

MOTION

Nelbert Chouinard started her first art school, the Chouinard Institute of the Arts, in a two-story house on 8th street in 1921 after having taught at Polytechnic School in Pasadena and the Otis Art Institute near MacArthur Park. Due to the school's success, Chouinard commissioned the design and construction of a new art school building for her school in the neighborhood of MacArthur Park at 743 S. Grand View Street.

Through this new home of the Chouinard Institute of the Arts passed every great art movement originating from the West Coast including Animation (Chouinard taught all of Disney's original animators), Muralism, West Coast Abstraction, California Watercolor School, West Coast Pop, Surf and Rock, Light and Space, Finish Fetish, Conceptualism, and Graffiti. These movements became international phenomena and remain so to this day.

In 1932, Chouinard invited the great Mexican muralist, David Alfaro Siqueiros, to her Institute for a six-month residency. During this stay, Siqueiros began an international mural movement that has continued through the present, painting a trilogy of murals in Los Angeles, the first located on the very walls of the Chouinard Institute on S. Grand View Street.

In 1961, the Chouinard Institute of Arts merged with the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music, incorporating into the California Institute of Arts (CalArts). CalArts continued to operate out of the same building on S. Grand View Street until 1972 when it relocated to a newer and larger campus in Valencia.

In recognition of this site's significance for art locally and globally and to ensure that this vital piece of Los Angeles history be preserved, it is appropriate that the City erect permanent signage recognizing this important location in the City of Los Angeles.

I THEREFORE MOVE that that Department of Transportation be instructed to erect permanent ceremonial sign(s) at 743 S. Grand View Street in recognition of the historical location of the Chouinard Institute of the Arts.

PRESENTED BY



GILBERT A. CEDILLO
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY



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DEC 003320211

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