

MOTION

Los Angeles is home to one of the largest Oaxacan communities outside of Mexico. For decades and generations, Oaxaqueños seeking a better life have come to Los Angeles. They have been the City’s “essential workers” long before the term was popular. They have formed small businesses that are the lifeblood of our neighborhoods. Oaxaqueños have shaped the City of Los Angeles, enriching our community with art, music, and dance. They have expanded the culinary landscape of the city, with some of our finest restaurants and the Feria de Tejate and Feria de los Moles. With members of the Oaxacan community speaking 16 indigenous languages, they have enriched the culture and grown the diversity of our international city.

Yet despite the enormous contributions to Los Angeles, Oaxaqueños are too often under-appreciated, ignored and marginalized. They are victims of racial discrimination, colorism, and economic exploitation. They have even been mocked by some of the highest-ranking public officials in Los Angeles, as we heard in the notorious taped conversations leaked in October of this year. Los Angeles must do a much better job recognizing and celebrating and empowering the Oaxacan community.

One small but important gesture would be to honor and celebrate the Los Angeles Oaxacan community through a large, visible, public mural. One of the many appropriate locations would be in the neighborhood of West LA, which has one of the larger Oaxacan populations in Los Angeles, and the largest Oaxacan community on the Westside. Sufficient funds are available to fund such a mural through allocation of Council District arts funds.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council Action of 12/11/2021 relative to the Arts Development Fee Update and adopting the Arts Development Fee Expenditure Report (CF13-0933-S5) BE AMENDED to change the proposed use of three Council District 11 Accounts (L815, L831, and L833) from “District-Wide Mural project” to “Mural Celebrating the Oaxacan Community”; and to authorize the Cultural Affairs Department to make any corrections clarifications or revisions to the above instructions, including any new instructions, in order to effectuate the intent of this Motion; said corrections, clarifications, and changes may be made orally, electronically or by any other means.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Cultural Affairs work with the Oaxacan community in West LA to determine a location in West LA, design of a mural to celebrate the history, heritage and culture of Oaxaqueños in Los Angeles, and create a process to select a muralist or muralists to create such a mural.

PMK

NOV 04 2022

PRESENTED BY: 

MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL