturally significant without protection. We believe that these culturally significant sites are important and should be preserved and designated as such.

We hope that you will vote in favor of designating the building which housed the Mechicano Art Center as a Historic Cultural Monument. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

Communication from Public

Name: Dr. Clyde Thomas/Tom Williams

Date Submitted: 08/16/2021 01:58 PM

Council File No: 21-0140

Comments for Public Posting: I support the designation of Mechicano Art Center and Centro de Arte Publico as Historic Cultural Monuments. Such designations are important to the Latinx community to ensure that the history of Chicano artists is not lost.

Communication from Public

Name: Luis Trujillo

Date Submitted: 08/16/2021 05:10 PM

Council File No: 21-0140

Comments for Public Posting: I support the designation of Mechicano Art as a Historic Cultural Monument. This designation is important to the Latinx community to ensure that the history of Chicano artists is not lost.” Or even just , “I support the designation of Centro de Arte Publico.

Communication from Public

Name: Jonathan Silberman

Date Submitted: 08/16/2021 07:22 AM

Council File No: 21-0140

Comments for Public Posting: I fully support this nomination.

Communication from Public

Name: Jamie Tijerina

Date Submitted: 08/16/2021 10:05 PM

Council File No: 21-0140

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to express support for the designation of the two structures proposed by Highland Park Heritage Trust as Historic Cultural Monuments – the Mechicano Art Center and the Centre de Arte Publico. Both of these structures played a pivotal role in the development of Chicano identity and community during the Chicano Movement of the 1960s and 1970s and continue to serve as significant creative outlets for Latino artists of Los Angeles today. It is imperative that we protect these structures from threat of city development in order to preserve the stories of these artists and honor and maintain the culture of LA's Latino community. Historically significant events of the Chicano Movement, such as the Chicano Moratorium of which 2020 marks the 50th anniversary, deserve a place within the Latino narrative for current and future generations, and the preservation of these nominated structures will ensure that our city's Chicano history is not under threat of erasure. In addition to support from myself and the Trust, these nominations have received support from numerous members of the community, community partners, elected officials, and organizations. These include Avenue 50 Studios, Art in the Park LA, Supervisor Hilda Solis, Council District 1, State Senator Maria Elena Durazo, State Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo, Garvanza Improvement Association, and many more. We hope that your committee will also support these HCM nominations and send them to the full LA City Council for a vote. I thank you for your time and consideration of these proposed Historic Cultural Monuments.

Communication from Public

Name: Cindy Olnick

Date Submitted: 08/16/2021 06:59 PM

Council File No: 21-0140

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Cindy Olnick, and I live in Los Angeles City Council District 1. I strongly support the HCM designation of the Mechicano Art Center and urge the PLUM Committee to forward the nomination to the full City Council. Northeast Los Angeles has such a rich legacy of Chicano arts, culture, and activism; this building embodies this legacy while continuing to serve the community - as any landmark should. Thank you for attention and support.

Communication from Public

Name: San Pascual Arroyo Seco Wildlife Preservation

Date Submitted: 08/16/2021 05:28 PM

Council File No: 21-0140

Comments for Public Posting: We strongly support the nomination of the Mechicano Art Center as a Historic Cultural Monument. Our organization, San Pascual Arroyo Seco Wildlife Preservation supports the designation of Mechicano Art Center as a Historic Cultural Monument. Our organization composed mostly of residents from the San Pascual and Garvanza neighborhoods of Highland Park are dedicated to preserving native wildlife and habitat and enhancing our community for the well-being of our residents Mechicano Art Center was important to the Chicano community during the Chicano Movement of the 1960s and 1970s. They continue today to serve in reminding us of the importance that Latino artists played in the Chicano movement. This site is important to future generations and is important in teaching our youth about the history of the Chicano movement. These sites promote pride in our community and are much needed especially today. We must protect these buildings from threat of erasure in order to preserve the stories of these artists and honor and maintain the culture of LA's the Latino community. The Northeast and Eastside neighborhoods are widely considered the birthplace of Chicano Movement. The preservation of this nominated buildings is a significant step to ensure that our city's Chicano history is protected and that this special place remains in place for future generations. Please vote in favor of this designation. San Pascual Arroyo Seco Wildlife Preservation