

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



1192

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Chicano Park  
other names/site number Chicano Park Monumental Murals

### 2. Location

street & number Vicinity of National Avenue and Dewey Street

n/a	not for publication
n/a	vicinity

  
city or town San Diego  
state California code CA county San Diego code 067 zip code 92113

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Caral Renda State Historic Preservation Officer 12-3-12  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

California Office of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] 1/23/2013  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Chicano Park  
Name of Property

San Diego, California  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		district
1	5	site
1	1	structure
50	26	object
52	32	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

n/a

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

-0-

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Transportation: Road-Related (Highway)
- Landscape: Plaza, Park, Gazebo
- Recreation and Culture: Work of Art (Murals)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Transportation: Road-Related (Highway)
- Landscape: Plaza, Park, Gazebo
- Recreation and Culture: Work of Art (Murals)

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Aztec Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete  
walls: \_\_\_\_\_  
roof: \_\_\_\_\_  
other: Paint (mural surfaces)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

Chicano Park

Chicano Park is a 7.4-acre park located in San Diego City's Barrio Logan beneath the east-west approach ramps of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge where the bridge bisects Interstate 5. Its main section is bounded by Interstate 5 to the east and National Avenue to the west, with a smaller pan-handle section extending from National Avenue to Newton Avenue and flanked to the south by Dewey Street. The park was created in 1970 after residents in Barrio Logan participated in a "takeover" of land that was being prepared for a substation of the California Highway Patrol. Since April 22, 1970, the park has been utilized by the Chicano community of San Diego as a place for social and political events. Its facilities include children's playgrounds, restrooms, a "Kiosko" dance pavilion, picnic areas, multi-purpose courts, open play lawns, a raised plaza, community gardens, sculptures, fountain, and two small parking areas accessed from Logan Avenue and National Avenue. The park is distinguished by sculptures and monumental murals painted on the pillars, abutments, and ramps of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge.

49 murals (objects), 1 structure (the "Kiosko") and 1 statue (object) are contributors, and the boundary as a whole is a contributing site. The property also includes 5 non-contributing sites within the overall boundary (picnic areas, multi-purpose court, children's playground, garden and raised plaza), 1 non-contributing building (restroom) and 2 non-contributing objects (fountain and sculpture.)

Chicano Park Monumental Murals

The Chicano Park Monumental Murals consist of an assemblage of multiple vibrantly colored paintings on of the concrete pillars and two abutments (flanking Logan Avenue near Interstate 5) that support the San Diego end of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge. Forty-nine of these murals painted on twenty-four of pillars, abutments and ramps and one sculpture were constructed during the height of the Chicano Civil Rights Movement. These murals and their iconography depict images of Mexican pre-Columbian gods, myths and legendary icons, botanical elements, animal imagery, the Mexican colonial experience, revolutionary struggles, cultural and spiritual reaffirmation through the arts, Chicano achievements, identity and bicultural duality as symbolized in the search for the "indigenous self," Mexican and Chicano cultural heroes and heroines such as La Adelita, Cesar Chavez, Father Miguel Hidalgo, Che Guevara, Pancho Villa, Emiliano Zapata, and scenes based on contemporary Chicano civil rights history. Newer murals continue to decorate the pillars of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge; however, the bulk of the murals were painted between 1973 and 1989, by the major Chicano artists of California. Continued

**See attachment Continuation Sheet Section 7**

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**Continuation Sheet**

Chicano Park

Name of Property  
San Diego, California

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Section number   7   Page     1    

**Description of Properties**

Chicano Park is a 7.4 acre park located among an assemblage of murals painted on the support pillars of five approach bridges to the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge. Around the pillars are statues, gardens, event and performance spaces, play areas, and landscaped areas approximately bounded by the approach bridge structures, nearby streets and highways.

The identifying numbers for the five bridge approach structures are listed below. The murals and objects beneath each bridge (both those on bridge support pillars and free-standing structures or objects nearby) are grouped by number after the bridge name.

- Westbound Approach Ramp (Bridge #57-939H)- resources 1-8
- Northwest Connector Overcrossing (Bridge # 57-912G)- resources 9-30
- Logan Avenue Undercrossing (Bridge #57-847G)- resources 31-51
- Southwest Connector Overcrossing (Bridge #57-846G)- resources 52-64
- Dewey Street Pedestrian Overcrossing (Bridge # 57-856)- resources 65-77

The bridge structures are not considered contributors in their own right. Their support pillars are the canvas for the murals described in this nomination, both contributors and non-contributors, and are thus identified as part of the nominated property. The San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge south of Newton Avenue is outside of the nominated area.

The following list describes each contributing and non-contributing element of Chicano Park, specifying property name, artist name (in the case of murals), year of creation, year of restoration (if applicable) and contributor/non-contributor status. Photo references refer to nomination photos in the photo log or figure log as indicated. The property number also indicates the property's location on the sketch map (see Additional Documentation.)

**Westbound Approach Ramp (Bridge #57-939H)- resources 1-8**

1. Name: Revolución Mexicana  
Artist: Victor Ochoa  
Year: 1981 Restored: 2012 by Victor Ochoa & team  
Contributor  
(See Photo 15 & 16)  
This mural continues on both sides of the column. Photo 15 shows one side, Photo 16 shows the other.
2. Name: José Gomez Mural  
Artist: Tony de Vargas, Mario Torero & Team  
Year: 1986  
Contributor  
(See Photo 38)

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3. Name: Mi Raza Primero  
Artist: Mario Torero & Team  
Year: 1993  
Non-Contributor
4. Name: The Bridge People  
Artist: Victor Ochoa & Lowell School  
Year: 1978 & 1983  
Contributor  
(See Photo 31)
5. Name: Nacimiento Del Parque Chicano  
Artist: Dolores Serrano  
Year: 1978  
Contributor  
(See Photo 25)
6. Name: O.G. Mural  
Artist: Octavio Gonzalez  
Year: 1978  
Contributor  
(See Photo 39)
7. Name: Chicanas/Escuelas  
Artist: Yolanda López & Mujeres Muralistas  
Year: 1978  
Contributor  
(See Photo 33)
8. Name: Izcalli Mural  
Artist: Victor Ochoa & Izcalli  
Year: 1996  
Non-Contributor

Northwest Connector Overcrossing (Bridge # 57-912G)- resources 9-30

9. Name: Save Barrio Logan  
Artist: Mario Torero & Fuerza  
Year: 1996  
Non-Contributor
10. Name: La Adelita  
Artist: Felipe Adame  
Year: 1976                      Restored: 2011 by Felipe Adame & Guillermo Rosette  
Contributor  
(See Photo 4)

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11. Name: Chicano Park Takeover  
Artist: Guillermo Rosette, Felipe Adame, Octavio González  
Year: 1976 Restored: 2011 by Guillermo Rosette & Linda Velarde  
Contributor  
(See Photo 1)
12. Name: Mexican Artists—"Los Grandes"  
Artist: Rupert Garcia, Victor Ochoa & Barrio Renovation Team  
Year: 1978  
Contributor  
(See Photo 21)
13. Name: Chicano Pinto Union  
Artist: Tony de Vargas  
Year: 1978  
Contributor  
(See Photo 20)
14. Name: Coatlicue  
Artist: Susan Yamagata & Michael Schnorr  
Year: 1978  
Contributor  
(See Photo 2)
15. Name: Virgen de Guadalupe  
Artist: Mario Torero & The Lomas Youth Crew  
Year: 1978  
Contributor  
(See Photo 3)
16. Name: Death of a Farm Worker  
Artist: Susan Yamagata & Michael Schnorr  
Year: 1979  
Contributor  
(See Photo 27)
17. Name: ¡Varrio Sí- Yonkes No!  
Artist: Raul Jose Jaquez & Team  
Year: 1977  
Contributor  
(See Photo 36)

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18. Name: San Diego Lowrider Council Mural  
Artist: Victor Cordero, Jari Alvarez and Isaias Crow  
Year: 1978  
Contributor  
(See Photo 40)
19. Name: Hand Ball Court Mural—Side Panel  
Artist: Alvaro Milan & Team  
Year: 1996  
Non-Contributor
20. Name: Hand Ball Court Mural—Front Panel  
Artist: Alvaro Milan & Team  
Year: 1996  
Non-Contributor
21. Name: The Ball Player  
Artist: Vidal Aguirre  
Year: 1981-82  
Contributor  
(See Photo 32)
22. Name: We Saved the Mural  
Artist: Mario Torero, Victor Ochoa & Armando Nuñez and Students  
Year: 1997  
Non-Contributor
23. Name: Dedicated to the people that died during Operation Gatekeeper  
Artist: Carmen Kalo  
Year: 2000  
Non-Contributor
24. Name: No Retrofitting  
Artist: Mario Torero & Carmen Kalo  
Year: 1995  
Non-Contributor
25. Name: Tribute Mural for Laura Rodriguez & Florencio Yescas  
Artist: Mario Torero, Carmen Kalo & Youth Team  
Year: 1995  
Non-Contributor
26. Name: Marcha  
Artist: Mario Torero, Victor Ochoa & Team  
Year: 1996  
Non-Contributor

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27. Name: Paradise Senior Center  
Artist: Mona Mills  
Year: 1999  
Non-Contributor

28. Name: Tierra-Liberación  
Artist: Mario Torero, Victor Ochoa & Team  
Year: 2000  
Non-Contributor

29. Name: Elders Mural  
Artist: Mario Torero & Team  
Year: 1999  
Non-Contributor

Logan Avenue Undercrossing (Bridge #57-847G)- resources 31-51

30. Name: La Flecha  
Artist: Mario Torero & InSite97  
Year: 1997  
Non-Contributor

31. Name: La Trinidad Es Amor  
Artist: Raul José Jaquez & Team  
Year: 1997  
Non-Contributor

32. Name: ¿Porque Nosotros?  
Artist: Mario Torero & Fuerza  
Year: 1996 Restored: 2012 by Victor Ochoa, Mario Chacón and Team  
Non-Contributor

33. Name: Hasta La Bahia ("All The Way To The Bay")  
Artist: Victor Ochoa  
Year: 1978 Restored: 2012 by Victor Ochoa, Mario Chacón and team  
Contributor  
(See Photo 5 & 6)

34. Name: Cuauhtemoc  
Artist: Felipe Adame  
Year: 1978 Restored: 2012 by Felipe Adame and Team  
Contributor  
(See Photo 17)



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35. Name: Sueno Serpentino  
Artist: Socorro Gamboa  
Year: 1978  
Contributor  
(See Photo 28)
36. Name: Kiosko--Tenochtitlán  
Artist: Alfredo Larrin (architect) Vidal Aguirre & Felipe Adame (painters/muralists)  
Year: 1978 Restored: 2012 by Felipe Adame and Team  
Contributor  
The *Kiosko* is a concrete structure sitting atop a square elevated platform of concrete, with broad concrete steps in each cardinal direction. Four rectangular pillars, each battered inward, support an architrave topped by a cornice. The pillars and architrave are inset with angular designs representative of Mayan architecture. The structure is designed to resemble the top of a Mayan or Aztec pyramid, with steps leading to a central platform often enclosed by a small structure. The ceiling of the *Kiosko* is decorated with the mural "Tenochtitlan" by Felipe Adame and Vidal Aguirre, who also painted the structure. The *Kiosko* was the product of a public process, designed by architect Alfredo Larin. Representatives of the City of San Diego originally wanted this public gazebo designed in a Mission Revival style but members of the community advocated strongly for a design that reflected indigenous Mexican styles. The result is a synthesis of pre-Columbian architectural styles, most closely identified as Aztec Revival. (See Photo 22, *Kiosko*, and Photo 23, Tenochtitlan Mural, background of Photo 19.)
37. Name: Mexican History  
Artist: Victor Ochoa and Students  
Year: 1978  
Contributor  
(See Photo 29)
38. Name: Huelga Eagle  
Artist: Raul Espinoza & Michael Schnorr  
Year: 1978  
Contributor  
(See Photo 48)
39. Name: Che  
Artist: Victor Ochoa  
Year: 1978  
Contributor  
(See Photo 19)
40. Name: Aztec Archer  
Artist: Vidal Aguirre  
Year: 1977 Restored: 2011 by Felipe Adame, Guillermo Rosette and Team  
Contributor  
(See Photo 18)

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41. Name: Varrío Logan  
Artist: Victor Ochoa & Team  
Year: 1978 Restored: 2011 by Victor Ochoa & Team  
Contributor  
(See Photo 26)
42. Name: Liberación  
Artist: Maricela Romo Ibarra  
Year: 1997  
Non-Contributor
43. Name: Aguila en Aztlán: "Through love you gain strength—through strength you regenerate"  
Artist: Raul José Jaquez  
Year: 1986  
Contributor  
(See Photo 47)
44. Name: Sombras Nada Mas  
Artist: Raul Jose Jaquez  
Year: 1997  
Non-Contributor  
This mural is located on three different pillars, indicated on the sketch map.
45. Name: Soy Danzante  
Artist: Cathy Espitia Puente  
Year: 1995  
Non-Contributor
46. Name: Bathroom Mural  
Artist: Victor Ochoa, Mario Torero, & FUERZA  
Year: 1997
47. Name: Mural in Chicana Park  
Artist: Berenice Badillo  
Year: 1997  
Non-Contributor
48. Name: Undocumented Worker  
Artist: Michael Schnorr & Team  
Year: 1980 Restored: 2011 by Michael Schnorr  
Contributor  
(See Photo 14 & 26)

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49. Name: Voz Libre: P.H. Gonzalez  
Artist: Michael Schnorr, Victor Ochoa, Guillermo Rosette, Yasue Doudera & Carlos Esparza  
Year: 1984  
Contributor  
(See Photo 8)

50. Name: Insight  
Artist: Cheryl Lindley, Scott Kessler & Team  
Year: 1997  
Non-Contributor

51. Name: Hecho en Atzlán  
Artist: Victor Ochoa & Talent Search Students  
Year: 2000  
Non-Contributor

Southwest Connector Overcrossing (Bridge #57-846G)- resources 52-64

52. Name: Zapata Statue  
Artist: Arturo Singh  
Year: 2004  
Non-Contributor

53. Name: Mujer Cósmica  
Artist: Esteban Villa & Ricardo Favela  
Year: 1975 Restored: 2011 by Esteban Villa, Carlos Lopez and Juan Carrillo  
Contributor  
(See Photo 7)

54. Name: In La Kesh aka Mandala Mural  
Artist: Juanishi Orosco & Royal Chicano Air Force  
Year: 1975 Restored: 2012 by Juanishi Orosco and Team  
Contributor  
(See Photo 10)

55. Name: Cosmic Clowns  
Artist: Congreso de Artistas Chicanos en Aztlán (CACA)  
Year: 1974 Restored:  
Contributor  
(See Figure 3)

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56. Name: The Rage of La Raza aka La Raza Cósmica  
Artist: Congreso de Artistas Chicanos en Aztlán (CACA), Mario Torero & Tomás "Coyote" Castañeda  
Year: 1974  
Contributor  
(See Figure 1)
57. Name: Chicano Park/ La Tierra Mia Logo  
Artist: Carlotta Hernandez & designed by Rico Bueno  
Year: 1974  
Contributor  
(See Figure 2)
58. Name: Allende  
Artist: Smiley Benavides & Team from Los Angeles  
Contributor  
Year: 1974 Restored: 2012 by Guillermo Rosette, Norma Montoya, and Mario Torero  
(See Photo 9)
59. Name: Los Toltecas  
Artist: Rosa Olga Navarro, Carlos Garcia, Alvaro Milan, Fernando Palomo, & Team  
Year: 1988 Restored: 2012 by David Mena, Rosa Olga Navarro and Community  
Contributor  
(See Photo 43)
60. Name: Mother Earth  
Artist: Salvador "Queso" Torres  
Year: 1988 Restored: 2012 by Salvador "Queso" Torres  
Contributor  
(See Photo 42 & 43)  
Note: This mural is below #59, Los Toltecas, on the same pillar.)
61. Name: Yokohama  
Artist: Mario Torero, Ruben Seja, Rocco Satochi  
Year: 1990  
Non-Contributor
62. Name: Chicano Park Danzante  
Artist: Mario Torero, Isaias Crow, & Team  
Year: 1990 Restored: 2012 by Isaias Crow  
Non-Contributor  
Mural was originally part of "Yokohama" mural (#61) and was recently redesigned, thus year of work for National Register eligibility purposes is 2012.

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63. Name: Corazón de Aztlán  
Artist: Tomás "Coyote" Castañeda & CACA  
Year: 1988  
Contributor  
(See Figure 4 & Photo 37)

64. Name: Quetzalcoatl  
Artist: Los Toltecas en Aztlán  
Year: 1973  
Contributor  
(See Photo 24)

Dewey Street Pedestrian Overcrossing (Bridge # 57-856)- resources 65-77

65. Name: M.E.Ch.A  
Artist: José Olague  
Year: Began in 2003, not yet completed.  
Non-Contributor

66. Name: Women Hold Up Half of Heaven aka Women Hold Up Half The Sky  
Artist: Celia Rodriguez and Royal Chicano Air Force Mujeres  
Year: 1975  
Contributor  
(See Photo 41)

67. Name: Woman with Flag  
Artist: Arturo Singh  
Year: 1975  
Contributor  
(See Photo 46)

68. Name: "Leyes"—La Familia  
Artist: José Montoya & Royal Chicano Air Force  
Year: 1975 Restored: 2011 by José Montoya, Tomás Montoya & Maceo Montoya  
Contributor  
(See Photo 11)

69. Name: I am Somebody—Poem by Joan Little  
Artist: Sal Barajas  
Year: 1975  
Contributor  
(See Photo 45)

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70. Name: Tree of Life  
Artist: Felipe Adame, Guillermo Aranda & Arturo Román  
Year: 1974 Restored: 1992 by Guillermo Aranda, Guillermo Rosette, Felipe Adame, and Vidal Aguirre  
Contributor  
(See Figure 5)
71. Name: Danzante  
Artist: Felipe Adame  
Year: 1992  
Non-Contributor
72. Name: Renacimiento—Birth of La Raza  
Artist: Grupo de Santana  
Year: 1974 Restored: 1992 by Guillermo Aranda, Guillermo Rosette, Felipe Adame, & Vidal Aguirre  
Contributor  
(See Photo 30)
73. Name: Chuco/Homeboy  
Artist: Felipe Adame  
Year: 1975  
Contributor  
(See Photo 44)
74. Name: Colossus  
Artist: Mario Torero & CACA  
Year: 1975  
Contributor  
(See Photo 34)
75. Name: Decades of Chicano Movement  
Artist: Manuel Parsons  
Year: 1992  
Non-Contributor
76. Name: Children's Mural  
Artist: Victor Ochoa & Lowell School  
Year: 1973  
(See Figure 6)
77. Name: Historical Mural  
Artist: Toltecas en Aztlan: Salvador Barajas, Guillermo Aranda, Arturo Román, Victor Ochoa, José Cervantes, Gilbert "Magu" Lujan, Daniel de Los Reyes & M.E.Ch.A—UC Irvine  
Year: 1973  
(See Photo 37)

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78. Multi-Purpose Court  
Non-Contributor  
This multi-purpose court with basketball hoops was constructed after the takeover of Chicano Park but does not constitute an element associated with the historic contexts of the Chicano Park takeover or the murals and artwork on the site, thus it is a non-contributor.
79. Children's Playground  
Non-Contributor  
This playground was constructed after the end of the period of significance, of standardized playground equipment, and is thus a non-contributing element to the property.
80. Cactus Garden  
Non-Contributor  
This cactus garden incorporates elements of landscape design and frames a setting for a contributing object, "Aguila en Aztlan," but does not convey exceptional significance in its own right, thus it is a non-contributor.
81. Picnic Area  
Non-Contributor  
This is a collection of picnic tables near the northern edge of the park, part of the overall park site but it does not exhibit eligible architectural/artistic characteristics nor is it associated with the Criterion A historic context
82. Restroom  
Non-Contributor  
The restroom is the "canvas" for an eligible mural but the restroom building itself is not a contributor; it does not exhibit eligible architectural characteristics nor is it associated with the Criterion A historic context.
83. Fountain  
Non-Contributor  
This fountain was constructed after the end of the period of significance and is thus not a contributor.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Ethnic Heritage, Latino

Art

Landscape Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1970-1989

**Significant Dates**

April 22, 1970—Chicano Park

February 1973-1989—Chicano Park Monumental Murals created

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Larin, Alfredo--designer of the "Kiosko" pavilion

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins on April 22, 1970, the date of the Chicano Park "Takeover" and lasts through 1989, the period of creation of the majority of the Chicano Park Murals. By 1989 the largest concentration of Chicano Park murals were completed.



**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Barrio Logan's Chicano Park is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A at the local level of significance due to its critical association with the Chicano Civil Rights Movement and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the City of San Diego's political and social history. Chicano Park was the site of a community movement to prevent construction of a California Highway Patrol substation where the city of San Diego had promised a park. On April 22, 1970, community residents occupied the park and were victorious in their efforts to rededicate the site, a redevelopment zone beneath the approach to a bridge, as a city park. The park became a gathering place for San Diego's Chicano community, with an annual festival to celebrate the first occupation of Chicano Park.

The property is also eligible under Criterion C at the state level of significance as an assemblage of murals created by a large group of artists, including the masters of Chicano Movement muralism. Artists whose work appears in Chicano Park includes Salvador Torres, Mario Torero, Victor Ochoa, Esteban Villa, Ricardo Favela, Guillermo Rosette, Juanishi Orosco, Jose Montoya, Charles "Gato" Felix, Rupert Garcia, Yolanda Lopez, Celia Herrera Rodriguez, Irma Barbosa, Glory Sanchez, Gilbert "Magu" Lujan, Norma Montoya, Victor Cordero, Jari Alvarez, Alvaro Milan, Jose Cervantes, Isaias Crow and many others. These murals were intended as a way to commemorate the struggle to reclaim the park for the neighborhood, and they represent exceptionally significant works of public art that transformed the gray concrete support pillars into a public gathering space filled with color and imagery. A central gazebo, called the *Kiosko*, was designed by architect Alfredo Larin, as the result of a contentious public process, in a style reminiscent of Aztec and Mayan architecture, also decorated by murals. The period of significance is 1970-1989. The property is nominated as a district, reflecting that Criterion C eligibility is based on Chicano Park as a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

**See attachment--Continuation Sheet Section 8**

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

Criteria Consideration G

The historic contexts of the Chicano Movement in San Diego (Criterion A) and the Chicano Muralism artistic movement (Criterion C) have already been the subject of significant scholarly evaluation by academic researchers in the fields of ethnic history and fine art. While some of the Chicano Park muralists are still living, the significance of the Chicano Park murals does not derive from the work of any one particular artist; the assemblage of murals by artists from across California and the Southwest constitute a unique resource, representing a unique time and place, that has become the subject of intensive study and scholarly research. Public murals are also a fragile and short-lived resource, subject to weather and sea air. Within their context of study, the Chicano Park murals are already considered old, and were the recipients of a federally funded mural restoration program based on a prior determination of National Register eligibility.

Although less than 50 years old, the park and murals meet the requirements of Criteria Consideration G, exceptional significance. Its importance has been well established in the context of the Chicano Civil Rights Movement and its development in San Diego. The City of San Diego recognized the park's significance as early as 1980 only 10 years after its founding, when the San Diego Historic Site Board designated Chicano Park as a city historic site. The Board's report noted: "Chicano Park is a significant representation of an era in the development of San Diego. It is also associated and identified with important events in the main currents of local history. It exemplifies the broad cultural, political, economic and social history of the community. It is an urban park with recreational facilities, a kiosk in the shape of an Aztec/Mayan temple, and bridge supports painted by Mexican American/Chicano artists from the community and from across the Southwestern United States. The artistic representation depicts the thinking, the background, the neighborhood, the Mexican/Chicano people and their struggles."<sup>1</sup>

In 1996 Cheryl Widell, California State Historic Preservation Officer, concurred with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) 1996 *State Historic Research Education Report for the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge* that Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals, although not yet 50 years old, met the exceptional importance criterion for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources.<sup>2</sup> The San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge piers and supports that are grounded in Chicano Park are the "canvas" for the murals; the approach bridges must also be considered a contributing element of the Chicano Park district, as they are the canvas of the murals, but the bridge itself is not being nominated.

**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)—See continuation sheets, Section 8

<sup>1</sup> *San Diego Union-Tribune*, May 13, 1973; Ron Buckley, *City of San Diego Historical Site Board*, #143 (San Diego: February 1, 1980)

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE continued**

**Criterion A: Barrio Logan and the Creation of Chicano Park**

Racism and cultural isolation was not a new phenomenon to the residents of Logan Heights prior to the "Takeover" of Chicano Park. Chicanos and Blacks, having lived in the area since the 1890's, remained in the area, as many new parts of San Diego were being open for settlement. As San Diego began to grow, an increased use of restrictive covenants in housing contracts began to emerge relegating ethnic minority populations to be isolated in the Logan Heights/Barrio Logan area of the city.<sup>1</sup> By the 1920s Logan Heights was considered "the residential section of the Negroes, Mexicans and Orientals."<sup>2</sup>

Logan Heights derives its name from Congressman John Logan, who wrote legislation to provide federal land grants and subsidies for a transcontinental railroad ending in San Diego. A street laid in 1881 was named Logan Heights after him, a name that was later applied to the neighborhood. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the neighborhood was predominantly residential. After 1910 an influx of refugees of the Mexican Revolution came to the neighborhood. By the 1920s Barrio Logan began to transform into a predominantly Mexican-American community as immigrants fled north from revolution and a poor Mexican economy.<sup>3</sup> As commerce and industry began developing along the bay, Barrio Logan's growth continued to increase. The area provided low cost housing for workers in the fish canneries, lumber, shipbuilding, and railroad industry of the area. A new phenomenon entered the community, the Neighborhood House; an Americanization settlement house with a desire to help the poor immigrant community establish themselves in Barrio Logan. While many settlements had as their goal the Americanization of the immigrant, through the teaching of English and "American" customs, this organization was also concentrating on public health, education and cultural and social activities. Except for some community-wide events most of the programs of the Neighborhood House were segregated by race and gender with separate workshops and classes given for African Americans, Mexicans, and Anglos as well as for girls and boys. While this agency served most of the Chicano residents of San Diego in the 1920s and 1930s, the city and county agencies almost completely ignored the economic and public health problems of Mexican immigrants. During the 1930s, the United States government was trying to deport and repatriate Mexican immigrants and was openly hostile towards their economic and social plight. The Neighborhood House was highly regarded by the residents and became recognized as a barrio institution despite the sometimes heavy handed efforts at Americanization and the administrator's lack of interest in promoting and encouraging Mexican culture. This all changed during the 1960s when the policies of the administration changed projecting a more bureaucratic 9-5 public access agency rather than the community center it was known to be that served the community with social and youth services when they were needed most—after work and school hours. The agency came under attack by Chicano activists<sup>4</sup> when the agency was no longer providing relevant services to the community. The site eventually became a Chicano Free Clinic and

<sup>1</sup> Leroy E. Harris, *The Other Side of the Freeway: A Study of Settlement Patterns of Negroes and Mexican Americans in San Diego, California* (Doctor of Arts dissertation, Carnegie-Mellon University, 1974), pp. 165-180.

<sup>2</sup> Alvena Suhl, *The Historical Geography of San Diego County*. (M.A. Thesis, University of California, Berkeley, 1927) P70.

<sup>3</sup> Frank Norris, "Logan Heights: Growth and Change in the Old 'East End'," *Journal of San Diego History* 26 (Winter 1983): 32

<sup>4</sup> Richard Griswold del Castillo, Isidro Ortiz & Rosalinda Gonzalez; *Mexican and Chicano History, La Lucha: The Beginnings of the Struggle, 1920-1930s—What was the Neighborhood House?* <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/dept/mas/chicanohistory/chapter07/c07s03.html>

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now serves the residents by providing low cost medical and dental services.

Construction of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge required demolition of part of the Barrio Logan neighborhood, to make way for the bridge supports and approach ramps. Many residents in Barrio Logan had believed that they would gain access to land beneath the ramps that would be used to build a park. On April 22, 1970, the formal struggle for a park in Barrio Logan began when Jose Gomez, a long-time resident of the neighborhood, and students, families, elders, and children occupied the land under the approach ramps of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge, after they learned that a California Highway Patrol (CHP) station was scheduled to be built there. Between 250 and 500 people representing a wide cross-section of the community disrupted grading work that was already in progress. The site was occupied for twelve days and the demand that a park be created immediately was the rallying cry to the community. To emphasize the point, the community began the work of creating their own park by using shovels, pickaxes, hoes and rakes to prepare the ground for the planting of grass, shrubs and flowers.<sup>5</sup> By the third day of the land occupation the Cacho family, prominent landowning Mexican-American farmers, from the Otay Mesa area of San Diego, and cultural preservationists, lent tractors, bulldozers and other essential farming tools to assist in the building of a park.<sup>6</sup>

The establishment of a CHP station under the new bridge was viewed as an affront to Barrio Logan, a community that already had many grievances against local police actions. Further, the proposed CHP station was to be of impressive size, with the intent to employ some 195 uniformed personnel and 15 civilian employees and provide parking spaces for 115 cars. "Our neighborhood had already been invaded by the junkyards, the factories and a bridge...in essence, they viewed the people of Logan Heights as people who hadn't gotten out of the way of industry as the junkyards, factories, etc... were coming to claim this Barrio," Gomez declared. "Some of us decided that it was time to put a stop to the destruction and begin to make this place more livable."<sup>7</sup>

Forming the Chicano Park Steering Committee, the activists demanded that the property be donated to the Chicano community as a park in which Chicano culture could be expressed through art. "We are ready to die (to gain the park)," Salvador Roberto "Queso" Torres, a community artist, shouted to a gathering of city and state officials while supporters stamped their feet in rhythm and shouted "viva la Raza-long live the race." Twenty-eight year old Jose Gomez echoed this sentiment when he shouted: "The only way anybody is going to take the park away from us is through our blood." Gomez later recalled: "The students and the others said, 'If you won't build a park here, we'll do it ourselves' ...that's when the state officials knew we were serious. And the city entered into negotiations."<sup>8</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Los Angeles Times, June 4, 1989; San Diego Tribune, April 23, 1970, April 24, 1970; May 5, 1970, March 4, 1971 and March 28, 1984; May 1, 1970; November 12, 1971; San Diego Union-Tribune, July 24, 1969; November 9, 1969; May 5, 1970; July 1, 1970; July 3, 1970; Brookman, Philip and Guillermo Gomez-Peña, *Made in Aztlan; Centro Cultural De La Raza Fifteenth Anniversary*. (San Diego: Tolteca Publications, 1986)p 20.; Brookman, Philip, "Looking for Alternatives: Notes on Chicano Art, 1960-90.;" in Richard Griswold del Castillo, Teresa McKenna and Yvonne Yarbro-Bejarano, eds. *Chicano Art: Resistance and Affirmation, 1965-1985*. (Los Angeles: Wight Art Gallery and UCLA, 1991) 185-186.

<sup>6</sup> Delia Cacho Talamantez, interviewed by Josie S. Talamantez, (January 2005, San Diego, California)

<sup>7</sup> Marilyn Mulford, Producer; Mario Barrera & Marilyn Mulford Directors, *Chicano Park* film (Berkeley: 1988)

<sup>8</sup> Los Angeles Times, June 4, 1989; San Diego Tribune, April 23, 1970, April 24, 1970; May 5, 1970, March 4, 1971 and March 28, 1984; May 1, 1970; November 12, 1971; San Diego Union-Tribune, July 24, 1969; November 9, 1969; May 5, 1970; July 1, 1970; July 3, 1970;

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Community activists withdrew only after city officials promised negotiations regarding the use of the land in question. San Diego City Councilman Leon Williams, an African-American whose district included Barrio Logan, assured the neighborhood residents that they would have a city park under the Coronado Bridge. The City of San Diego, through the efforts of community spokeswoman Angie Avila and others finally negotiated a settlement with the Chicano Federation, a consortium of various community groups, and the Chicano Park Steering Committee that required the city to exchange city-owned land for the disputed state land. The city would then build a 4.5 acre park (eventually expanded to a total of 7.4 acres) on the acquired land bounded by Logan Avenue and National Avenue.<sup>9</sup>

The creation of "the park" was a major defining moment in the history of the Barrio Logan community. Victor Ochoa, mural coordinator in Chicano Park from 1974 to 1979, recalled: "What I still remember is that there were bulldozers out there. And women and children made human chains around the bulldozers and they stopped the construction work. And they began to work the land and they started planting nopales (cactus) and magueys and flowers. And there was a telephone pole there, where the Chicano flag, referred to as the flag of *Aztlan*<sup>10</sup> was raised." One of the park's original muralists, Mario Torero, linked the park to Chicano identity: "We can't think of Chicanos in San Diego without thinking of Chicano Park. It is the main evidence, the open book of our culture, energy and determination as a people. One of the main proofs of our existence."<sup>11</sup> Josie S. Talamantez remembers the "take-over" of Chicano Park as defining her identity<sup>12</sup> providing her the incentive to charge forward with total certainty.

Ramon "Chunky" Sanchez, composer and singer of "Chicano Park Samba," said, "There was an energy that's hard to describe-when you see your people struggling for something positive, and it's very inspiring. We have to show our youth the value of what we did. The park was brought about by sacrifice and it demonstrates what a community can do when they stick together and make it happen." Another artist, Raul Jaquez stated: "The Park is our pearl, and the community is our oyster. A pearl is not born in a comfortable zone. An oyster creates a pearl through great irritation. That's how our pearl was born." For those involved in its establishment, Chicano Park had a decidedly revelatory effect and their commitment to its "place" in the community of Barrio Logan should not be underestimated.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>9</sup> San Diego Union, April 23, 1988; Angie Avila interviewed by Dr. Jim Fisher (Sacramento; 3/13/1996)

<sup>10</sup> Explanatory Note: The Chicano Flag is Red, White, & Green with the Mestizo figure in the center. The Mestizo figure is a brown forward facing face with the profiles of an Indian and Spaniard on either side of the face.

<sup>11</sup> Victor Ochoa interview by Dr. Jim Fisher (San Diego: 3/10/1996; Mario "Torero" Acevedo interview by Dr. Jim Fisher (San Diego: 3/10/1996.

<sup>12</sup> Mulford, Producer; Mario Barrera & Marilyn Mulford Directors, *Chicano Park* film (Berkeley: 1988)

<sup>13</sup> Los Angeles Times, June 4, 1989; San Diego Tribune, April 23, 1970, April 24, 1970; May 5, 1970, March 4, 1971 and March 28, 1984; May 1, 1970; November 12, 1971; San Diego Union-Tribune, July 24, 1969; November 9, 1969; May 5, 1970; July 1, 1970; July 3, 1970; March 3, 1971; Brookman, Philip and Guillermo Gomez-Peña, *Made in Aztlan: Centro Cultural De La Raza Fifteenth Anniversary*. (San Diego: Tolteca Publications, 1986) p 20.; Brookman, Philip, "Looking for Alternatives: Notes on Chicano Art, 1960-90.;" in Richard Griswold del Castillo, Teresa McKenna and Yvonne Yarbro-Bejarano, eds. *Chicano Art: Resistance and Affirmation, 1965-1985*. (Los Angeles: Wight Art Gallery and UCLA, 1991) 185-186. Larry Weigel interview by Dr. Jim Fisher January 23 & 24, 1996. Explanatory Note: Jose Gomez died in January, 1985. On the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> Chicano Park celebration, Laura Rodriguez said of Gomez: "We have to honor Jose Gomez today because he said he would never leave this barrio. We must not think of his death, but of his life. He wanted a good quality life for all of us. And he is still alive today in all of our lives...He was a complex person-quiet, humble, yet very proud." San Diego Union, April 21, 1985. Gomez himself explained his deep commitment to the barrio this way: "My grandmother came here in 1900. My mother was born here, and so was I. Everyone knows me here. I can walk into any store, without any ID, and get a

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**Criterion C: The Chicano Park Murals**

Although not yet 50 years old, the Chicano Park murals are eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion C as an assemblage of the work of master mural artists that are components of a significant and distinguishable entity whose elements may not be individually eligible. The murals have deep, transcendent values and constitute a historic resource for which the Barrio Logan community has a strong associative attachment and commitment to preserve. The history of Chicano muralism parallels the history of the Chicano movement, and the murals of Chicano Park represent an exceptional example of this art form. Despite the relatively recent end of the period of significance, the murals have been extensively documented by art historians and social historians, reviewed by cultural resources professionals, and written about in works identifying the most historically significant sites associated with Chicano history.

Chicano political activism, which occurred in the 1960s through the 1980s, dictated the specific social and economic issues of the movement also coincided with the most productive period of Chicano muralism. California was the epicenter of Chicano mural activities and Chicano Park was one of the major sites where this art form was expressed. By the 1980s nearly every major Chicano muralist in California and the Southwest, by invitation and inclination, had participated in the making of Chicano Park Monumental Murals.

The importance of the Chicano Park Monumental Murals has been underscored by local, international and national recognition of their artistic and social value. Local recognition came in February 1980, when the San Diego Public Arts Advisory Board (PAAB) voted to recognize the Chicano Park Monumental Murals as meritorious public arts works. In June 1992, the San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture described the murals as "the largest, most important collection of outdoor muralism in the county." The murals have received widespread recognition by scholars and city officials and have become a tourist stopping point in San Diego.<sup>14</sup> In 2000, Caltrans applied and was awarded \$1.6 million in funding from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) for the restoration of San Diego's Chicano Park murals. The project was completed August 2012. On May 29<sup>th</sup> of 2012, many of the Chicano Park artists were awarded the San Diego Historic Preservation Awards by the San Diego Historic Resources Board in the category of Cultural Landscapes.

check cashed. There aren't too many places in San Diego where you can do that. Despite all of the junk, it's [Barrio Logan] my home and I'm comfortable in it. A lot of people feel like I do." Doubtless, people like Laura Rodriguez. In September, 1994, Laura Rodriguez died. She too experienced the park profoundly. At 84 years of age, in the last year of her life, she insisted on going to Chicano Park every night in her wheelchair to commune with the bridge and its murals, absorbing their power and conviction. Ms. Rodriguez, who had placed her body in front of a bulldozer during the park takeover in April, 1970, served as inspiration for the building of what is now the Laura Rodriguez Family Health Center—the Old Neighborhood House (initially an Americanization Settlement House established in the 1920s) located at 1801 National Avenue, taken over by the Chicano community activist fall 1970. In 1991, she was named a "Point of Light" for her community service by President George Bush. To her barrio, she was known as "the woman who was always wearing a scarf, always preparing tamales for clinic fund-raisers, always fighting for her people." Today a new elementary school is named in her honor and Ms. Rodriguez's image is also honored by a mural on a bridge column near Crosby Street and Logan Avenue. "Laura is the fruit of our land .... [and] this is her shine," stated Mario Torero, the designer and painter of Ms. Rodriguez's mural—"Chicano Park" video: 1988; *San Diego Union-Tribune*, April 20, 1995; Pitti 1988:245.

<sup>14</sup> <http://thingstodo.signonsandiego.com/san-diego-ca/venues/show/1083504-chicano-park>

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University of Paris professor Dr. Annick Trequer underscored the significance of the Chicano Park Monumental Murals: "The Chicano Park paintings are very different in the sense that they have a special place in the history of the district where they were produced. They represent some of the finest examples of popular mural art, directly inheriting the great Mexican tradition of the 1920s and the 1930s." Jim Prigoff photojournalist and co-author of *Spraycan Art* (1987), found that: "Chicano Park Monumental Murals constitute one of five major mural sites in California." His studies concluded that the Chicano Park Monumental Murals constitute a significant mural site, are "recognized as such all over the world," and compare favorably with other major mural sites such as Tujunga Wash, Estrada Courts (Boyle Heights), and Ramona Gardens in Los Angeles and San Francisco's Balmy Alley murals. With the passage of time, other areas' mural sites may also be found eligible, but the large collection of murals in Chicano Park remains historically significant within the San Diego context and among the most important in California.

The painting of the Chicano Park Monumental Murals began in 1973 and moved through several phases of production in the decade of the 1970s. By end of the 1980s, over forty-nine murals and one sculpture were completed. The period of significance under Criterion C therefore extends from 1973 to 1989. Similar to the Watts Towers of Simon Rodia, which were 27 years of age when they were placed on the National Register, the Chicano Park assemblage of murals must also be viewed as exceptionally important. The property boundaries for the murals parallel those of Chicano Park, in which they are sited, and also include the footings of the five approach bridges to the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge. The supports of the five approach bridges to the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge must be considered a contributing element to Chicano Park, as the bridge supports at the San Diego end of the bridge are the "canvas" for the murals and are the aspects of the bridge's contributive qualities. These five bridges are identified by bridge number in Section 7.

California's Department of Transportation recognized the significance of Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals via public review, determining that the property was eligible for listing in the National Register, and utilized an alternative seismic retrofit process to strengthen the pillars of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge after then Governor Pete Wilson issued an edict after the 1994 Northridge earthquake to strengthen all California highway bridges.<sup>15</sup> This alternative retrofit process was designed in order to avoid damaging the Chicano Park murals.

**Chicano Park Murals and the Chicano Movement in Historical Perspective**

The revitalization of Barrio Logan's cultural heritage did not develop in a vacuum, and of necessity must be viewed in its historical context. The context is informed by and includes a perspective relative to the Chicano Civil Rights Movement which arose from the turbulent 1960s<sup>16</sup>. It drew on the century-long foundation of the experiences of *la Raza* (the Chicano people) in the United States since the end of the United States-Mexican War and the signing of the 1948 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo—a circumstance that transferred the ownership of the present southwest (or *Aztlan*, the legendary origins

<sup>15</sup>Martin D. Rosen; James Fisher, "Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Murals: Barrio Logan, City of San Diego, California" *The Public Historian*, Vol. 23, No. 4 (Autumn, 2001), pp 91-111. <http://www.jstor.org/pss/3379638>

<sup>16</sup>(Buckley 1980:1; *San Diego Union-Tribune*, April, 1995; Juan Gomez-Quinones, *Chicano Politics, Reality and Promise 1940-1990* (Albuquerque, University of New Mexico Press: 1990)pg 104-105. Marilyn Mulford, Mario Barrera, *Chicano Park* video:1988.

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of the Aztec civilization) from Mexico to the United States. The years after 1848 witnessed the transformation of a proud people (*la gente*) of Mexican ancestry into a discriminated against and impoverished class. In essence, the Chicano Civil Rights Movement was an attempt to address such conditions and grew to be a dynamic force for social change.

Chicano historian Joe Pitti expressed the following: "It (the Chicano Civil Rights Movement) is an amalgam of individuals and organizations who share a sense of pride in their cultural heritage, a dedication to the enhancement of Chicano culture, mutual identification, a desire to improve the Chicano socio-economic position and a commitment to making constructive changes in United States society."<sup>17</sup> That constructive change of objective conditions was embodied in labor leader Cesar Chavez and the United Farmworkers' Delano grape strike of 1962, the efforts of student-led M.E.C.H.A. (*Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano en Aztlan*) in 1969, Rudolpho "Corky" Gonzalez's Crusade for Justice (Denver) in 1966, the Chicano Youth Liberation Conferences (Denver) 1 and 2, 1969 and 1970, and the Los Angeles National Moratorium in 1970, identified with Chicano Resistance to the Viet Nam War and the murder of *Los Angeles Times* reporter Ruben Salazar. To understand forces operating within the Chicano Civil Rights Movement at that time is not only to "read" the icons and themes of Chicano muralism but also to understand the broad social context underlying Barrio Logan's Chicano Park Monumental Murals.<sup>18</sup>

The Chicano Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s inspired and was in turn inspired by a flourishing of art and culture throughout the southwest, the northeast and the urban United States. The activism of Chicano people in efforts to unionize farm laborers, to regain ownership of land grants, to acquire adequate bilingual and bicultural education, to improve housing and achieve political power commensurate with their numbers in the population revitalized, enhanced and added a contemporary iconography to the long tradition of Mexican art. Such activism emphasized the graphics—poster-making, silk-screening and mural painting—to disseminate information and to communicate demands to the masses, literate and non-literate.

The Chicano artists linked their people's struggle for civil rights and social justice with a reevaluation of their cultural identity during the 1960s, not unlike what was developing in the African-American civil rights movement.<sup>19</sup> As part of this effort murals became the artistic vehicle of choice for educating a large illiterate populace about ideals of a new society and the virtues and evils of the past. Murals had the advantage of making direct appeals; they provided a near-perfect organizing tool that had specific cultural antecedents and precedence in the cultural and revolutionary tradition of Mexico.

In 1971 and 1972, Barrio Logan residents made extensive use of the park. Around April 22—the anniversary of the park "takeover"—and every year after 1970; the neighborhood celebrates the founding of Chicano Park with feasting, speeches, music and dancing (this tradition continues today—celebrating its 42th anniversary on April 21, 2012—the celebration always occurs on the Saturday

<sup>17</sup> Joe Pitti, Antonia Castaneda and Carlos Cortes, "A History of Mexican Americans in California," in Office of Historic Preservation, *Five Views: An Ethnic Sites Survey for California*. (Sacramento: Department of Parks and Recreation, 1988)pg 219; Gilbert Gonzales and Raul Fernandez, "Chicano History: Transcending Cultural Models" *pacific Historical Review*, LXIII, (November 1994)pg 469-473.

<sup>18</sup> Ferree 1994:1-10; Garcia 1981:12; Cockcroft 1990:8-9; Shorris 1992:383-385; Juanishi Orosco, interviewed by Dr. Jim Fisher, February 14, 1996; "Viva La Causa! 500 Years of Chicano History" video:1995

<sup>19</sup> Baraka, Amiri (LeRoi Jones). *The Autobiography of LeRoi Jones/Amiri Baraka* (New Your: Freudlich Books, 1984)

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closest to April 22.) There is an ambiance about the park that makes it unlike any other park in San Diego or California—it is sited directly under a busy bridge with its six approach ramps that in 1971 alone carried more than 8 million vehicles. Music and merrymaking in the park compete with the deafening rattle of trucks and cars moving across the superstructure's floor high above park revelers. The support columns of the bridge occupied hefty portions of the parks space and gave the surreal illusion of a compacted concrete forest that contradicted the notion of an urban park being an area of open space. Shadows predominate, inspiring at once awe and wariness. As early as April, 1970, Salvador Torres, an artist whose childhood home was destroyed by the building of the bridge, and deeply influenced by David Siqueiros and the growing mural movement now identified with the Chicano Civil Rights Movement, had vowed that Chicano artists and sculptors of the community would turn the gloomy gray columns' of the bridge into things of beauty, "an outdoor museum," reflecting the Mexican-American culture.<sup>20</sup>

In keeping with a long tradition of Mexican art as resistance, murals became the art form of choice, silent sentiments and creative yearnings that were vivid and eye-catching, explosions of lights that vanquished the shadows while merging the past and the future with the present. They spoke to the ever-increasing social consciousness of the barrio and Chicano sensibilities reflecting issues and symbols that ranged from Aztecs icons to the United Farmworkers' black eagle, combining the Spanish and Indigenous heritage—a significant source of California's history. The bulk of the murals in Chicano Park were painted between 1973 and 1989,<sup>21</sup> yet many new murals continue to accent the park annually.

On March 23, 1973, mural making in Chicano Park began in earnest. Two teams of Chicano artists, Los Toltecas en Aztlan, from the Centro Cultural de la Raza, a cultural arts center located in Balboa Park and el Congreso de Artistas Chicanos en Aztlan, an artist collective from San Diego, began to apply paint to the concrete abutments bridge's off-ramps flanking the east and west sides of Logan Avenue. On May 13, 1973, the *San Diego Union-Tribune* took notice of Chicano Park art project: "Their names are Mexican, so is their art. They paint on concrete. Work began on the bridge columns a month ago and many may not be completed for years. The City has granted artists permission to paint the concrete walls and pillars under the Coronado Bridge from southwest San Diego to the Coronado Bay. The walls are washed, and then treated with an acid and primer. When dry, charcoal sketches are made and then filled with acrylic paints.... They said their work reflects, 'our thinking, our background, the barrio, the struggle, la Raza (the Mexican people)'."<sup>22</sup>

It was the vision of individual artists such as Salvador "Queso" Torres, Victor Ochoa, Mario Torero Acevedo, Guillermo Aranda, Tomas "Coyote" Castaneda, Raul Jaquez, Yolanda Lopez, Guillermo Rosete, Salvador Barajas, Armando Nunez, Abran Quevedo, Jose Cervantes, Michael Schnorr; Felipe Barbosa, Mano Lina, Felipe Adame, Pablo de' la Rosa, Louie Manzano, Tony de Vargas, Socorro Gamboa, Charles "Cat" Felix, Jr., Dolores Serrano-Velez, and others that initiated the painting of

<sup>20</sup> San Diego Union-Tribune, April 24, 1970; San Diego Union, April 23, 1972

<sup>21</sup> Raul Jaquez, interview by Jim Fisher, March 1, 1996. Ron Buckley, *City of San Diego Historical Site Board Register, #143*, (San Diego: February 1, 1980)p2. Salvador Torres, interview by Jim Fisher, February 29, 1996; Jose Montoya, interview by Jim Fisher, March 10, 1996

<sup>22</sup> *San Diego Union-Tribune*, May 13, 1973; Ron Buckley, *City of San Diego Historical Site Board Register, #143*, (San Diego: February 1, 1980)p39



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murals on the huge, sterile columns that dominated the park site. They envisioned "a seemingly endless canvas, stretching to the waters of the bay four blocks away" an opportunity to transform and "personalize" the dreary concrete landscape. The artists would crystallize David Siqueiros' description of murals, that they must be "monumental and realistic." And the Chicano Park Monumental Murals would be bigger than life itself.

By the late 1970s nearly every major Chicano muralist in California and the Southwest, by invitation and inclination, had participated in the making of Chicano Park Monumental Murals. For example, internationally known painter from Stockton and San Francisco Rupert Garcia designed the tribute mural to Rivera, Orozco, Siqueiros and Kahlo. The internationally recognized Royal Chicano Air Force from Sacramento, led by Jose Montoya, Esteban Villa, Ricardo Favela, Juanishi Orosco, Irma Lerma Barbosa, and Celia Rodriguez, placed its grand contributions on the park's columns, as did the daring Charles "Cat" Felix, Jr. the driving force behind the acclaimed Estrada Courts murals in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles in 1973.

In 1977, the Kiosko, dance center (pavilion), was constructed. One of the most impressive structures in Chicano Park, it was designed by architect Alfredo Larin, with input from the Chicano Park Steering Committee, and brilliantly painted by the muralist Vidal Aguirre and Felipe Adame. True to the "team approach" of mural making, the Kiosko was completed only after ideas were solicited from the community. Such solicitation resulted in a design that is reminiscent of a pre-Columbian temple.<sup>23</sup> (see Section 8 below for a complete listing of the artists who have participated in the painting of the murals in Chicano Park.)

The interaction of the murals and community was clearly illustrated in 1977. Residents in Barrio Logan had long held intense grievances against the nearly 50 junkyards that had "invaded" the community as a result of rezoning policies of the city. The implications of so many junkyards and auto wrecking operations concentrated in a neighborhood seemed to translate into official neglect and lack of concern for the interests of Chicano residents. These feelings were captured on a Chicano Park bridge column that faces Logan Avenue. The column reads "*Varríos Sí! Yonkes No!*" *Varrío* is a variant of *barrio*, or neighborhood, and *Yonkes* refers to junkyards; Barnett wrote that it was only while the painters were at work that they realized that the caption on the column also sounded like "Yankees Go Home." The majority of all of the junkyards that filled the community with their constant clanging sound were owned by people who lived elsewhere. The mural depicted picketers standing in front of a cyclone fence that protects a secondhand auto-parts store, a utilities plant belching thick black smoke, dockyards and a Bank of America branch. In the background sky looms the ever-present San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge itself. Signs carried by the picketers read (in Spanish): "More Houses, Less Junkyards" and "Unity Is Power." The message was clear.

On still another level, the painters of the mural, Victor Ochoa and Raul Jaquez, recruited a number of

<sup>23</sup> Alan W. Barnett, *Community Murals: The People's Art* (Philadelphia: The Art Alliance Press:1984)p:293. Sacramento Bee, January 8, 1990; Los Angeles Times, June 4, 1989; Rupert Garcia, interview by Jim Fisher, March 23, 1996; Shifra Goldman, "How, Why, Where, and When It All Happened: Chicano Murals in California", *Signs From the Heart: California Chicano Murals* (Venice, California: Social and Public Art Resource Center, 1990).p 52 Philip Brookman and Guillermo Gomez-Peña, eds. *Made in Aztlan: Centro Cultural Raza Fifteenth Anniversary*. (San Diego: Tolteca Publications, 1986)p18. Siqueiros 1975:18, see especially Siqueiros' "How To Paint a Mural" (1951), pp. 102-137; "Pilots of Aztlan," video: 1 994;

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young men who hung around the park to assist in the mural painting project. Ochoa had been working with these young guys and was successful in organizing them into a collective called the Barrio Renovation Team, whose goal was to repair and repaint houses of the community's elderly and impoverished residents. With city funding, the team increased its numbers and continued its work in Barrio Logan and other poor sections in San Diego.<sup>24</sup>

The murals in Chicano Park were painted collectively through the efforts of volunteers, artists as well as non-artists, and executed over an extended period of time and in multiple phases. The first phase of mural making, 1973-1974, involved two Chicano art collectives, Los Toltecas en Aztlan and El Congreso de Artistas Chicanos en Aztlan and the work emphasized pre-Columbian motifs and the "dominance of Chicano nationalism and spontaneity in the imagery portrayed." For example, the first phase murals include "Quetzalcoat!" (1973), "Historical Mural" (1973), and "Children's Mural" (1974). Cockcroft notes that essentially this first phase represented the "possessing (of) the park, marking it with the place or logo, of the community."<sup>25</sup>

The second phase in 1974-1975 included invited artists from communities throughout California, most notably Los Angeles and Sacramento. An infusion of new ideas resulted from this period. These second phase murals include: "Chicano Park Logo" (1974), "Rage of La Raza" (1974), "Cosmic Clowns" (1974), "Tree of Life" (1974), "Allende Mural" (1974), "Quetzalcoat!" (1974), "Birth of La Raza" (1974), "Chuco/Homeboy" (1974), "Colossus" (1974), "Farmworker Family" (1975), "Mandala" (1975), "La Mujer Cosmica" (1975), "Female Inteligencia" (1975).

The third mural phase, 1977 through the mid 1980s, celebrated resurgence in community pride by, for example, questioning the inordinate number of junkyards in the barrio and their visual and audio impacts on the quality of life. Marked by a 20-day Mural Marathon organized by Victor Ochoa in 1978, this third phase utilized the skills of some non-Chicanos and placed emphasis on educational and historical themes. Ron Buckley, of the San Diego Historical Site Board, described this phase of the park murals as "art forms that represent the past history and culture of the Mexican-American community of the Barrio..." Examples of the third phase murals include: "Varrío Si, Yonkes No!" (1977), "Preserve Our Heritage" (1977), "Varrío Logan" (1977), "Founding of Mexico" (1978), "Coatlícue" (1978), "Virgin of Guadalupe" (1978), "Tres Grandes y Frida" (1978), "Huelga Eagle" (1978) "Che" (1978), "Chicano Pinto Union Mural" (1978), "Death of a Farmworker" (1979), "Aztec Archer" (1981), "Revolution Mexicana" (1981), "Jose Gomez" (1986), "Aguila en Aztlan" (1986) "Mother Earth" (1988), "Corazon de Aztlan" (1988), "Los Toltecas" (1988), and the development of the sculpture garden in 1988.

The fourth phase, the 1990-to the present, continues to document history through visual iconography, with murals such as "Danzante" (1992), "Decades of Chicano Movement" (1992), "Mi Raza Primero" 1993, "No Retrofitting" (1995), "Marcha" (1996), "Porque Nosotros" (1996), "We Saved The Murals" (1997), Tribute Mural for Laura Rodriguez and Florencio Yescas, and "Liberacion" (1997). And though

<sup>24</sup>Alan W. Barnett, *Community Murals: The People's Art* (Philadelphia: The Art Alliance Press:1984)p293. Los Angeles Times, August 2, 1989.

<sup>25</sup>Young *San Diego Union-Tribune*, (January 13, 1996; Ferree 1994:39-40; Cockcroft 1984: 85-86; Salvador Torres, interviewed by Dr. Jim Fisher, February 29, 2006. Raul Homero Villa, *Barrio Logos: Space and Place in Urban Chicano Literature and Culture* ((Austin, Tx.: University of Texas Press: 2000), pp. 172-184.

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these murals continue the tradition of the other murals in Chicano Park they were painted after the period of significance, so they are not considered contributors for purposes of this nomination.

Unlike the creation of the majority of the murals in the 1970s, those done between 1989 and the first decade of the twenty-first century were accomplished under a set criterion of need, ability, subject matter and the availability of funding. By early 1984, a group of artists led by Salvador Torres, Gloria Torres and Mario Torero and members of the Chicano Park Arts Committee began the work of touching up the murals. Due to the fact that mural life is about 10 years, maintenance is important. In 1991, the California Department of Transportation trained numerous artists in repair techniques. Torres expressed a desire to use natural clay unearthed in the park to make tiles that, along with sculpture, would enhance the beauty of the park.<sup>26</sup>

The development of Chicano Park and its murals is an ongoing process ("a work in progress," in the words of Salvador Torres). Moreover, the murals serve as a reminder to people in the community that they can change their environment. Victor Ochoa emphasized that "The community needs the murals to speak up on certain issues."<sup>27</sup> Larry Baza, former Executive Director of Centro Cultural de La Raza in Balboa Park, suggested that "murals are illustrated sentiments" designed to overcome the limitations of physical conditions and non-literacy. Since 1973, the murals have become the icons they depict. Their maintenance involves the city, the people of the barrio and especially the artists who are continuing their work on the pillars of the bridge. The murals that adorn the columns of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge have received widespread recognition by scholars and city officials and have become a tourist stopping point in San Diego.

In 2002, the California Department of Transportation sought and obtained Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-240; ISTEA, pronounced Ice-Tea) funding to restore identified historic murals in Chicano Park. It took close to nine years to release the contract. The project was completed August 2012 with 18 of the 73 murals restored.

**The San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge**

The San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge, completed in 1969 was the first structure to cross the bay. The bridge has been recognized as one of San Diego's symbols of dynamic growth by its impressive mid-bay 90 degree curve. In 1970, The American Institute of Steel Construction acknowledged the bridge with the "Most Beautiful Bridge Merit Award" for its sleek 23 distinctive towers and graceful curves. Its orthotropic design feature saves steel and gives the structure its exterior appearance of smoothness. The orthotropic design feature, developed in Europe, was first applied on a major scale in the United States by the award-winning San Mateo-Hayward Bridge and is characterized by the placement of the bridge stiffeners and braces within the box-like girders. The bridge is less than 50 years old and despite its distinctions it does not appear to be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as it does not meet the necessary criteria of exceptional significance. Other than its separate approach bridges, the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge is outside the boundary of the nominated property.

<sup>26</sup> *San Diego Tribune*, March 28, 1984; Salvador Torres and Gloria Torres, interviewed by Dr. Jim Fisher February 29, 1996

<sup>27</sup> *San Diego Tribune* August 29, 1991.

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**Brief Biographies of the Muralists of Chicano Park**

**Salvador Roberto "Queso" Torres**, born in 1936, has dedicated his life to the creation of incredible mural art, the transformation of Chicano Park, and Barrio Logan. Torres describes his work as Chicano art that is "based upon the creative Chicano lifestyle, whose Mexican and American interrelationships and cultural influences form its ideologies and themes." Torres, a lifelong artist, muralist, arts administrator and arts educator in California, is best known as the "architect of the dream" for his crucial role in the creation of San Diego's Chicano Park, the largest collection of Chicano murals in the world, and for being a founder of the Centro Cultural de la Raza, also in San Diego. He became its first director, and later helped form *Las Toltecas en Aztlán*, a Chicano artist collective.

He has been described as "the most important Mexican American artist and Chicano Activist of his generation" by Jorge Mariscal, Prof. of Literature at UCSD. Torres 's track record includes picketing and marching for farm worker's rights, teaching art and mural art to children, and of being the creator of one of the most recognized symbols of Chicano/Chicana Civil Rights Movement-the "Viva La Raza" series with the image of a red phoenix rising.

Torres attended San Diego City College where he earned a statewide art scholarship to the California College of Arts & Crafts in Oakland, California. In 1964 Torres earned the B.A. Ed. in art from the California College of Arts and Crafts. In 1973 he earned the M.A. in painting and drawing from San Diego State University.

Torres has constructed 6 major murals in San Diego, including "The Kelco Historical Community Mural", that is located in San Diego's Barrio Logan, the mural is an evocative historical account of the contributions of the people of Logan Heights and provides a glimpse of the future of the children of that community. In 2000, Torres was commissioned to design and create murals on simulated pillars for an NBC television pilot "Fortunate son" (Stu Segall Productions, San Diego) and also was commissioned by the La Jolla Playhouse to create backdrops for the production "The Birth of Corn" based on a Mayan legend.

**Guillermo "Yermo" Aranda** originally from San Diego, California currently resides in the Salinas Valley. Yermo comes from a family of musicians, painters and craftsman. He studied art at San Diego City College (1967), San Diego State (1968) and Cabrillo Community college (1986-89). He is a co-founders of *Toltecas en Aztlan* (1969), *El Centro Cultural de La Raza* (1970), and one of the initiators of the Chicano Park Murals (1971).

Yermo became a muralist in 1969, and murals continue to be his main focus today, although, he states that he has developed a refinement of his skills through a practice of multiple mediums, such as intaglio print making, lithography, monotypes, pastels, acrylic on canvas, watercolor, silversmithing, pottery and sculpture. His work defined as contemporary traditional art, reflects an imagery of indigenous ancestry in the modern world with the timelessness of natural forms, juxtaposed against contemporary images, bold, vibrant and alive. His images reflect old myths and legends, making full circle to the present.

Yermo is a gifted and prolific artist, well known and celebrated in his community for his enormous contributions in mural painting.

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**Mario "Torero" Acevedo**, born in 1947, Lima Peru. The internationally known artists learned to paint and draw from his Father Guillermo Acevedo who was an accomplished artist living and working in Peru. When Mario was twelve, his family immigrated to the United States in search of art, freedom and opportunity. From the very beginning, art and the artist's life permeated through Mario's upbringing. Mario has been intimately involved with the Chicano Civil Rights movement and in the 70's, with the protests, activism, and ensuing creation of the famous Chicano Park; he found his true calling as an "Artist." Mario's murals in Chicano Park are among many known worldwide and are a major attraction of the area. By 1977 his gallery that he opened with his father became the first multicultural art center, known as the Community Arts Building. On its 4th floor, in 1978 Mario painted a 15X50ft iconic mural of the Eye's of Picasso which immediately became a point of reference for many, and the icon of San Diego artists, establishing the Downtown's Art District. Mario was a member of the founding board of the San Diego Commission of Arts and Culture, in which he served from 1988 to 1993. For ten years Mario's sculptures of "*Los Voladores*" welcomed every visitor to the San Diego Airport.

Known as El Maestro, Mario believes in teaching youth about art and how art can create community. Mario spends countless hours with no monetary compensation with his "Kosmic School of Art" teaching young and old how to paint and what great gifts painting can bring. He gives college students tours of Chicano Park and has an ongoing exchange with the students of Bowling Green University in Ohio. He has made several pilgrimages back to Peru and has traveled to Paris, Japan, Prague, Barcelona and now China to share his art and vision. His 2011 he created a glass mosaic mural project on the UCSD campus. Working with artisans in China has also opened a new cultural exchange for Mario. There is no slowing down this "artist" with so much talent and compassion. The last project he was involved in was the restoration of the beloved Murals in Chicano Park that he helped to create throughout the last forty year.

**Victor Ochoa**, born 1948 in Los Angeles is an internationally recognized Chicano painter/muralist and one of the pioneers of San Diego's Chicano art movement. He is a multi-dimensional artist, muralist, art educator and an arts administrator. He is a co-founder of the *Centro Cultural de la Raza* in Balboa Park, a multidisciplinary community based arts center devoted to producing and preserving Indian, Mexican and Chicano art and culture. He served as its director from 1970-1973. Ochoa was co-initiator of the Chicano Park Monumental Murals, an internationally acclaimed public art project. He was also co-founder of the Border Art Workshop/*Taller de Arte Fronterizo* arts collective 1984-1993. Ochoa lives and works on both sides of the San Diego/Tijuana border.  
<http://cemaweb.library.ucsb.edu/ochoa.html>

**Esteban Villa**, born 1930, in Tulare, California is an internationally recognized artist, muralist, musician, and an arts educator. He is a Professor Emeritus at California State University, Sacramento. He began his teaching career in 1962 at the high school level and includes assignments at Washington State University, D.Q.U., Davis, and numerous lecture and slide presentations, art exhibits and mural projects at Universities in California and surrounding states. He has served as an art consultant to schools and organizations including Centro de Artistas Chicanos, and has done art programs in the Prison System. He is a founding member of the Royal Chicano Air Force (RCAF), a collective of artists, professors and students, which was formed amid the Chicano movements push for social and political rights. He has an extensive exhibition record and the Sacramento Bee spoke of him as "an extraordinary man: a mural artist, musician, teacher and community leader who is known for his barrio art, which played a role in the Chicano movement of the late 1960's and 70's..." In addition, Villa was involved in the

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production of the Channel 6 (PBS) documentary "Pilots of Aztlan", a film about the RCAF. He presently continues to paint and draw daily. He continues to exhibit his work several times each year throughout California.

**Guillermo Rosette** is an artist and visionary of the Tolteca Anahuaca Tradition. As a historian and an art teacher his work on community art projects in San Diego and Los Angeles contributed towards the Chicano Indigenous traditions in Chicano Park, Los Angeles, Taos, and Santa Fe, New Mexico. He studied in Mexico City at the National School of Art, San Diego City College, San Diego State University Summer Mural Art at the Centro Cultural de la Raza, Balboa Park, San Diego, American Indian Arts Institute, Santa Fe, and Ogalala Lakota College, Kile South Dakota.

As a Tolteca artist he has completed many murals throughout the San Diego area, as well as in Los Angeles, Plaza de la Raza in Lincoln Park, Los Angeles. He has also created a commemorative mural at the Guadalupe Posadas, Residence in Mexico City in 1979.

In addition to being a visual artist he is a Sun Dancer and a Traditional Azteca-Tolteca-*Chichimeca* dancer and musician. He has been actively painting for a living for the past twenty years. Painting is his life project with inspirations from the world of the mysticism and spiritual interconnectedness.

**Juanishi Orosco** is a founding member of the international recognized artist cultural collective known as the Royal Chicano Air Force (aka Rebel Chicano Art Front, or RCAF). Orosco is known for his vivid murals depicting his Mexican, Chicano and Indigenous cultural roots. Orosco is also an arts educator providing outreach and training to hundreds of young artists throughout Northern California. He is a Chicano artist and activist living in Sacramento, California. Orosco's murals dominate the Sacramento regional area.

**José Montoya**, born 1932 in New Mexico, is an internationally known painter, muralist, poet, musician and activist. He is Professor Emeritus at California State University, Sacramento. In 2007, Montoya was named poet laureate of the city of Sacramento.

In the early 1960s, Montoya began working for the movement to unionize local farm workers. He also realized that his art could be a vehicle for social change. With Esteban Villa, Malaquías Montoya, Manuel Hernandez, and others, he formed the Mexican American Liberation Art Front (MALAF) in the San Francisco Bay Area. At Sacramento State University, where Montoya was teaching after having earned an M.F.A. in 1971, he helped Esteban Villa and a group of students create the Rebel Chicano Art Front (RCAF). "The idea was to use art as an organizing tool for the movement the group's motto, *La locura lo cura* meaning "Craziness is its own cure". The concept showed its emphasis on humor and activism. Soon people began to notice that the group's acronym was identical to that of the Royal Canadian Air Force. The group then renamed itself the Royal Chicano Air Force or the RCAF. The group became internationally known as a California arts collective renowned for its political murals and community projects. They were the first performance artists group prior to the genre being established, they enjoyed a military image. They dressed as World War II bomber pilots and drove around in an old army jeep that a fan had donated. Yet art remained at the center of the collective's work. The RCAF engaged in activist art, creating posters for migrant workers, the United Farmworkers Union, cannery workers, and other community groups. The RCAF also founded the "Arts in the Barrio" program, which offered community art classes to Chicano students and senior citizens in Sacramento.

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One of the most impressive achievements of the RCAF was its involvement with the Chicano Park Monumental Murals project at Barrio Logan in San Diego. Among Montoya's artistic influences were Mexican engraver José Guadalupe Posado, whose work combined the political and the surreal. Muralists Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, and David Alfara Siqueiros were also major influences. In 1973 Montoya's work was included in one of the first national exhibitions of Chicano art at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. Among his most notable works is his *Pachuco Series* of 1977, which depict the Chicano street gangs of his youth. Montoya's paintings, drawings, and prints have been exhibited across the United States and in Cuba, Mexico, and Paris. In 1977 he was named to the National Task Force on Hispanic Arts.

**Felipe Adame**, Chicano/Yaqui, is an artist, a master muralist, and community cultural worker. He has painted murals in San Diego, El Paso, Tx., Los Angeles etc... He states that he was heavily influenced by Mexican artists. All the images painted in Chicano Park are deeply romantic illustrations of Aztec history and reflect the influence of Mexican artist Jesús Helguera Felipe states, "I have been studying Helguera for thirty years." He further discusses his work in terms of his spirituality and activism. "We were reactivating, giving life to the culture," he explains. He believes in giving back and has a history of working with students; he included many students while working on Chicano Park murals more than 40 years ago and has continued the tradition in the current renovation of Chicano Park murals. He is one of the first counselors to set up a drug detoxification program in Logan Heights, he states that he was concerned with the power of culture to transform a "*cholo*" (youth) into an "*Azteca Warrior*" conducting healing and spiritual cleansing."

The late **Charles "Gato" Felix** was a master artist, Chicano activist and the architect of the historic Estrada Courts housing project murals in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles. His work still lives today through his murals in Estrada Court and in Chicano Park in San Diego, California.

**Norma Montoya** recalls when her late artist husband, Charles "Gato" Felix enlisted local youth to paint Los Angeles's Estrada Courts murals (1973-1979) and recruited her to work with the girls. "The girls," Norma makes clear "wondered why the painting was a guy thing, they felt just as able." When she met artists from Chicano Park in an artistic exchange, she noted similarities. Both groups were willing to paint for free and to use art to tackle the "horrible conditions" in both communities. "There was so much talent," she remembers, "and no programs for kids in East LA."

Not surprisingly, the mural in Chicano Park, *Los Niños del Mundo* (1975) symbolizes the "future of the new generation." Giant mushrooms, metaphors for imagination, spring from the ground level while arrows carry their energy up through children holding books and palettes, finally reaching the feathered serpent of learning, beauty and knowledge, Quetzalcoatl, whose two heads represent the imagination and reason of the right and left brains.

Norma has been painting murals for close to 40 years and continues to be a force to be reckoned with.

The late **Michael Schnorr** used the watercolor drawings that he transformed into the *Undocumented Worker* mural in 1979 to guide his repainting. He made them after watching an Afghan immigrant in Italy cleaning windshields of cars stopped in traffic, a ritual he had seen often at the San Diego/Tijuana border. He realized that global migration had made for "a small world" and he was determined to "paint a mural dedicated to immigrant laborers everywhere."

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Michael taught art at Southwest College in Chula Vista, California for over 39 years. Michael co-founded the Border Art Workshop/Taller de Arte Fronterizo (BAW/TAF) in 1984, a border region art collaborative whose works have been exhibited at venues including San Diego's Centro Cultural de la Raza, and Museum of Contemporary Art, San Francisco's Galeria de la Raza, New York's Artists Space, and internationally at Venice's Biennale, and Sydney's Biennial. Michael's and BAW/TAF's efforts continued into the 21st Century working with Tijuana's Maclovio Rojas neighborhood members to build a community center offering art classes and tutoring, develop the community cemetery, and host art project residencies for local and international artists. Michael also participated in the Cross Project's art installations memorializing thousands of border crossers whose deaths have resulted from the federal government's Operation Gatekeeper. He believed, "Barriers, walls and fences must be moved, must be broken down; between countries, between people, between neighborhoods."

**Yolanda Lopez**, born 1942 in San Diego, Ca. she graduated from San Diego State University in 1975 with a B.A. in painting and drawing and a M.F.A in 1979 from University of California, San Diego (UCSD.) She is known as a great American muralist, painter, educator, film producer, and printmaker. Her work mainly focuses on the experience of Mexican American women and challenges the ethnic stereotypes that are often associated with them. Lopez is best recognized for her Virgin of Guadalupe series, which illustrates the Virgin of Guadalupe in both personal and political terms. Her series attracted admiration from many due to the fact of her "sanctifying" the average Mexican women, although, there were other critics (mainly religious individuals) that objected to the series due to the re-creation of the iconic Virgin of Guadalupe.

Another famous work of Lopez titled *Who's the Illegal Alien, Pilgrim?* which highlights an angry man in Aztec attire holding a crumpled up paper titled "Immigration Plans." This political poster was made in 1978 in a period of debate in the United States that resulted in the passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act Amendments of 1978. With this particular poster Lopez illustrated that the modern descendants of the Aztecs and their neighbors have the right to immigrate as they please to the United States and Canada because Spain had conquered the majority of the western portion of North America as its territory.

Lopez has also produced two films: *Images of Mexicans in the Media* and *When you Think of Mexico*, that challenge how the media portrayed Mexican and other Latin Americans. She has also curated exhibitions that have toured nationwide featuring works concerning immigration in the U.S. She has also taught art in universities and studios ranging from USCD and UC Berkeley.

**Irma Barbosa**, Chicana/Yaqui has been exhibiting her work for over 40 years. She was a member of the internationally known Royal Chicano Air Force (RCAF) and is a Co-Founder of *Las Comadres*, an women artist collective. Her work stems from stories that are the spirit threads passed on from generation to generation. They are the means of learning. The stories passed on by our elders were meant to guide and develop morals and values. My art takes you on a pilgrimage to mythical places and tells you stories of innocence, beauty, and pure passion. The universality of the earth Mother theme is utilized within much of her work to communicate that every individual is responsible for his words as he affects the earth and all people ... that each person is a walking story... and that we are all connected.

**Celia Herrera Rodriguez**, (Xicana/O'dami) is a two-spirit visual and performing artist and educator whose work reflects a full generation dialogue with Xicana/o, Indigenous Mexican and North American



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Native thought, spirituality, and politics. She teaches in the Chicano Studies program at the University of California, Berkeley, and is an Adjunct Professor in the Diversity Studies program at California College for the Arts of the San Francisco Bay Area. She holds an MFA in painting from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. Herrera's work has been exhibited internationally.

Celelia has also collaborated as the conceptual, scenic and costume designer for Cherrie Moraga's theater works including: *The Hungry Woman* (2005), *Digging Up the Dirt* (2010), and *La Semilla Caminante/The traveling Seed* (2010). In 2011, her drawings—a series of contemporary Xicana codices—appear in Moraga's new collection of writings: *A Xicana Codex of Changing Consciousness* (Duke University Press.)

The late **Gilbert "Magu" Lujan** was a sculptor, muralist and painter, 'Magu' was a founding member of 'Los Four', a Chicano art collective in Los Angeles, along with Carlos Almaraz, Beto de la Rocha, and Frank Romero. He was born in French Camp, California, and his parents were Mexican and Native American. As a toddler, he lived in migrant worker camp before his family moved to Los Angeles around the start of World War II, and it was there he spent his childhood and adolescence. Magu's work is nationally and internationally known and can be found in major collections around the United States including the Smithsonian.

**Jari "Werc" Alvarez** was born in Ciudad Juarez, Ch. MX., and grew up in El Paso TX. His work addresses topics pertaining to border culture, issues of labor, commercial logos, symbols, duality, and politics of identity, architecture, street vendors, urbanization, and the nostalgic humor of immigrant cultures. Werc explores what it means to be a consumer and how advertising affects us in our everyday lives.

Werc's murals can be seen around southern California, and throughout the United States and Mexico. His studio-based works have been exhibited in numerous galleries, the Snite Museum, Museum of Monterrey, and are part of the Cheech Marin Art Collection. Werc has been published in *Mural Art*, *Artillery Magazine*, and *Graffiti Planet*, among others. He states, "I paint, collage, install, sculpt and use video to translate my concepts into experiences. In my paintings, I use the language of globalization and create responses made with the cardboard logos of multinational import/export commodities used today. In the silkscreen works on paper, the art exists installed in public spaces as interventions of the conditionings we have in a culture of marketing, where we are constantly being sold something. The pieces just give without asking for a return and become challenges for the viewer's set beliefs."

**Jose De Jesus Cervantes** studied at one of the world's most prestigious art institutes, Chouinard (now CalArts) in Los Angeles. There he polished his thinking skills and perfected his own individual abstract style. His large canvas designs rendered sparkling edges of diamond segments, full of rich colors. The shapes in Cervantes's paintings truly revealed his evolved gift in abstract art.

During the 1970's he was intimately involved with the Mechicano Art Center in East Los Angeles where he became recognized as the Artists in Residence assisting any and all who needed any type of artistic assistance. He was committed to keeping the Chicano Art movement alive and in the awareness of everyone.

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He eventually became involved with *El Centro Cultural de La Raza* in Balboa Park, San Diego and worked on mural projects with many of the other Chicano artists at the "Centro." to work on mural projects. He recalls his painting of murals in Chicano Park, "from my brush strokes emerged steps climbing up to the top of a pyramid where the sun stood still while we revolved around it." This mural was known as The First Wall of Attack. Cervantes continues his professional artistic career by exhibition and collaborating with other artists.

**Isaias Crow** draws inspiration from people and their surrounding environment. This can include a variety of sources from textures of old buildings with weathered down walls to mountains and other shapes and colors surrounding daily life. The artist sees details in life's surroundings which people normally overlook, such as the "beauty in the layers within a puddle of water on a concrete or dirt floor" or "shadows and light reflecting off a window at the corner store."

Crow, also known as Crol, branched off from traditional illustration to graffiti at thirteen years old. He was inspired by heavy metal music and his cousin from Los Angeles who introduced him to the city's emerging graffiti scene. After years of painting on the streets in New Mexico, Crow obtained a B.A. in Media arts and Animation from the Art Institute in San Diego in 2009. He attended college while simultaneously creating a strong portfolio of public art, fine art, and digital paintings.

Isaias Crow specializes in public art on a wide range of scales, whether creating an experimental community mural or directing a team of artists to produce a multifaceted mural with diverse housing complexes. Crow's portfolio includes projects that require close collaborations with architects and designers. His knowledge in home construction and academic education in media arts and animation gives Crow a seamless understanding of what collaborators and clients require from him.

In 2008, he bridged some of his closest associates to create The Prism Process, an organization that exists to provide programs and services in the public realm, through the arts, culture and civic engagement. Crow continues to conduct extensive multidisciplinary workshops, presentations and collaborations at schools, art centers and organizations such as the MACC Charter School, San Diego Art Academy, Memorial Academy, The San Diego Art Institute, El Centro Cultural de la Raza, The El Cajon Boulevard BIA, Los Niños, San Diego Space 4 Art, Fuerza Mundo, Rebuilding Together San Diego, Crewest Gallery etc...

**Mario A. Chacon** recognizes art as a powerful healing force. He is an artist of deep spiritual and cultural orientation. His Native American Ceremonial life provides the underpinnings for much of his work, and the rich milieu of events that comprised the Chicano Movement of the late sixties and seventies factor prominently in his artistic development. Nearly 40 years later his evolution as an artist has led him to explore many relevant themes all the while maintaining a solid foundation rooted deeply in his earlier experiences.

Born in the East Los Angeles Barrio of Boyle Heights with roots in El Paso, Texas and the Sierra Tarahumara of Chihuahua, Chacon view the world through the ironic prism of a barrio street urchin, professional educator, and indigenous spiritual seeker. Chacon strives to weave a balance of street wisdom, Native American spirituality, and a healthy sense of humor into his artistic endeavors.

Chacon's acclaimed work has toured throughout California and the Southwest and has been published as book covers, musical CD jacket artwork, Theatre program art, and a variety of art and academic

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publications.

Chacon completed his undergraduate work in History at UCLA, and CSULA, and in 1982 received a Master's of Science Degree in Education from San Diego State University. Prior to his retirement from higher education administration, Chacon served as Community College Dean of Student Affairs.

**Rupert Garcia**, born in French Camp, California, studied painting and received numerous student honors from Stockton Junior College and San Francisco State University, where he was influenced by photorealism. One of the leading artists in the Chicano movement in the Bay area of the late-1960s and early 1970s, Garcia participated in the formation of several seminal West Coast civil rights movement-oriented workshops and collectives, including Galería de la Raza and the San Francisco Poster Workshop, which had been forced off the San Francisco State University campus during the Vietnam War.

After graduating from SFSU, Garcia produced a signature work, a portrait of Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara above the slogan "Right On!" Garcia has received numerous awards and honors, including an individual artist fellowship grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, President's Scholar Award from San Jose State University, where he has taught in the School of Art and Design since 1988, and College Art Association's Distinguished Award for Lifetime Achievement. In 1995, he received the National Hispanic Academy of Media Arts and Sciences' Lifetime Achievement Award in Art.

The bulk of Garcia's work is housed in the National Archives of American Art at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. In 1983, Garcia wrote the first major study of Mexican painter Frida Kahlo entitled *Frida Kahlo: A Bibliography and Biographical Introduction*.

**Salvador Barajas** was born in Nio, Sinaloa, Mexico. He spent his youth in Tijuana and at the age of 18 he and his family moved to San Diego. Subsequently, he joined the U.S. Air Force where he worked as a technical illustrator; after successfully completing his military service, Sal graduated from Los Angeles Trade-Technical College as an advertising designer. His art training was enhanced by attending The Academy of Arts in San Francisco and San Diego State University.

For the following 30 years, Sal worked as a designer/art director for several design studios, in-house art departments, and advertising agencies in Los Angeles and San Diego. Sal has shared his skills with his San Diego community by contributing artwork or mural painting for the Centro Cultural De La Raza, Chicano Park Steering Committee, Chicano Park, Jacobs Foundation, S.D. County Office of Education, Urban Corps of San Diego County and other community institutions.

Sal has owned Motivational Designs since 1996, a business that produces illustrated messages that assist teachers with promoting education and give students an appreciation of their heritage.

**Susan Yamagata**

Born in National City, CA (1958) and raised in Chula Vista, CA Yamagata attended Southwestern Community College (1976-78) and continued on to receive a BA in Applied Arts and Sciences, printmaking at San Diego State University (1982). Her MFA in printmaking is from the University of California, Santa Barbara (1984).

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Much of her past work has been collaborative in nature including murals in Chicano Park and Los Angeles beginning in 1978. And, community-based projects about "the border", racism, prejudice and self-identity as a member of the Border Art Workshop (1990 -95). From 2003 - 2012 she designed art pieces used as media tools for a coalition of migrant rights groups on both sides of the border.

**Antonia Perez** was born in New York City, 1951, and is currently living and working in New York City. She earned a Master of Fine Arts from the City University of New York, Queens College. She resided in San Diego from 1973-1977, was one of the muralists that painted the exterior murals of the Centro Cultural de La Raza, organized and secured funding and materials for the original painting of the mural "Women Hold up Half the Sky" by Chicana artists from Sacramento, Ca in 1975 in Chicano Park. She primed the walls for painting of that mural with Salvador R. Torres and Sal Barajas. She also painted some of the figures at the top of the mural according to the design by the visiting artists.

**Barbara Desmangles-Simpson** currently resides in Gold River, California. Barbara is a retired educator of the Twin Rivers Unified School District and a celebrated California State Teacher of the year and California (C.S.U.S.) Fullbright Scholar. She is the loving mother of two daughters, Cynne and Chaqira. She attended Highlands High School with Irma Lerma Barbosa as they are both members of the Class of 1967. Barbara was elected as the first Black Student Body President at Highlands High. Barbara subsequently attended Oregon State University where she became involved with the Black Power Movement. In 1970, Barbara assisted in the painting of Women Hold Up Half the Sky (RCAF Women's Mural) in Chicano Park.

**Glory Galindo Sanchez** is a multi-disciplinary artist specializing in traditional folkloric dances of Mexico. She was a member of the Centro Cultural de la Raza and has been participating in the annual celebrations of Chicano Park since its inception. As a visual artist she is self taught and has contributed to many of the murals as an assistant artist. She worked with Norma Montoya on the restoration of many of "Gato Felix" work, as well as the RCAF Women's Mural "Women Hold Up Half The Sky.

**Eddie Galindo** is a self taught artist and has contributed to the development of many of the murals in Chicano Park. His name is credited many times over. He is a resident of the community and takes pride in Chicano Park and has contributed his talent towards enhancing all aspects of Chicano Park and the Monumental Chicano Park Murals.

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**Brief History of Logan Heights/Barrio Logan/Chicano Park**

Logan Heights is located in southwest San Diego approximately 17 miles from the United States-Mexico border, Logan Heights is bounded by Interstate 5, Highway 94, 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Imperial Avenue. Barrio Logan is a small southwest geographical area of Logan Heights that was severed by the intrusion of Interstate 5 and the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge.

Logan Heights, once a predominantly upper middle class community known as the East End, it was annexed to San Diego in the late 1880s and its name was changed to Logan Heights in 1905. It was the first development site outside of *Old Town* and became the *New Town settlement*, primarily a residential area.<sup>28</sup> It is one of San Diego's oldest communities and the location of one of the longest established Mexican-American ("Chicano" hereafter) communities in San Diego.<sup>29</sup>

Major streets in Logan Heights and Barrio Logan in particular, bear the names of Civil War generals, with cross streets named after Spanish-American War admirals. Diversity of architectural designs is plentiful, with a mix of single- and multiple-family dwellings. In the 1890s, increasingly large numbers of Mexican families settled in the western section of the area, first known as *el ombligo* ("the navel") but soon to be known among local residents as *el Barrio de la Logan*, and later as Barrio Logan.

Around the turn the century, San Diego became a center of commerce, government and industry; many houses were built in the area. As commerce and industry developed along the bay, Barrio Logan's growth continued to increase. With the introduction of the automobile the prominent Anglo residents began an outmigration to other new settlements. It was now becoming an area that provided low cost housing for workers in the fish canneries, lumber, shipbuilding and railroad industries of the area. Barrio Logan quickly took on a separate community flair with a distinctive identity that came to represent a major center for Chicano culture and social activities. Barrio Logan experienced steady population increases from 1910 through the 1920s as a result of revolution and turmoil in Mexico. Revolutionary conditions in Mexico caused over 500,000 people to leave the country for North America and San Diego's Barrio Logan, essentially a border community, was a welcomed destination for many.<sup>30</sup>

Businesses flourished in the self-contained waterfront community. A popular beach was once located at the site of the Coronado Bridge bay front. In the 1930s, a community pier was built at the end of 28<sup>th</sup> Street as a WPA project. Prior to World War II, the beach and pier served as an important social center for local residents. The Great Depression made employment scarce and San Diego officials adopted policies that emphasized the deportation of Mexicans to Mexico and forced many families, including American citizens, to leave Barrio Logan. Nevertheless, by 1940, at least 15% of the

<sup>28</sup>Frank Norris, "Logan Heights: Growth and Change in the Old 'East End'." *Journal of San Diego History* 26 (Winter 1983): 32.

<sup>29</sup> Explanatory Note: (1) The term "Chicano" refers to people of Mexican ancestry who live in the United States and is the preferred nomenclature among many members of the contemporary generation of Mexican Americans. The term "la Raza" means "the people."

<sup>30</sup>Julian Samora, ed. *La Raza: Forgotten Americans* (Notre Dame: Notre Dame Press, 1966) xii. Joe Pitti, Antonia Castañeda and Carlos Cortes, "A History of Mexican-Americans in California," in Office of Historic Preservation, *Five Views: An Ethnic Sites Survey for California* (Sacramento: Department of Parks and Recreation, 1988); Marilyn Mulford and Mario Barrera, *Chicano Park* (Berkeley: Redbird Films, 1988); Ron Buckley, *City of San Diego Historical Site Board Register*, @143, February 1, 1980.

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population of San Diego's Chicano community resided in Barrio Logan.<sup>31</sup>

Barrio Logan population grew steadily in the 1940s due in part to military activities associated with World War II. The United States Navy built numerous facilities on the waterfront and other defense industries followed the Navy's lead diminishing resident access to the bay. However, the economic benefit was an obvious tradeoff. World War II created a labor shortage. The *Bracero Program*<sup>32</sup> was established in 1942 for the importation of temporary contract laborers from Mexico to the United States. Shipbuilding jobs as well as defense-industry employment in general attracted laborers, many of whom were from Mexico. In many cases, these workers had gained industrial skills working on the railroads and in industries in Northern Mexico and they were eagerly sought out by employment agencies in the San Diego area.

At this point, given its proximity to the naval and water front industries, Barrio Logan's population boomed. Its Chicano population of 20,000 was the second highest on the west coast, second only to Los Angeles. Although experiencing a housing shortage, Barrio Logan was a self-contained enclave with its neighborhood markets, bakeries, bars, restaurants, churches and social/entertainment centers. Older barrio residents remember these days as "the good times."<sup>33</sup>

When the war ended, much of the area's employment ended as well. Later, in the 1950s, the city of San Diego changed its zoning laws. Property in Barrio Logan was changed from strictly residential to mixed use, allowing influx into the community of auto junk yards and wrecking operations and other light industrial plants. The cumulative effect of these land use policies resulted in the dislocation of families, business closures and the construction of transportation facilities that required more and more land in the area. Barrio Logan's population decreased precipitously, and by 1979, it stood at about 5,000.<sup>34</sup>

The construction of Interstate 5 in the 1960s severed Barrio Logan from the larger community of Logan Heights. Then the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge, constructed between 1967 and 1969 and sited in an east-west direction to link with Interstate 5, further bisected the barrio, essentially "completing the devastation," according to long-time community activist Al Ducheny. Adding more testimony, Congressman Bob Filner, former City Councilman, whose district included Barrio Logan, said: "Both the construction of the bridge and the ongoing operations have had a really negative impact on the community of Barrio Logan, and there ought to be some recognition of that impact."<sup>35</sup>

<sup>31</sup>Leroy E. Harris, *The Other Side of the Freeway: A Study of Settlement Patterns of Negroes and Mexican-Americans in San Diego, California* (Doctor of Arts dissertation, Carnegie-Mellon University, 1974)

<sup>32</sup>The *Bracero Program* constituted a series of laws and diplomatic agreements between Mexico and the United States to provide laborers to the US. Although scheduled to end in 1947, the program continued to allow laborers to work in the agricultural industry and formally ended in 1964.

<sup>33</sup>Pamela Jane Ferree, "The Murals of Chicano Park, San Diego, California. (MA Thesis, San Diego State University, Spring, 1994)

<sup>34</sup>Barrio Logan Partnership Case Study—Towards an Environmental Justice Collaborative Model: Case Studies of Six Partnerships Used to Address Environmental Justice Issues in Communities (EPA/100-R-03-002) <http://www.epa.gov/evaluate/pdf/barriologan.pdf> Alan W. Barnett, *Community Murals: The People's Art*. (Philadelphia: The Art Alliance Press, 1984) 107.

<sup>35</sup>Los Angeles Times August 2, 1989; Patrick McDonnell, "City Urged to Use Coronado Bridge Tolls for Barrio Logan Projects", *Los Angeles Times* (October 20, 1990)

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Executive Director, Rachael Ortiz, of Barrio Station, a neighborhood social-service agency, stated that the worst aspect of the state highway and the bridge was that the neighborhood was converted to "mixed use and seedy light industry," wreaking havoc on homes and families. Housing stock was destroyed to make room for the large columns of the bridge. By late April, 1970 at least 1,500 families had been displaced by the construction of the bridge and industrial zoning.

After the bridge was built there were shipbuilding shops, welders, sandblasters, auto dismantlers, mini canneries, etc... Hundreds of employees parked throughout the Barrio with disregard to the residents and their property. Children were crossing streets in front of giant trucks, and right overhead was this great big bridge, casting its shadow over what was left of the Barrio. It split the community, and the community was enraged."<sup>36</sup>

After many years of community pressure, the San Diego Port District agreed to construct the Cesar Chavez Parkway Park (Chicano Park's extension to the Bay) on the waterfront in 1987. By April, 1991, the land portion of the park opened to the public. Today, a fishing pier juts out 700 feet into the San Diego Bay including berthing and observation facilities. This little park was located next to the last remaining fish cannery, where many of the residents worked. However, after the closing of the cannery the buildings remained vacant and in 2004 they were leveled into parking lots—with never a consideration of a cannery row cultural tourism venture similar to Monterey, California. Although not contiguous to Chicano Park proper, the Cesar Chavez Parkway Park was considered an extension of the park located "under the bridge." It was the first time in decades that the residents of Barrio Logan had recreational access to the bay.

### Chicano Park Murals

The creation of murals in Barrio Logan came about as a direct reaction to the social, economic, and political conditions confronted by the Chicano population. Chicano artists produced art in the streets as an alternative to art in traditional art galleries, which did not attract the larger community and which, until recent times, exhibited little Chicano art. Public murals became popularized precisely because they were accessible and belonged to everyone in the community. Mural art in the Chicano communities throughout California became a way to capture a people's history and visually represented their struggles for better futures. Chicano murals sought to demonstrate pride, cultivate an awareness of cultural identity, and empower the community. Murals were, and still are, a form of education equivalent to an "informational superhighway" for people who may not have been directly benefiting from society's technological advances. The mural remains a powerful tool. As young people walking down their neighborhood street they were able to "read" a mural and gain direct knowledge of their culture, history, and a sense of community struggle and personal responsibility.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>36</sup> Alan W. Barnett, *Community Murals: The People's Art*. (Philadelphia: The Art Alliance Press, 1984) 292. San Diego Union-Tribune, Internet; uniontrib.com:80/logan\_heights; April 20, 1995. Marilyn Mulford and Mario Barrera, *Chicano Park* (California: Redbird Films, 1988). Explanatory Note: For purposes of clarity and historical perspective, it should be noted that Interstate 5 and the Coronado Bay Bridge were planned and constructed before both the Uniform Relocation Act of 1970 and the National Environmental Protection Act of 1970 were signed into law. These laws collectively would have required greater public involvement through a series of public hearings and guarantees that persons displaced by a Federally-assisted project would have a decent, safe and sanitary place in which to live.

<sup>37</sup> Social and Political Resource Center, <http://www.sparcmurals.org/present/cmt/cmhistory.html>; Larry Baza, *Historic Resource Evaluation Report 11-SD-75, P.M. 20.5/22-5, 11-021901 August 1996*, interviewed by Dr. Jim Fisher, Cultural

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Murals inspired efforts to reclaim the community's cultural heritage and was used as a means to develop individual and community self pride. Murals were an expression of collective vision and linked the artists to the people to shape content from social realism. Techniques were developed to allow non-artists to participate and paint their own murals. Community participation underscored community empowerment and its involvement in politics. Nowhere did the community-based mural movement take firmer root than in the Chicano communities of California. With the Mexican mural tradition as part of their heritage, murals were a particularly congenial form for Chicano artists to express their collective vision of their community.<sup>38</sup> Not surprisingly, California has more murals than any other part of the United States. In Los Angeles, for instance, with the largest Chicano population anywhere in the world outside of Mexico City, it is estimated that between 1000 and 1500 separate murals were painted between 1969 and 1990. These murals were generally painted as individual works, not organized into large collections comparable to the Chicano Park Monumental Murals. The revival of muralism in the barrio was a reaction to such contemporary concerns as high levels of gang and drug violence, the restrictive employment opportunities, English-only laws and a lack of political power in spite of an ever increasing population base.<sup>39</sup>

The height of Chicano political activism occurred between the late 1960s and the late 1980s (there are those that contend that the Chicano Civil Rights era is still alive and as active as ever) and not only dictated the specific social and economic issues the movement dealt with, but also coincided with the most productive period of Chicano muralism. Certainly this was the historical context where the Chicano Park Monumental Murals are concerned. During this timeframe the grass-roots murals were generally funded by the artists themselves, local businesses or community social and arts centers and projected the themes of Chicano nationalism and cultural identity. The important note here is that the Chicano Park Monumental Murals were always supported locally. In 1974 and 1975 artist Salvador "Queso" Torres along with the Barrio Planning Committee brought artists from Los Angeles, Santa Ana, and Sacramento to paint and in 1978, artist Victor Ochoa organized a mural marathon that brought more than 75 local artists to paint eight pillars (10,000 square feet) in twenty-one days<sup>40</sup>

In 2000, California Department of Transportation received federal funds (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act—ISTEA) for the restoration of the Chicano Park Monumental Murals. Mural restoration began in 2011 and was completed August 2012<sup>41</sup>. Many of the original murals, as

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Historian for Ca Transportation Agency, (San Diego, California) February 16, 1996; Victor Ochoa, *Historic Resource Evaluation Report 11-SD-75, P.M. 20.5/22-5, 11-021901 August 1996*, interviewed by Dr. Jim Fisher, Cultural Historian for Ca Transportation Agency, (San Diego, California) March 26, 1996; Eva Sperling Cockcroft, John Weber and Jim Cockcroft, *Towards A People's Art: The Contemporary Mural Movement*. (New York: E.P. Dutton, 1977) 59

<sup>38</sup>Eva Sperling Cockcroft and Holly Barnet-Sanchez, ed *Signs From the Heart: California Chicano Murals* (Venice, California: Social and Political Art Resource Center, 1990)1, 9-10

<sup>39</sup>Nicolas Kanellos, *The Hispanic Almanac: From Columbus to Corporate America*. (Detroit, Mi: Gale Research, 1993) 358

<sup>40</sup> Salvador Roberto "Queso" Torres and Victor Ochoa interviewed by Josie S. Talamantez (July 24, 2012, San Diego)

<sup>41</sup>"Chicano Park and Its Wondrous Murals by Martin D. Rosen" *Save Our Heritage Organisation*, Volume 42, 2011, p. 26-31.

*La-Prensa - San Diego:*

"Mujeres Muralistas: Chicano Park Female Artists" by Rita Sanchez (La Prensa San Diego, June 29, 2012)

"Chicano and Chicana Muralists Recognized for Historic Preservation of San Diego's Cultural Landscape" (La Prensa San Diego, June 1, 2012)

"Through Our Blood Historic Restoration of Chicano Park Murals Begins" (part 1) by Gail Perez (La Prensa San Diego, July 8, 2011)



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stated before, were always funded locally, these new funds allowed many of the original artists to come back to the park to finish their murals. In the case of artists who were deceased, a family member was contacted to restore and complete the original work<sup>42</sup>.

On May 24, 2012 the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board awarded Chicano Park artists, cultural workers and the Chicano Park Steering Committee, *The 2012 Annual Historic Preservation Awards* for their contribution to the preservation of San Diego's History and Heritage (Chicano Park Murals HRB Site 143.)

"Revitalization not Restoration: A People's Art" (part 2) by Gail Perez and David Avalos (La Prensa-San Diego, July 15, 2011)  
"Undocumented Worker" Photos by David Avalos (La Prensa-San Diego, August 5, 2011)  
"Chicano Park Takeover" Photo and article by David Avalos (La Prensa-San Diego, August 26, 2011)  
"Niños del Mundo Alive and Well in Chicano Park" by David Avalos (La Prensa-San Diego, September 9, 2011)  
"Chicano Park Artists Recapture the Fiery Glory of Vidal M. Aquirre's 1980 Aztec Archer" Photo and story by David Avalos (La Prensa-San Diego, September 16, 2011)  
"Barrio Logan: Final Mural Revitalized in Chicano Park Restoration Project, Phase 1" by David Avalos (La Prensa-San Diego, September 23, 2011)  
"Artists Restore Chicano Park Murals. Symbol of '70s Political Struggle" by Patricia Leigh Brown (California Watch, Center for Investigative Reporting ["California Lost"] November 23, 2011)  
*Voice of San Diego:*  
"Touching Up a Revolution in Chicano Park" by Kelly Bennett and Sam Hodgson (Voice of San Diego article and video):  
[http://www.voiceofsandiego.org/credentialed/article\\_90e2a38e-3a60-11e1-ab0f-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.voiceofsandiego.org/credentialed/article_90e2a38e-3a60-11e1-ab0f-0019bb2963f4.html)  
 Mario Chacon's presentation, "Add New Color to History" at Meeting of the Minds event, February 1, 2012 (video)  
[http://www.voiceofsandiego.org/arts/article\\_1069cccc-51ef-11e1-9dfb-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.voiceofsandiego.org/arts/article_1069cccc-51ef-11e1-9dfb-0019bb2963f4.html)  
 KPBS: "Chicano Park Murals Get Facelift" by Angela Carone (Jan 13, 2012) <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2012/jan/13/chicano-park-murals-get-facelift/>  
 KUSI: Leslie Lopez, KUSI, June 19, 2012 video on the murals history and restoration (although please note the mural restoration project has not yet been completed): <http://www.kusi.com/video?clipId=7414281&autostart=true>  
*SD Union Tribune:*  
 "Restoring the Colorful History of Chicano Park: Original muralists come back to help restore nearly 40-year-old murals in Barrio Logan." by Kyle Lundberg (June 15, 2012, updated in July 2012 to reflect correct name 'Toltecas en Aztlan' for artists collective) <http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2012/jun/15/restoring-history/>  
 Photo gallery of muralists: <http://www.utsandiego.com/photos/galleries/2012/jun/14/chicano-park-murals-restored/#/0>  
 Photo gallery of Guillermo Rosette restoring mural (Jan. 26, 2012):  
<http://www.utsandiego.com/photos/galleries/2012/jan/26/chicano-park-mural-restoration/#/0>  
*NBC San Diego:*  
<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/video#!/news/local/Chicano-Park-Murals-Revamped/136793523>  
*San Diego6:*  
 "San Diego Proud: Chicano Park Revitalized" by Susana Franco & Issac Cadriel (video, Feb 8, 2012)  
<http://www.sandiego6.com/news/galleries/San-Diego-Proud-Chicano-Park-Revitalized-138934189.html>  
*Agitprop:*  
 Todd Stands Interview: Documenting the Chicano Park Mural Restoration by Perry Vasquez (Jan 2012)  
<http://agitprop.space.org/2012/01/todd-stands-interview-documenting-the-chicano-park-mural-restoration/>  
*CaliforniaWatch:*  
 "Artists Restore Chicano Park Murals" by Patricia Leigh Brown (Nov. 23, 2011) <http://californiawatch.org/dailyreport/artists-restore-chicano-park-murals-symbols-70s-political-struggle-13699>  
*The Sun (Southwestern College):*  
 "Power of La Raza Returns to Chicano Park" by Paola Gonzalez (Feb 28, 2012)  
<http://www.theswcsun.com/2012/02/28/power-of-la-raza-returns-to-chicano-park/>  
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<http://www.theswcsun.com/2011/11/07/chicano-park-murals-receive-a-freshening-up/>

<sup>42</sup> Refer to the NPS Continuation Sheet of photographs of murals.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See attached bibliography on Continuation Sheets Section 9

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: California Department of Transportation

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 7.4 acres  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

**Decimal Degrees of Boundary Map Points:**

- Point 1: Latitude 32.702469, Longitude -117.144846
  - Point 2: Latitude 32.699872, Longitude -117.141061
  - Point 3: Latitude 32.698773, Longitude -117.142261
  - Point 4: Latitude 32.698629, Longitude -117.144150
  - Point 5: Latitude 32.699018, Longitude -117.144665
- (Map of boundary points and decimal degrees is located on Figure 13, Additional Documentation.)

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary runs south of the right of way of Interstate 5 from a point halfway between Beardsley Street and Cesar Chavez Parkway on the northwest, to the point where the eastbound bridge exits connect to Interstate 5 and National Avenue, northeastward along National Avenue, south along Dewey Street to Newton Avenue, and returning to Interstate 5 along the bridge approaches via Logan Avenue and Interstate 5 South, in an approximately triangular shape.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is based on the locations of the Chicano Park murals and the spaces that are part of Chicano Park, a city park managed by the City of San Diego's Parks and Recreation Department.

**See continuation sheet for location references in decimal degrees.**

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Josie S. Talamantez

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 3991 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. telephone 916-731-4345

city or town Sacramento state Ca. zip code 95817

e-mail jstalamantez@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup> Cherilyn E. Widell, CA. SHPO to Chris White, Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch "B" Ca. Dept of Transportation, January 11,

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"Mujeres Muralistas: Chicano Park Female Artists" by Rita Sanchez (La Prensa San Diego, June 29, 2012)

"Chicano and Chicana Muralists Recognized for Historic Preservation of San Diego's Cultural Landscape" (La Prensa San Diego, June 1, 2012)

"Through Our Blood Historic Restoration of Chicano Park Murals Begins" (part 1) by Gail Perez (La Prensa San Diego, July 8, 2011)

"Revitalization not Restoration: A People's Art" (part 2) by Gail Perez and David Avalos (La Prensa-San Diego, July 15, 2011)

"Undocumented Worker" Photos by David Avalos (La Prensa-San Diego, August 5, 2011)

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"Touching Up a Revolution in Chicano Park" by Kelly Bennett and Sam Hodgson (Voice of San Diego article and video): [http://www.voiceofsandiego.org/credentialed/article\\_90e2a38e-3a60-11e1-ab0f-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.voiceofsandiego.org/credentialed/article_90e2a38e-3a60-11e1-ab0f-0019bb2963f4.html)

Mario Chacon's presentation, "Add New Color to History" at Meeting of the Minds event, February 1, 2012 (video) [http://www.voiceofsandiego.org/arts/article\\_1069cccc-51ef-11e1-9dfb-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.voiceofsandiego.org/arts/article_1069cccc-51ef-11e1-9dfb-0019bb2963f4.html)

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"Chicano Park Murals Get Facelift" by Angela Carone (Jan 13, 2012) <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2012/jan/13/chicano-park-murals-get-facelift/>

***KUSI:***

Leslie Lopez, KUSI, June 19, 2012 video on the murals history and restoration (although please note the mural restoration project has not yet been completed): <http://www.kusi.com/video?clipId=7414281&autostart=true>

***SD Union Tribune:***

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Photo gallery of muralists: <http://www.utsandiego.com/photos/galleries/2012/jun/14/chicano-park-murals-restored/#/0>

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Photo gallery of Guillermo Rosette restoring mural (Jan. 26, 2012):

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**Agitprop:**

Todd Stands Interview: Documenting the Chicano Park Mural Restoration by Perry Vasquez (Jan 2012)

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"Power of La Raza Returns to Chicano Park" by Paola Gonzalez (Feb 28, 2012)

<http://www.theswcsun.com/2012/02/28/power-of-la-raza-returns-to-chicano-park/>

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San Diego Union, May 8, 1968; August 3, 1969, April 26, 1978, April 24, 1983, July 14, 20, 7 1984; April 21, 1985, April 23, 1988, April 23, 1990;

San Diego Tribune, April 23, 25, 1970, April 24, 1970, March 28, 1984; May 24, 1984, June 23, 1983, January, 17, 1985, September 8, 1990; August 29, 1991;

San Diego Union-Tribune, April 23, 1971, July 24, 1969; July 20, 1984; September 8, 1989, February 8, 1990, March 11, 1992; May 25, 1992, July 24, 1994; April 23, 1995; December 20, 1995, January 13, 1996; March 24, 1996,

San Jose Mercury News, August 23, 1990 ' ' '

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"Chicano Park." Directed by Mario Barrera and Marilyn Mulford. Redbird, 1988.

[Dedicated to Jose Gomez, 1942-1985, founder and first chairperson of the Chicano Park Steering Committee]



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"Viva La Causa: 500 Years of Chicano History." \_Directed by Elizabeth Martinez and Doug Norberg; produced by Collision Course, 1995.

Interviews Conducted by Jim Fisher, Architectural Historian & Historian at Cal Trans. (Retired)

Mario Aguilar, Aztec dancer, San Diego, March 18, 1996;  
 Paul Askelson, Bridge Maintenance Engineer, Caltrans, April 1, 1996;  
 Angie Avila, Legislative Analyst and long-time resident of Barrio Logan, March 13, 19-96;  
 Larry Baza, Director, Centro Cultural de la Raza, San Diego, February 16, 1996;  
 Tommie Camarillo, Chair, Chicano Park Steering Committee, February 28, 1996;  
 Patricio Chavez, Curator, Centro Cultural de la Raza, Sari Diego, March 1, 1996;  
 Rupert Garcia, Professor of Art, CSU, San Jose, March 12, 1996;  
 Gail Goldman, San Diego Arts Commission, March 12, 1996;  
 Phil Goldvarg, Poet and Social Worker, Sacramento, January 15, 1996;  
 Richard Griswold del Castillo, CSU, San Diego, March 18, 1996;  
 Howard F. Hollman, Centro Cultural de la Raza, March 1, 1996;  
 Raul Jaquez, Artist, San Diego, January 11 and March 1, 1996;  
 Art and Chris Luna, Luna's Cafe, Sacramento, February 20, 1996;  
 Jose Montoya, Poet, Artist, Musician, Professor of Art, CSU, Sacramento, March 10, 1996;  
 Victor Ochoa, Artist-in-Resident, Centro Cultural de la Raza, March 26, 1996;  
 Juanishi Orosco, Artist, Sacramento, February 14, 1-996; '  
 Jose Pitti, Professor of U.S, and Chicano History, CSU, Sacramento, February 14, 1996;  
 Jim Prigoff, Photo-journalist and author, Sacramento, March 15, 1996;  
 Arlene Prigoff Professor of Social Work, CSU, Sacramento, March 15, 1996;  
 Josie Talamantez, California Arts Council and long-time resident of Barrio Logan, February 22 1996, March 18, 1996 and April 20", 1996. \_  
 Salvadore Roberto Torres, Artist, San Diego, \*February 29, 1996;  
 Gloria Torres, Artist, San Diego, February 29, 1996;  
 Michael Tudary, San Diego Historical Site Board, March 22, 1996;  
 Larry Weigel, Environmental Planner, Caltrans, Sacramento, January 23 and 24, 1996.

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

See Attachment of National Register of Historic Places continuation sheet section number—Additional Documentation Photographs and map of Murals

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**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

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name Laurie Berman, Director, California Department of Transportation, District 11  
street & number 4050 Taylor Street telephone (619) 688-6699  
city or town San Diego state CA zip code 92110

name Stacey LoMedico, Director of Parks and Recreation, City of San Diego  
street & number 202 C Street, Mail Station 37-C telephone (619) 236-6643  
city or town San Diego state CA zip code 92101

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.



**Photo 1**

**Name of Property:** Chicano Park Take-Over (Historical Visual Narrative Mural)

**City or Vicinity:** San Diego

**County:** San Diego                      **State:** California

**Photographer:** Todd Stands

**Date Photographed:** 1/20/12

**Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists:** Guillermo Rosette, Felipe Adame, and Octavio Gonzalez, 1976. Restoration: 2011 by Guillermo Rosette and Linda Velarde (#3 Orange Lane—Lane Two.)

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Photo 2

Name of Property: Coatlicue  
 City or Vicinity: San Diego  
 County: San Diego State: California  
 Photographer: Caltrans  
 Date Photographed: February 2006

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Susan Yamagata and the late Michael Schnorr, 1978 (#6 Orange Lane—Lane Two.)

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Photo 3

Name of Property: Virgen De Guadalupe

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Josie S. Talamantez

Date Photographed: March 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Mario Torrero and the Lomas Youth Crew, 1978 (#7 Orange Lane—Lane Two.)

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Photo 4

Name of Property: La Adelita

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego

State: California

Photographer: Todd Stands

Date Photographed: 10/22/11

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Felipe Adame, artist, 1976. Restoration 2011, artists: Felipe Adame and Guillermo Rosette (#2 Orange Lane—Lane two.)

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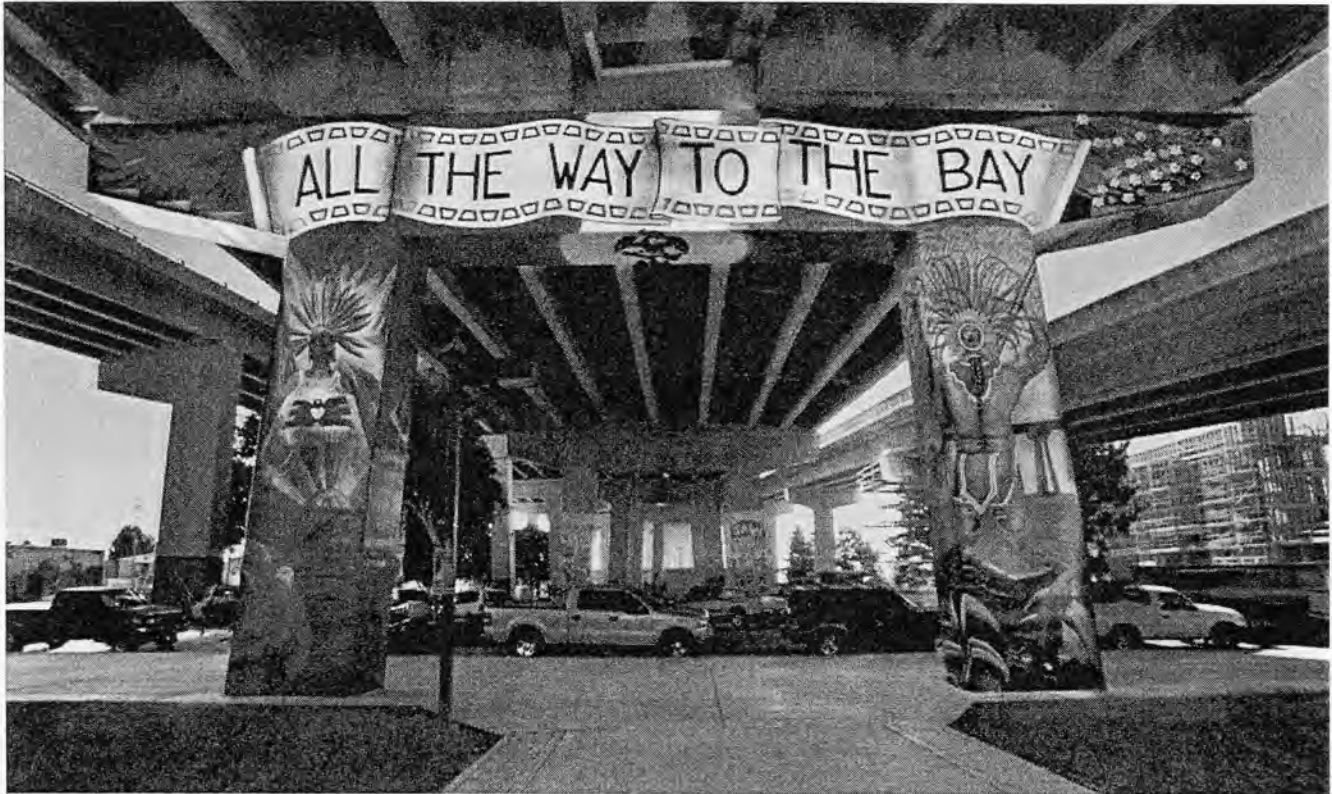


Photo 5

Name of Property: All The Way To The Bay

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Todd Stands

Date Photographed: 1/20/12

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artist: Victor Ochoa, 1978. Restoration artists: Victor Ochoa, Mario Chacon and Team, 2012 (#3 Teal Lane—Lane Three.)

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Photo 6

Name of Property: Hasta La Bahia

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Todd Stands

Date Photographed: 1/19/12

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artist: Victor Ochoa, 1978. Restoration artists: Victor Ochoa, Mario Chacon and Team, 2012 (#3 Teal Lane—Lane Three.)



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Photo 7

Name of Property: Mujer Cosmica

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Todd Stands

Date Photographed: 1/27/12

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Esteban Villa and the late Ricardo Favela, 1975. Restoration artists: Esteban Villa, Carlos Lopez and Juan Carrillo, 2011, (#2 Light Blue Lane—Lane Five.)

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Photo 8

Name of Property: Voz Libre: Pedro H. Gonzalez

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Todd Stands

Date Photographed: 7/7/12

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Artists: the late Michael Schnorr, Victor Ochoa, Guillermo Rosette, Yasue Doudera and Carlos Esparza, 1984. Restoration artists: the late Michael Schnorr and Team, 2012, (#6 Blue Lane-Lane Four.)

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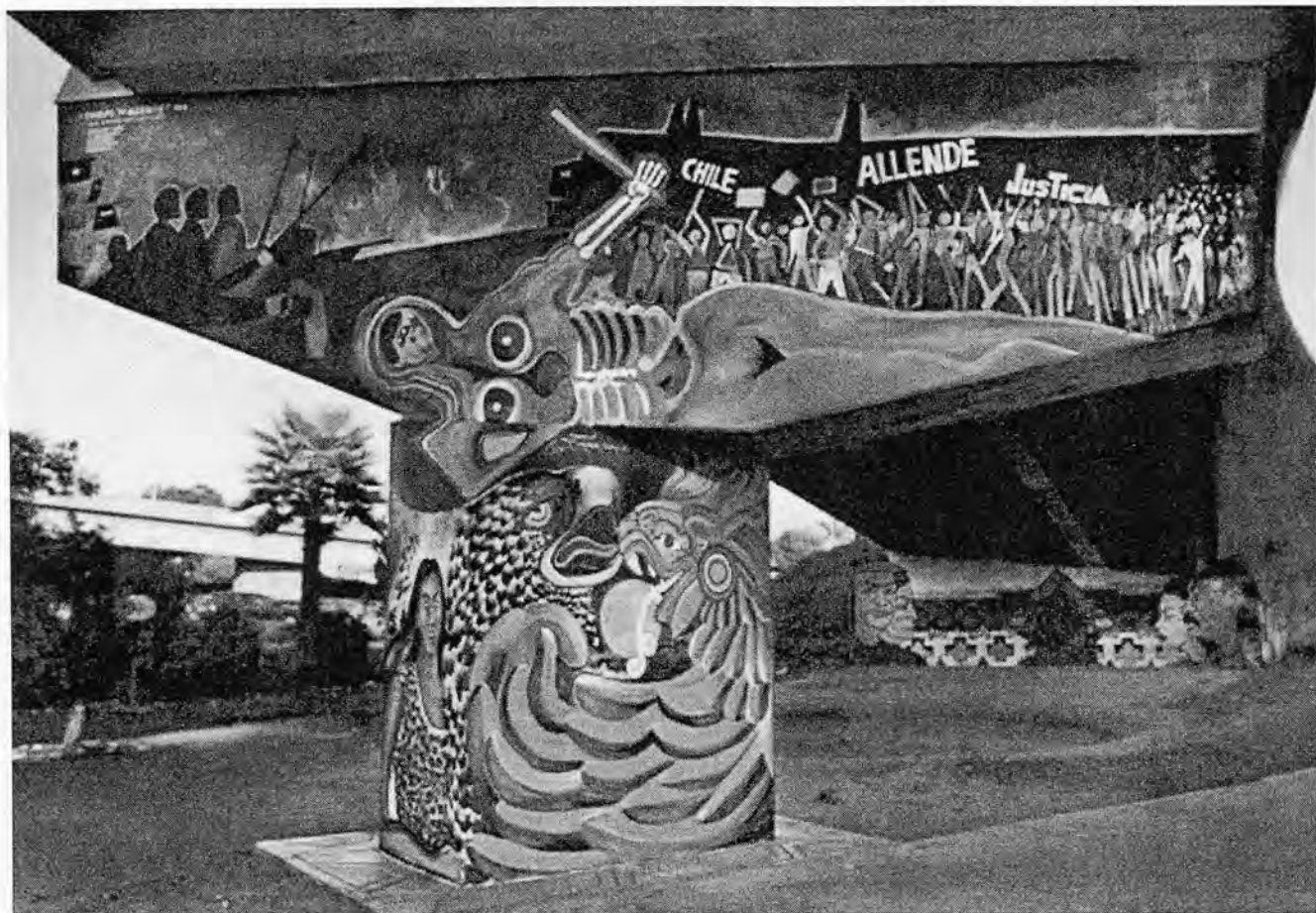


Photo 9

Name of Property: Allende

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Todd Stands

Date Photographed: 2/2/12

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Smiley Benavides & Team from Los Angeles, 1974.  
Restoration artists: Guillermo Rosette, Norma Montoya, and Mario Torero, 2012 (#7 Light Blue Lane—Lane Five.)

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**Photo 10**

**Name of Property:** In La Kesh aka Mandala

**City or Vicinity:** San Diego

**County:** San Diego **State:** California

**Photographer:** Todd Stands

**Date Photographed:** 1/4/12

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Artists: Juanishi Orosco and the Royal Chicano Air Force, 1975. Restoration artists: Juanishi Orosco and Team, 2012, (#3 Light Blue Lane—Lane Five.0)

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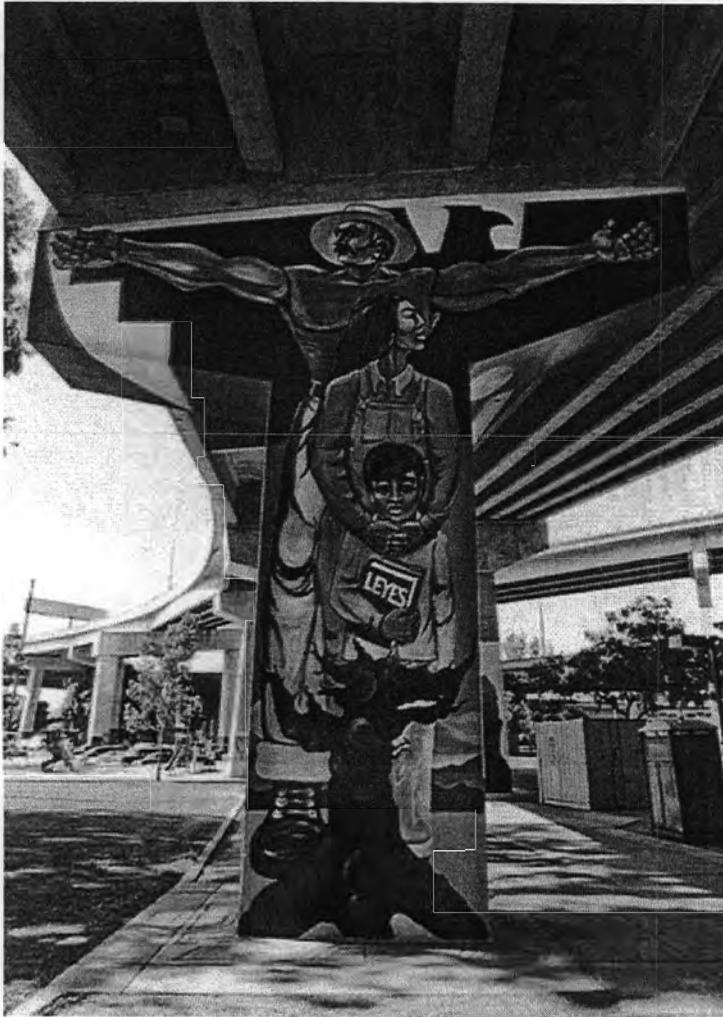
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Photo 11

Name of Property: "Leyes"-La Familia

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Todd Stands

Date Photographed: 1/4/12

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Artists: José Montoya & Royal Chicano Air Force, 1975.  
Restoration Artists: Jose Montoya, Tomas Montoya and Maceo Montoya, 2011 (#4 Light Green Lane—Six.)

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Photo 12

Name of Property: Los Ninos Del Mundo

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego

State: California

Photographer: Todd Stands

Date Photographed: 3/23/12

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Norma Montoya and the late "Gato" Felix, 1976.  
Restoration artists: Norma Montoya and her daughter Yami Duarte, 2012 (map is being updated to include this mural.)

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**Photo 13**

**Name of Property:** Los Ninos del Mundo side 2

**City or Vicinity:** San Diego

**County:** San Diego                      **State:** California

**Photographer:** Todd Stands

**Date Photographed:** 3/23/12

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Artists: Norma Montoya and the late "Gato" Felix, 1976.  
Restoration artists: Norma Montoya and her daughter Yami Duarte, 2012 (map is being updated to include this mural.)

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**Photo 14**

**Name of Property:** Undocumented Worker  
**City or Vicinity:** San Diego  
**County:** San Diego                      **State:** California  
**Photographer:** Todd Stands  
**Date Photographed:** 11/1/11

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Artists: the late Michael Schnorr and Team, 1980.



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Restoration artists: the late Michael Schnorr, 2011 (#5 on the Blue Lane—Lane Four.)

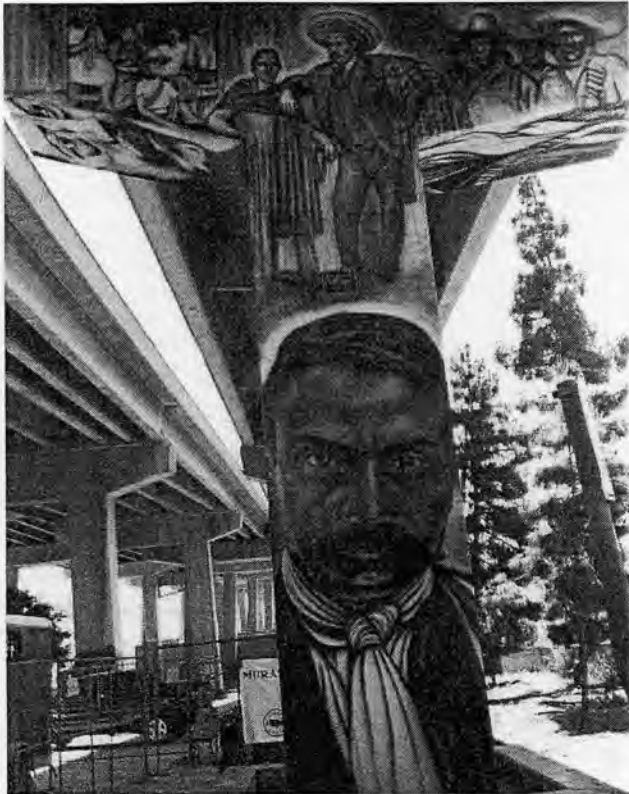


Photo 15

Name of Property: Revolución Mexicana (Front side of mural)

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Todd Stands

Date Photographed: 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artist: Victor Ochoa, 1981. Restored artists: Victor Ochoa and Team, 2012 (#1 on Grey Lane—Lane One.)

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**Photo 16**

**Name of Property:** Revolution Mexicana (Back side of mural)

**City or Vicinity:** San Diego

**County:** San Diego                      **State:** California

**Photographer:** Todd Stands

**Date Photographed:** 2011

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Artist: Victor Ochoa, 1981. Restored artists: Victor Ochoa and Team, 2012 (#1 on Grey Lane—Lane One.)

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Photo 17

**Name of Property:** Cuauhtemoc**City or Vicinity:** San Diego**County:** San Diego                      **State:** California**Photographer:** Todd Stands**Date Photographed:** 4/28/12**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Artist: Felipe Adame, 1978. Restoration artists: Felipe Adame and Team, 2012 (#4 on Teal Lane—Lane Three.)

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Photo 18

Name of Property: Aztec Archer

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Todd Stands

Date Photographed: 9/2/11

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artist: Vidal Aguiere, 1987. Restoration artists: Felipe Adame, Guillermo Rosette and team, 2011 (#10 on Teal Lane—Lane Three.)

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Photo 19

Name of Property: Che  
 City or Vicinity: San Diego  
 County: San Diego State: California  
 Photographer: Caltrans  
 Date Photographed: 2006

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Che Mural with Kiosko in the background. Artist: Victor Ochoa, 1978 (#9 on the Teal Lane—Lane Three.)

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Photo 20

**Name of Property:** Chicano Pinto Union Mural

**City or Vicinity:** San Diego

**County:** San Diego      **State:** California

**Photographer:** Todd Stands

**Date Photographed:** 8/1/12

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Artists: The Late Tony De Vargas, 1978. Restoration artists: Mario Chacon, Eddie Galindo and Hector Villegas, 2012 (#5 on the Orange Lane—Lane Two.)

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Photo 21

Name of Property: Los Grandes

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Todd Stands

Date Photographed: August 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Design: Rupert Garcia, implementation artists: Victor Ochoa and the Barrio Renovation Team, 1978. Restoration artists: Victor Ochoa, Eddie Galindo and Hector Villegas, 2012 (#4 on the Orange Lane—Lane Two.)

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Photo 22

Name of Property: Kiosko

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Josie S. Talamantez

Date Photographed: March 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Architect: Alfredo Larin with Community Input (#6 on the Teal Line—Lane Three.)



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Photo 23

Name of Property: Tenochtitlan Mural

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Todd Stands

Date Photographed: 7/30/12

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Kiosko Mural ceiling above the center dance floor.  
Artists: the late Vidal Aguirre and Felipe Adame 1978. Restoration artists: Felipe Adame and team,  
2012 (#6 on Teal Lane—Lane Three.)

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**Photo 24**

**Name of Property:** Quetzalcoatl

**City or Vicinity:** San Diego

**County:** San Diego                      **State:** California

**Photographer:** Todd Stands

**Date Photographed:** 6/28/12

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Toltecas en Aztlan 1978. Restored by Guillermo Aranda and Team, 2012 (#13 on the Light Blue Lane—Lane Five—listed as #13 on the narrative—official document being corrected soon.)

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Photo 25

Name of Property: Nacimiento Del Parque Chicano

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Josie S. Talamantez

Date Photographed: 3/2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artist: the late Dolores Serrano, 1978 (#5 on the Grey Line—Lane One.)

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Photo 26

**Name of Property:** Varrío Logan and Undocumented Worker

**City or Vicinity:** San Diego

**County:** San Diego      **State:** California

**Photographer:** Todd Stands

**Date Photographed:** 2011

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Varrío Logan—artists: Victor Ochoa and Team, 1978. Restoration artists: Victor Ochoa and Team, 2011, (#11 on Teal Lane—Lane Three.) Undocumented Worker—artists: the late Michael Schnorr and team, 1980. Restoration artists: Michael Schnorr and Team, 2011, (#5 on Blue Lane—Lane Four.)

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Photo 27

Name of Property: Death of a Farm Worker

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Caltrans

Date Photographed: 2006

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: the Late Michael Schnorr and Susan Yamagate, 1979, (#8 on the Orange Lane—Lane Two.)

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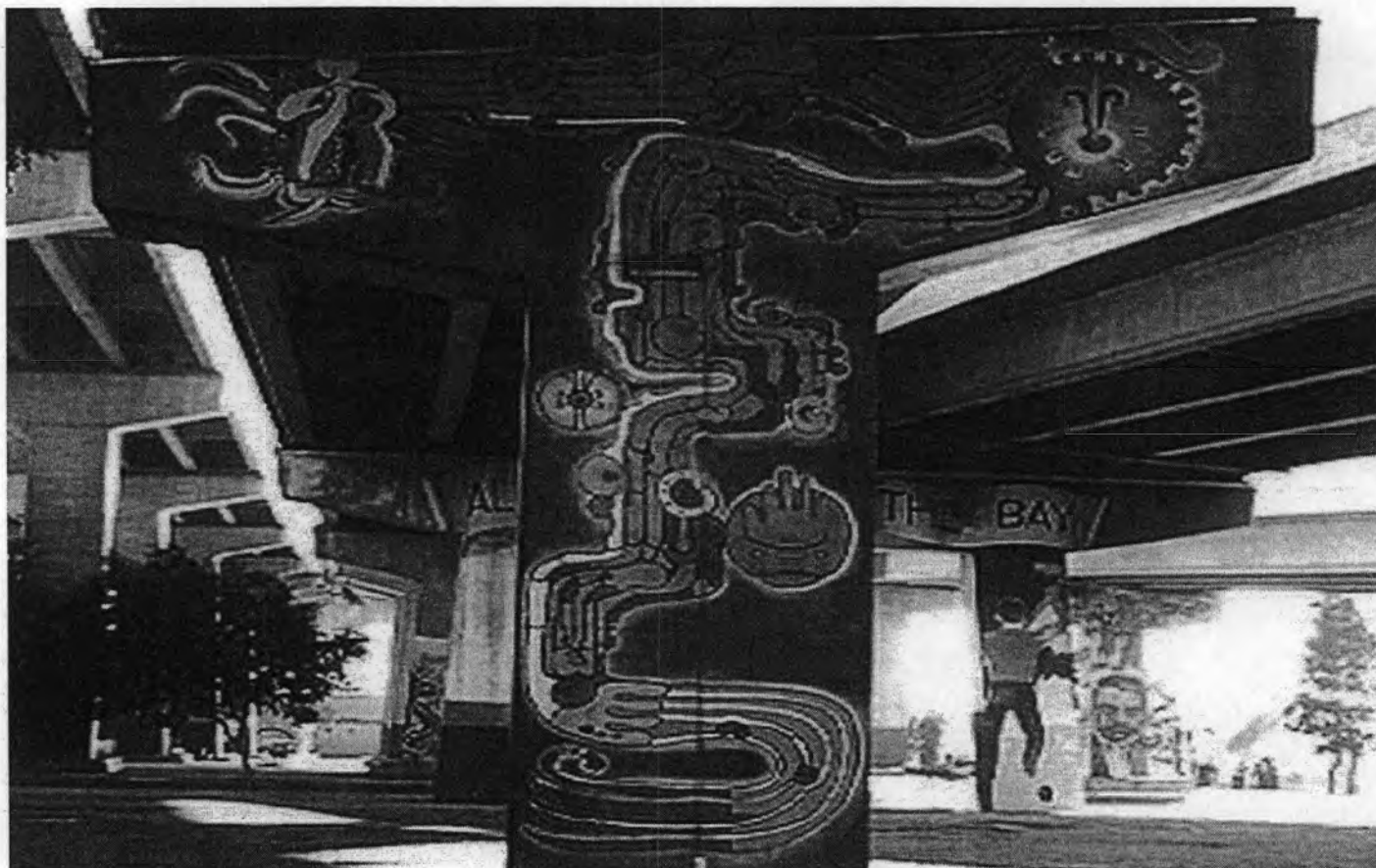
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Photo 28

Name of Property: Sueno Serpentino

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Josie S. Talamantez

Date Photographed: March 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Designed by Socorro Gamboa, painted by Felipe Adame and Roger Lucero 1978. Renovation Artists: Mario Torero and Mano Lima (1989) and Felipe Adame and Laurie Manzano, 1991, (#5 Teal Lane—Lane Three.)

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Photo 29

Name of Property: Mexican History

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Josie S. Talamantez

Date Photographed: March 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Mexican History artists: Victor Ochoa and Students, 1978, (#7 on Teal Lane—Lane Three.)

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Photo 30

Name of Property: Renacimiento

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego

State: California

Photographer: Joe Porras

Date Photographed: March 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Artists: Grupo de Santana, Year: 1974. Restoration artists: Guillermo Aranda, Guillermo Rosette, Felipe Adame, & Vidal Aguirre, 1992 (#8 on Light Green Lane—Lane Six.)



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Photo 31

Name of Property: Bridge People

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Joe Porras

Date Photographed: March 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Victor Ochoa and Lowell Elementary School, 1978 and 1983, (#3 on Grey Lane—Lane One.)

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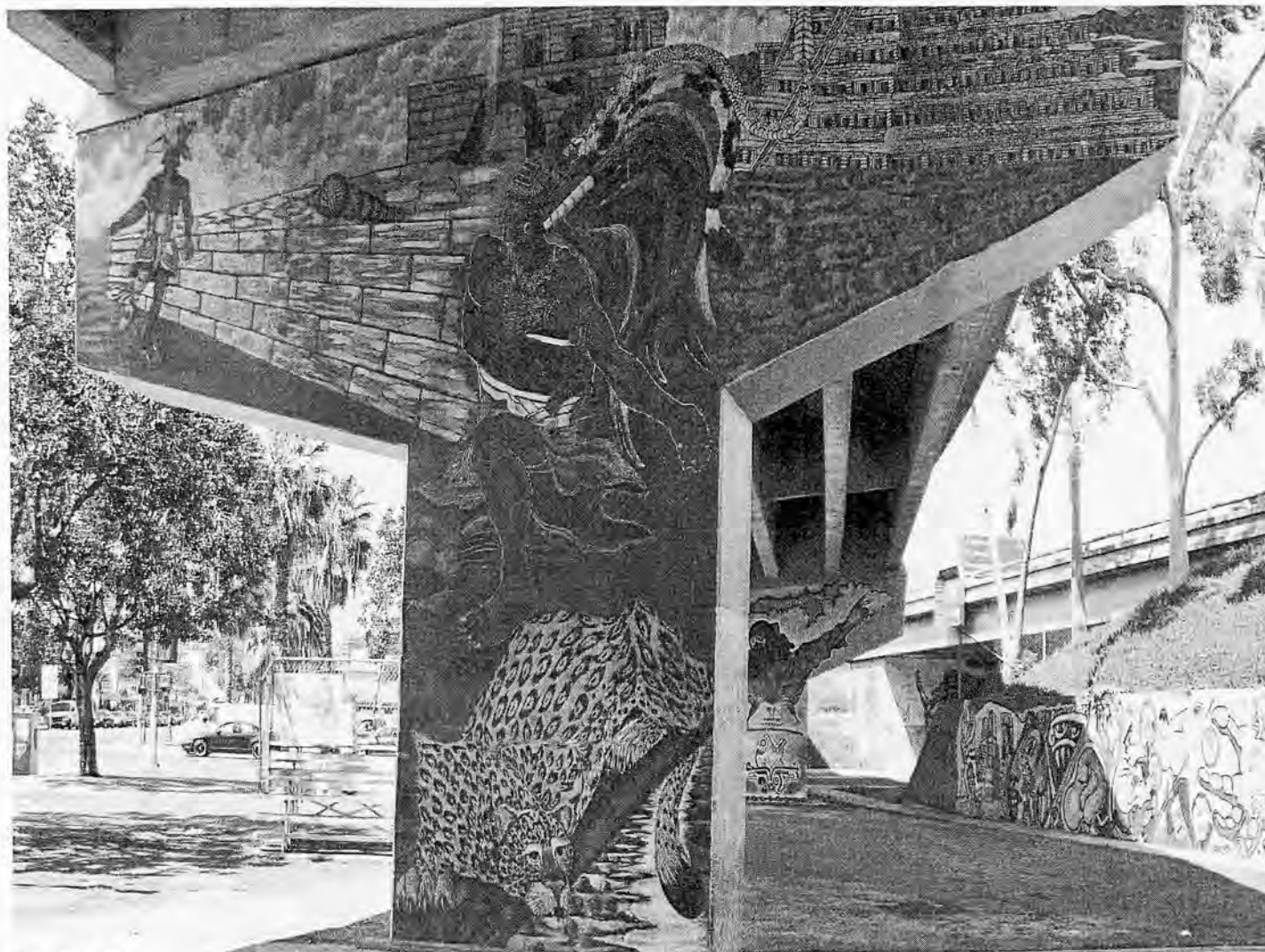


Photo 32

Name of Property: The Ball Player

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Josie S. Talamantez

Date Photographed: March 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Vidal Aguirre, 1981-82, (#13 Orange Lane—Lane Two.)

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Photo 33

Name of Property: Chicanas/Escuelas

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Josie S. Talamantez

Date Photographed: March 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Yolanda Lopez and Mujeres Muralistas, 1978, (#7 Grey Lane—Lane One.)

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**Photo 34**

**Name of Property:** Colossus

**City or Vicinity:** San Diego

**County:** San Diego

**State:** California

**Photographer:** Photo 1: Joe Porras Detail: Joe Porras

**Date Photographed:** Photo 1, 2012 and Detail 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Artists: Mario Torero and the Congresso de Artists Chicanos en Aztlan (CACA) Team, 1975, (#10 on Light Green Lane—Lane Six.)

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Photo 35

**Name of Property:** Corazon De Aztlan (with ceremonial site in the front of mural)

**City or Vicinity:** San Diego

**County:** San Diego      **State:** California

**Photographer:** Josie S. Talamantez

**Date Photographed:** 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Artists: Tomas "Coyote" Castaneda and the Congreso de Artistas en Aztlan (CACA) Team, 1975. Renovation artist: Salvador "Queso" Torres, 1988, (#12 Light Blue Lane—Lane Five.)

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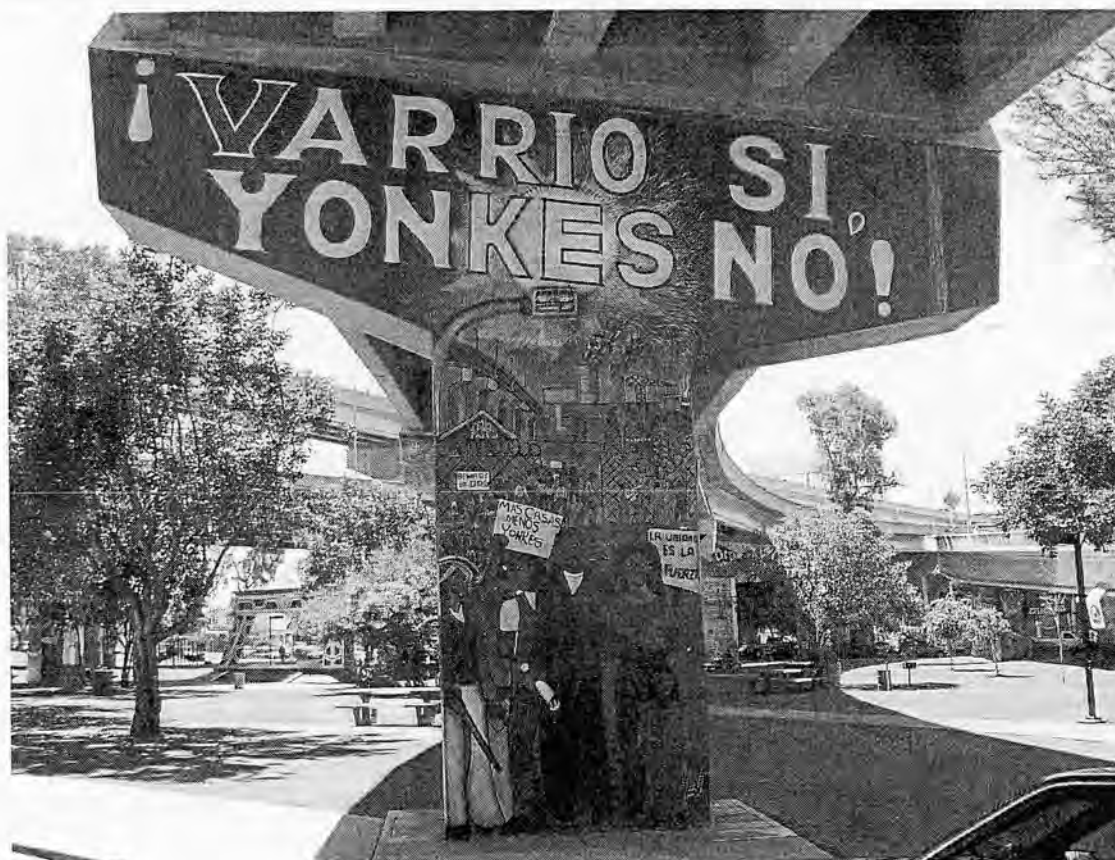
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Photo 36

Name of Property: Varríos Si, Yonkes No!

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Caltrans

Date Photographed: 2006

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Raul Jose Jacquez, Alvaro Millan, Victor Ochoa, Armando Rodriguez, 1977. Renovation artists: Raul Jose Jacquez, Alvaro Millan, Victor Ochoa, Armando Rodriguez, Vidal Aguirre, 1989, (#9 on Orange Lane—Lane Two.)

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Photo 37

Name of Property: Historical Mural

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego

State: California

Photographer: Todd Stands

Date Photographed: July 12, 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Artists: Toltecas en Aztlan—Salvador Barajas, Guillermo Aranda, Arturo Roman, Victor Ochoa, Jose Cervantes, the late Gilbert "Magu" Lujan, Daniel de los Reyes & M.E.CH.A. at UC Irvine, 1973. Restoration artists: Sal Barajas, Guillermo Rosette, Guillermo Aranda, Victor Ochoa, Armando Nunez, Eddie Galindo and Hector Villegas, (#13 on Light Green Lane—Lane Six.)

United States Department of the Interior  
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Chicano Park
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Section number Additional Documentation Page 38

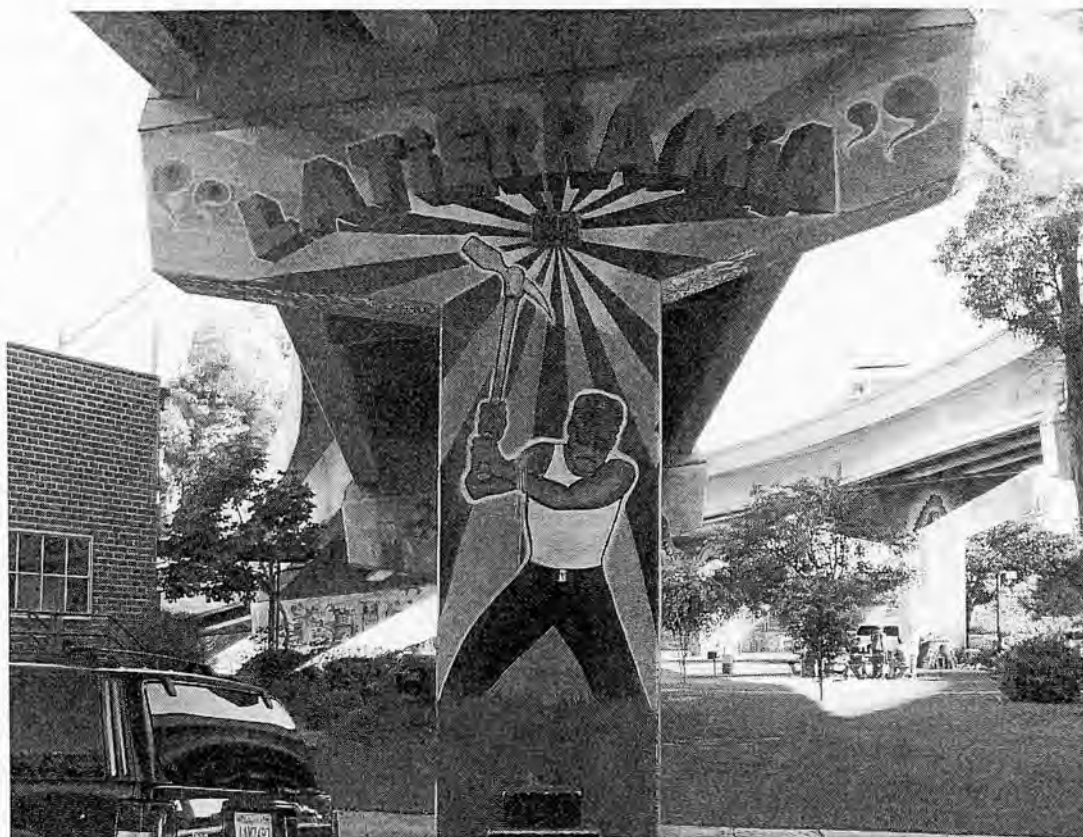


Photo 38

Name of Property: Jose Gomez Mural

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Caltrans

Date Photographed: 2006

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Tony de Vargas, Mario Torero and Team, 1986, (#2 Grey Lane—Lane One.)



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Photo 39

Name of Property: OG Mural

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Caltrans

Date Photographed: 2006

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Octavio Gonzalez, 1978 (#5 Grey Lane—Lane One.)

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Photo 40

Name of Property: San Diego Lowrider Council Mural (front view)

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Josie S. Talamantez

Date Photographed: March 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Victor Cordero, Jari Alvarez and Isaias Crow, 1976 (#10 Orange Lane—Lane One.)

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**Photo 41**

**Name of Property:** Women Hold Up Half The Sky

**City or Vicinity:** San Diego

**County:** San Diego                      **State:** California

**Photographer:** Todd Stands

**Date Photographed:** 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Artists: Celia Herrera Rodriguez, Irma Lerma Barbosa, Rosalinda Montez Palacios, Antonia Perez and Barbara Desmangles, 1975. Restoration artists: Celia Herrera Rodriguez, Irma Lerma Barbosa, Rosalinda Montez Palacios, Glory Galindo Sanchez and Vera Sanchez, 2012, (#2 on the Light Green Lane—Lane Six.) )

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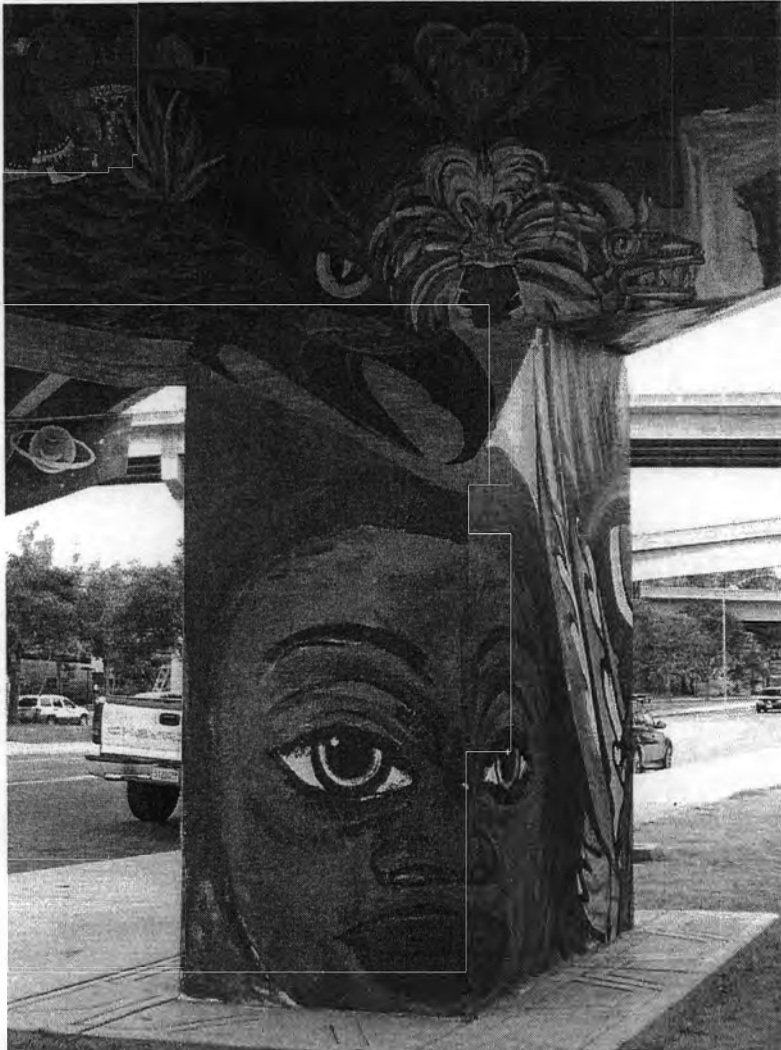


Photo 42

Name of Property: Mother Earth

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Josie S. Talamantez

Date Photographed: August 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Salvador "Queso" Torres, 1988. Restoration artists: Salvador "Queso" Torres, 2012, (#9 Light Blue—Lane Four.)

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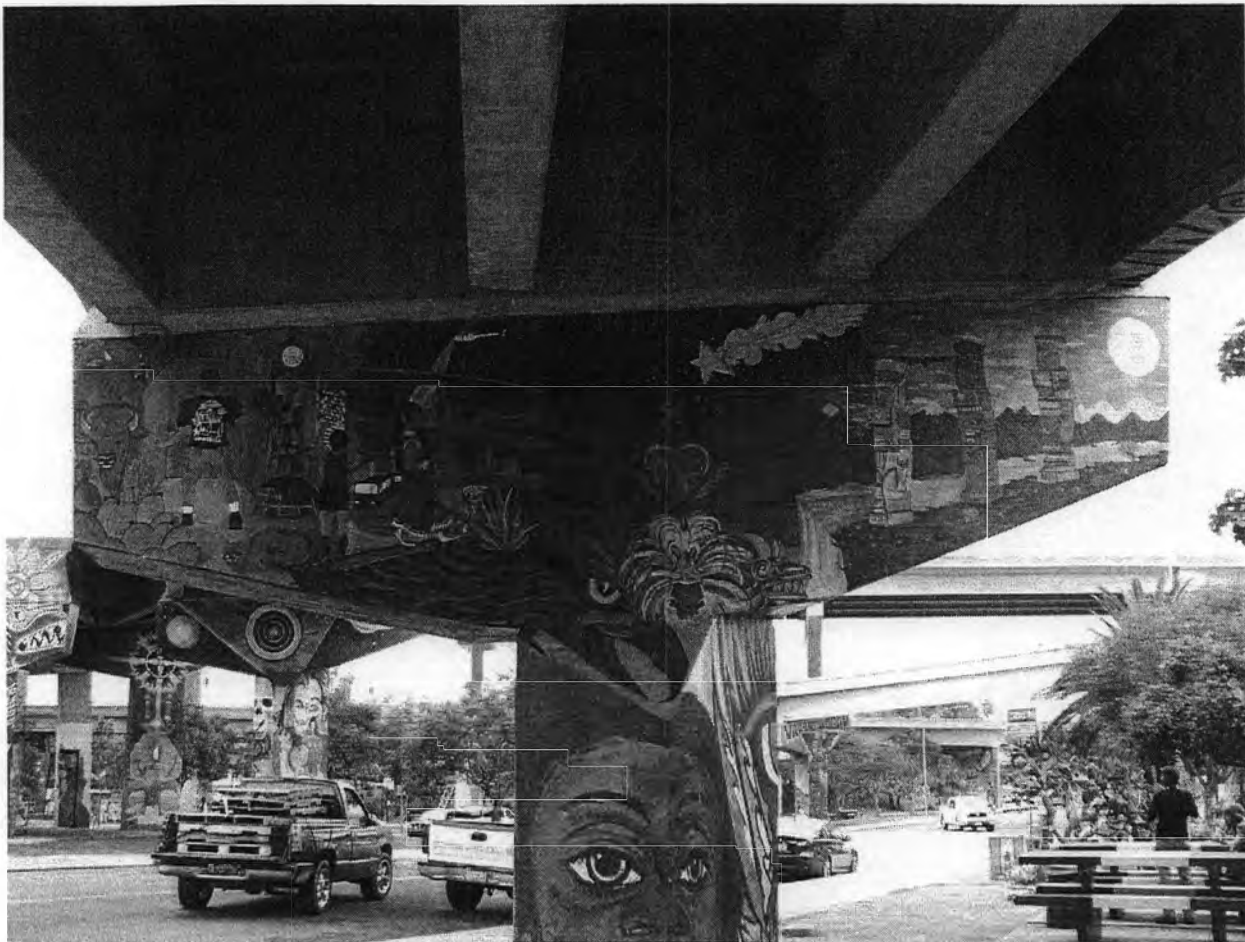
Section number Additional DocumentationPage 43

Photo 43

**Name of Property:** Los Toltecas (above) & Mother Earth (below)

**City or Vicinity:** San Diego

**County:** San Diego                      **State:** California

**Photographer:** Josie S. Talamantez

**Date Photographed:** August 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Los Toltecas **Artists:** Artists: Rosa Olga Navarro, Carlos Garcia, Alvaro Millan, Fernando Palomo, & Team, Year: 1988. Restoration Artists: David Mena, Rosa Olga Navarro and Community, 2012 (Light Blue—Lane Four # 8.)  
**Mother Earth Artists:** Salvador "Queso" Torres, 1988. Restoration artists: Salvador "Queso" Torres, 2012, (Light Blue—Lane Four #9.)

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Photo 44

Name of Property: Chuco/Homeboy

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Joe Porras

Date Photographed: February 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Felipe Adame, 1975. (# 9 Green Line—Lane Six.)

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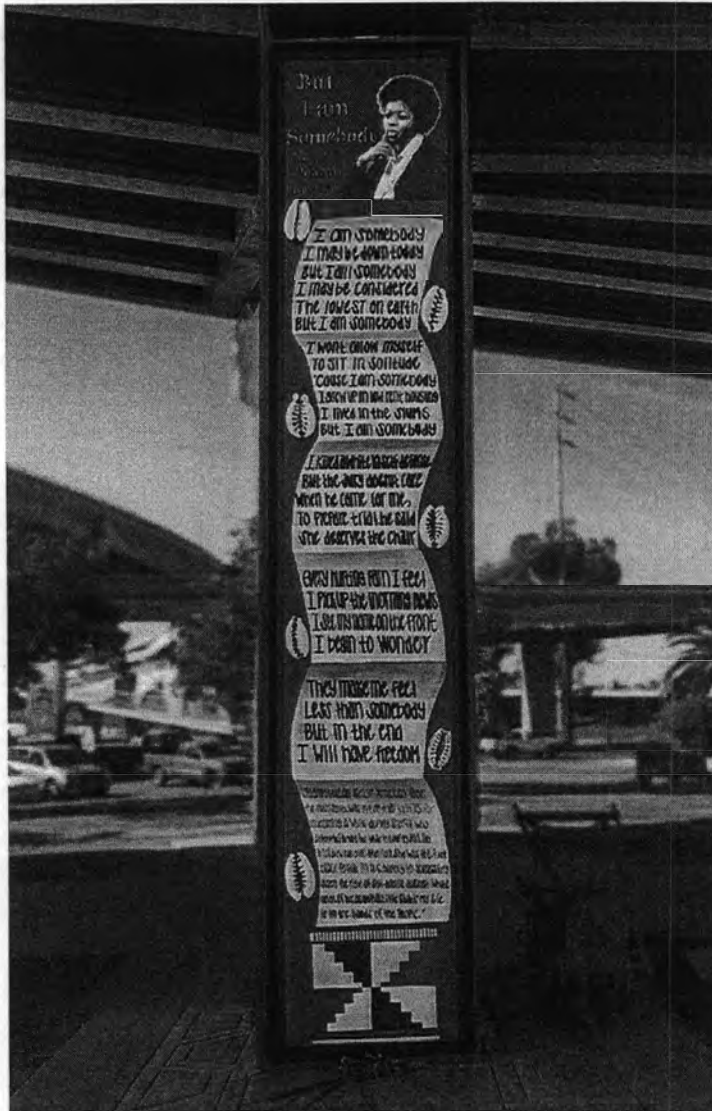


Photo 45

Name of Property: I am Somebody—Poem by Joan Little

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Todd Stands

Date Photographed: August 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Lettering done by Sal Barajas, 1975.  
Restoration Artists: Celia Herrera Rodriguez, Irma Lerma Barbosa, Rosalinda Montez Palacios, Glory Galindo Sanchez and Vera Sanchez, 2012, (#5 Light Green—Lane Six.)

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**Photo 46**

**Name of Property:** Woman with a Flag

**City or Vicinity:** San Diego

**County:** San Diego **State:** California

**Photographer:** Todd Stands

**Date Photographed:** August 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists:** Arturo Singh, 1975. Restoration artists: Arturo Singh 2012



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**Photo 47**

**Name of Property:** Aguila en Aztlan: Through love you gain strength-through strength you regenerate & Aguila en Aztlan in Cactus Garden

**City or Vicinity:** San Diego

**County:** San Diego                      **State:** California

**Photographer:** Josie S. Talamantez

**Date Photographed:** March 2012

**Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists:** Raul Jose Jaquez, 1986 (#13 Teal Lane—Lane Three.)

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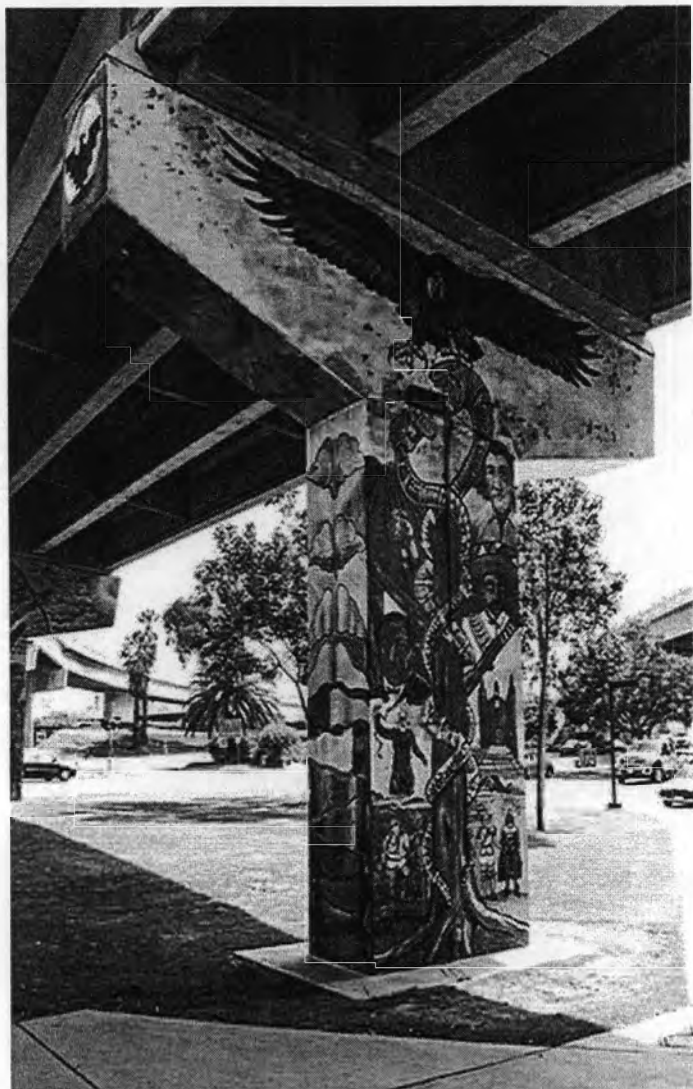


Photo 48

Name of Property: Huelga Eagle (upper left hand corner)

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Todd Stands

Date Photographed: 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Raul Espinosa and the late Michael Schnorr, 1978, (#8 Teal Lane—Lane Three.)

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**Figure Log**

- Figure 1** Rage Against La Raza above the Chicano Park Logo
- Figure 2** Chicano Park/La Tierra Mia Logo
- Figure 3** Cosmic Clowns
- Figure 4** Corazon De Aztlan
- Figure 5** Tree of Life
- Figure 6** Children's Mural
- Figure 7** Chicano Park Guidebook Map
- Figure 8** Property Boundary (No Locations Marked)
- Figure 9** Property Boundary Sketch Map with Contributors and Non-Contributors Marked
- Figure 10** Close-up sketch map, west portion of Chicano Park
- Figure 11** Close-up sketch map, east portion of Chicano Park
- Figure 12** Close-up sketch map, west portion of Chicano Park
- Figure 13** **Boundary Map Indicating Decimal Degree References**

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Figure 1

**Name of Property:** Rage Against La Raza above the Chicano Park Logo

**City or Vicinity:** San Diego

**County:** San Diego      **State:** California

**Photographer:** Kathleen Robles

**Date Photographed:** 1997

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Rage Against La Raza Artists: Congreso de Artistas Chicanos en Aztlán (CACCA), Mario Torero, & Tomás "Coyote" Castañeda, 1974. Chicano Park/ La Tierra Mia Logo Artists: Designed by Rico Bueno and painted by Carlotta Hernandez, 1974, (#5 & 6, Light Blue Lane Five.)

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Figure 2

Name of Property: Chicano Park/La Tierra Mia Logo

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Kathleen Robles

Date Photographed: Unknown

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Artists: Designed by Rico Bueno and painted by Carlotta Hernandez, 1974, (#6, Light Blue Lane Five.)

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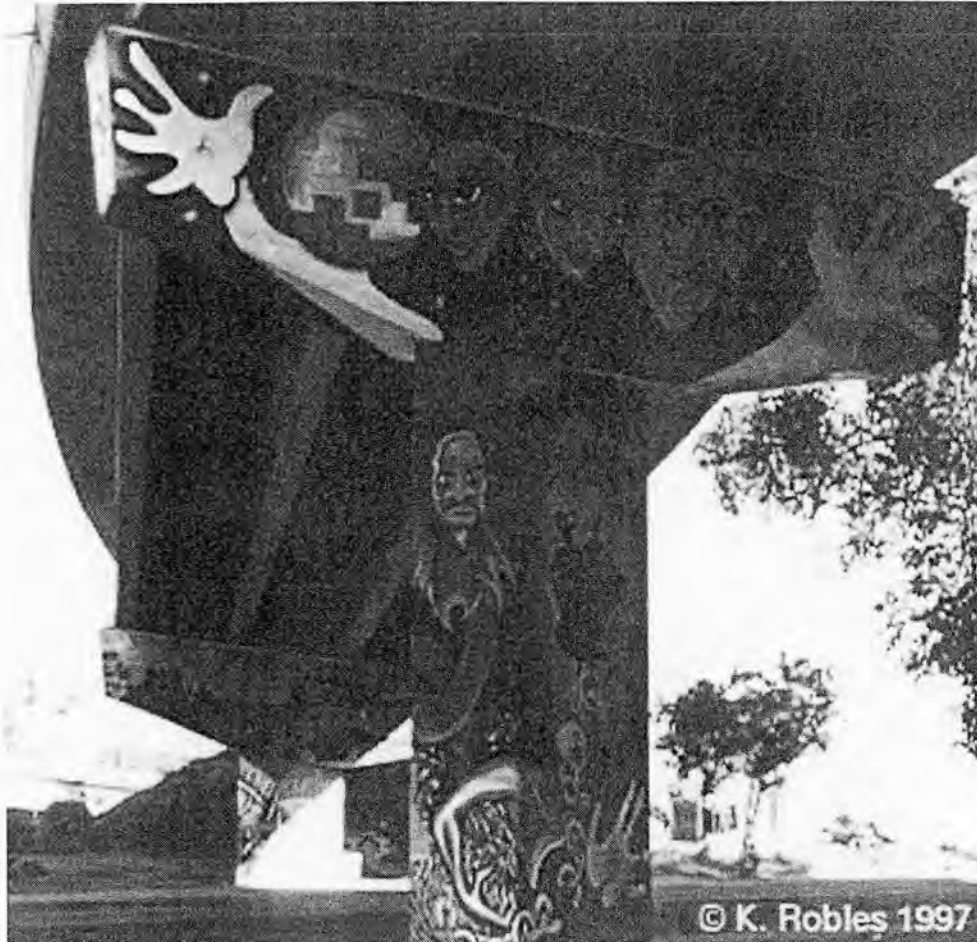
Section number Additional DocumentationPage 52

Figure 3

**Name of Property:** Cosmic Clowns

**City or Vicinity:** San Diego

**County:** San Diego                      **State:** California

**Photographer:** Kathleen Robles

**Date Photographed:** 1997

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:** Artists: Congreso de Artistas Chicanos en Aztlan (CACA): Mario Torero, Pablo de la Rosa, Tomas Casteneda, Felipe Barboza, 1974. Renovation artists: Mario Torero, Pablo de la Rosa, and Tomas Casteneda, 1992 (#4 on Light Blue Lane—Lane Five.)

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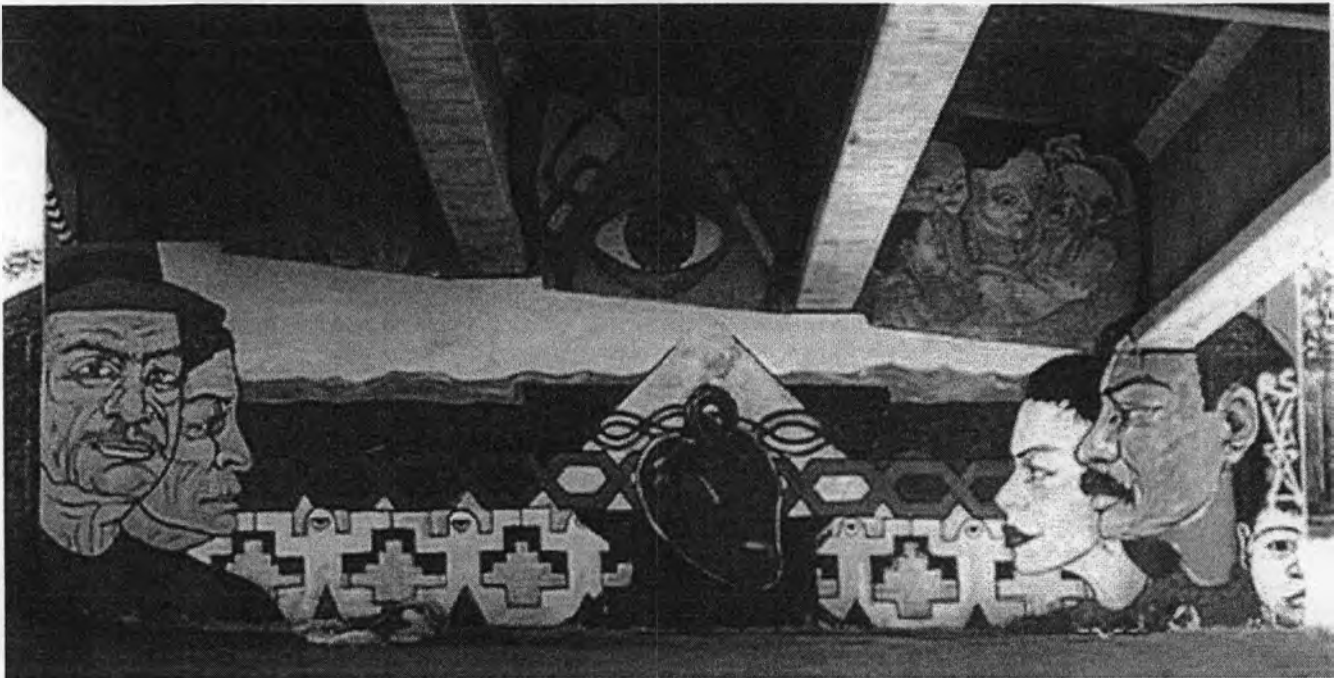


Figure 4

Name of Property: Corazon De Aztlan

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Kathleen Robles

Date Photographed: Unknown

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Tomas "Coyote" Castaneda and the Congreso de Artistas en Aztlan (CACA) Team, 1975. Renovation artist: Salvador "Queso" Torres, 1988, (#12 Light Blue Lane—Lane Five.)

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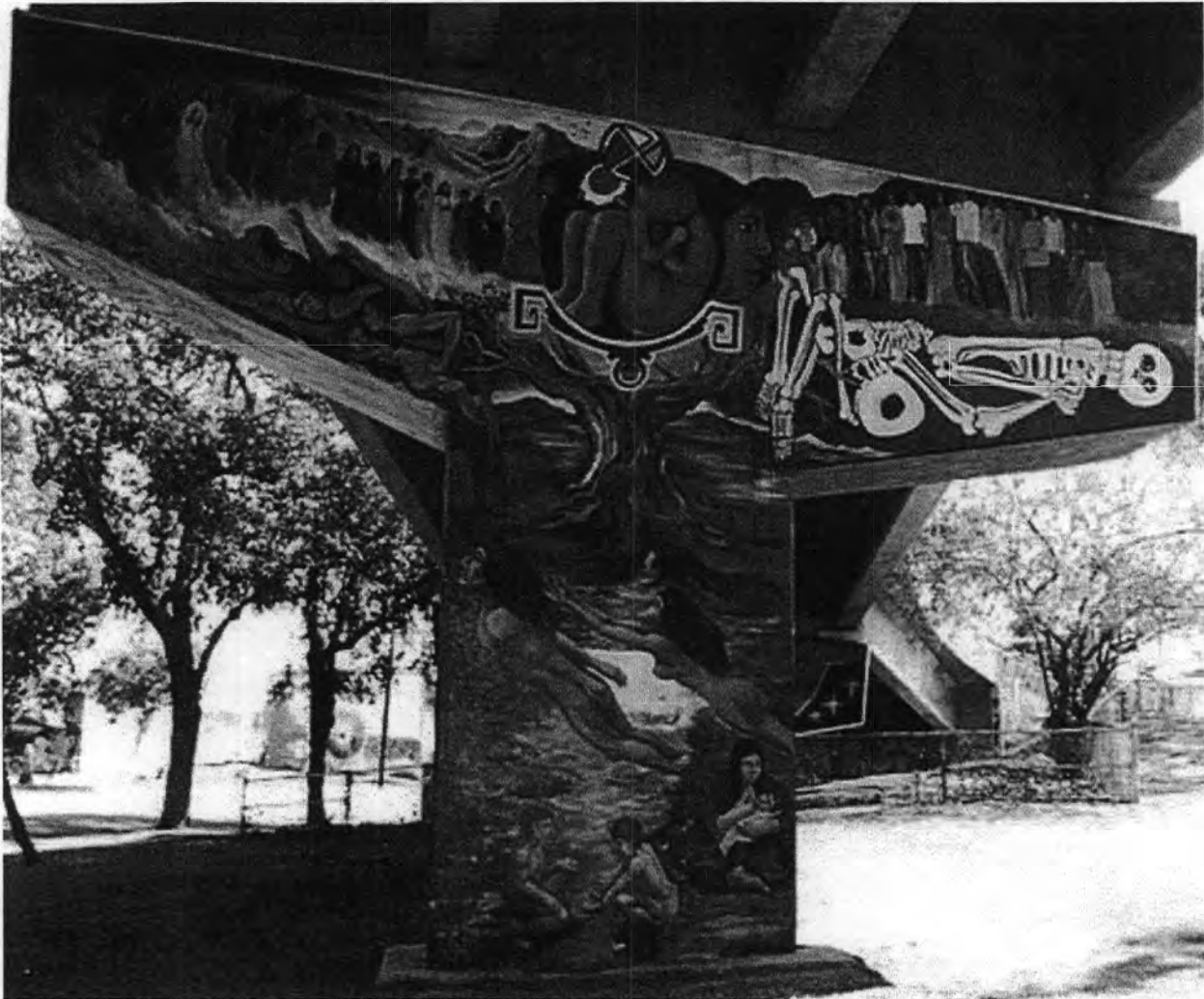


Figure 5

Name of Property: Tree of Life

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Kathleen Robles

Date Photographed: Unkown

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Felipe Adame, Guillermo Aranda, Arturo Roman, 1974. Renovation artists: Guillermo Aranda, Guillermo Rosete, Felipe Adame, Vidal Aguirre, 1992 (#6 on Light Green Lane—Lane Six.)



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Figure 6

Name of Property: Children's Mural

City or Vicinity: San Diego

County: San Diego State: California

Photographer: Kathleen Robles

Date Photographed: Unknown

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Artists: Victor Ochoa & Lowell School Children, 1973 (# 12 Light Green—Lane Six.)

United States Department of the Interior  
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CHICANO PARK STEERING COMMITTEE  
 P.O. Box 12524, San Diego, CA 92112  
 (619) 563-4661 cps@chicanopark@sbcglobal.net  
 www.chicano-park.com  
 \* Additional information on restoration can be found in  
 Chicano Park Mural Documentation Project Book at:  
 www.blurb.com

Figure 7: Chicano Park Guidebook Map

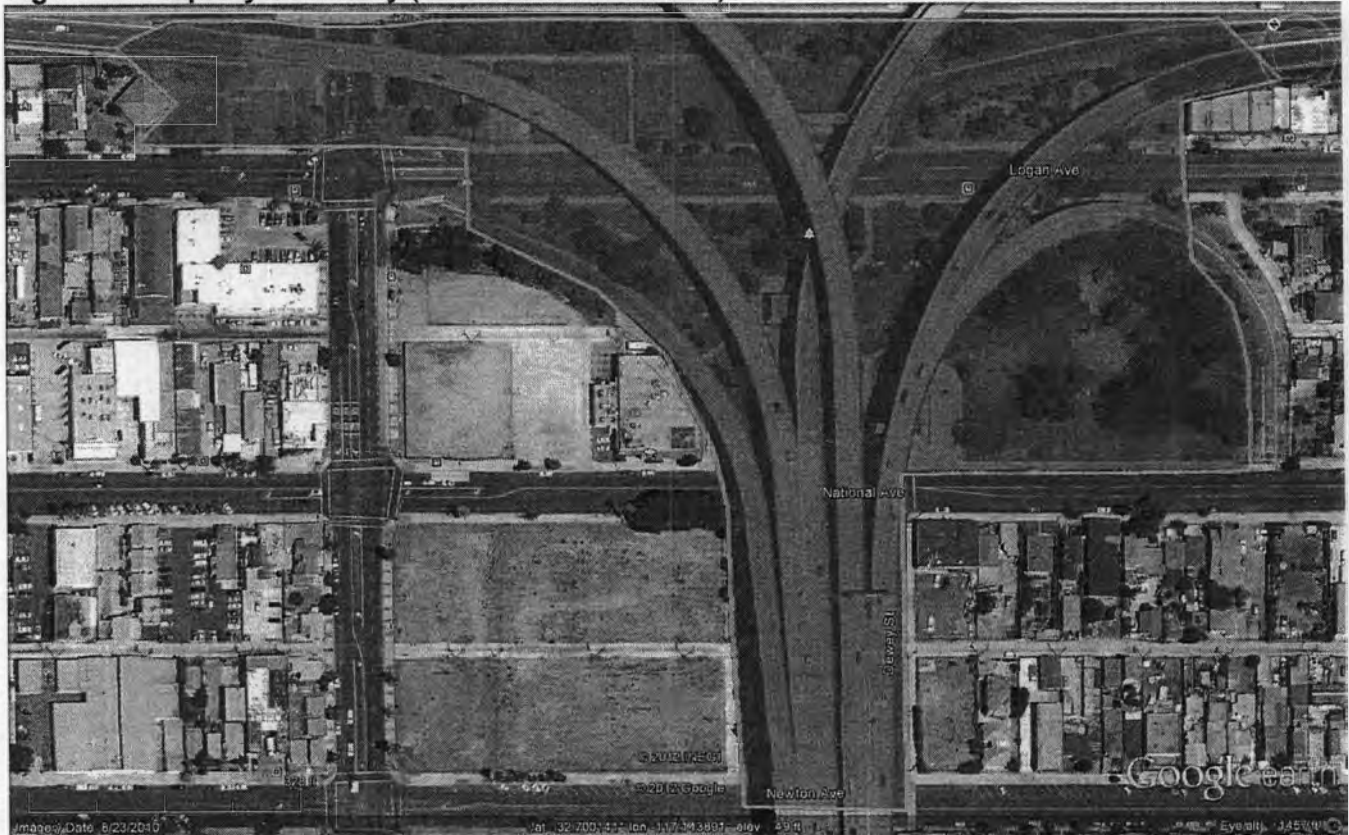
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Figure 8: Property Boundary (No Locations Marked)



SOUTHWORTH  
Permanent Record  
100% Cotton Paper

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Figure 9. Property Boundary Sketch Map with Contributors and Non-Contributors Marked



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Chicano Park

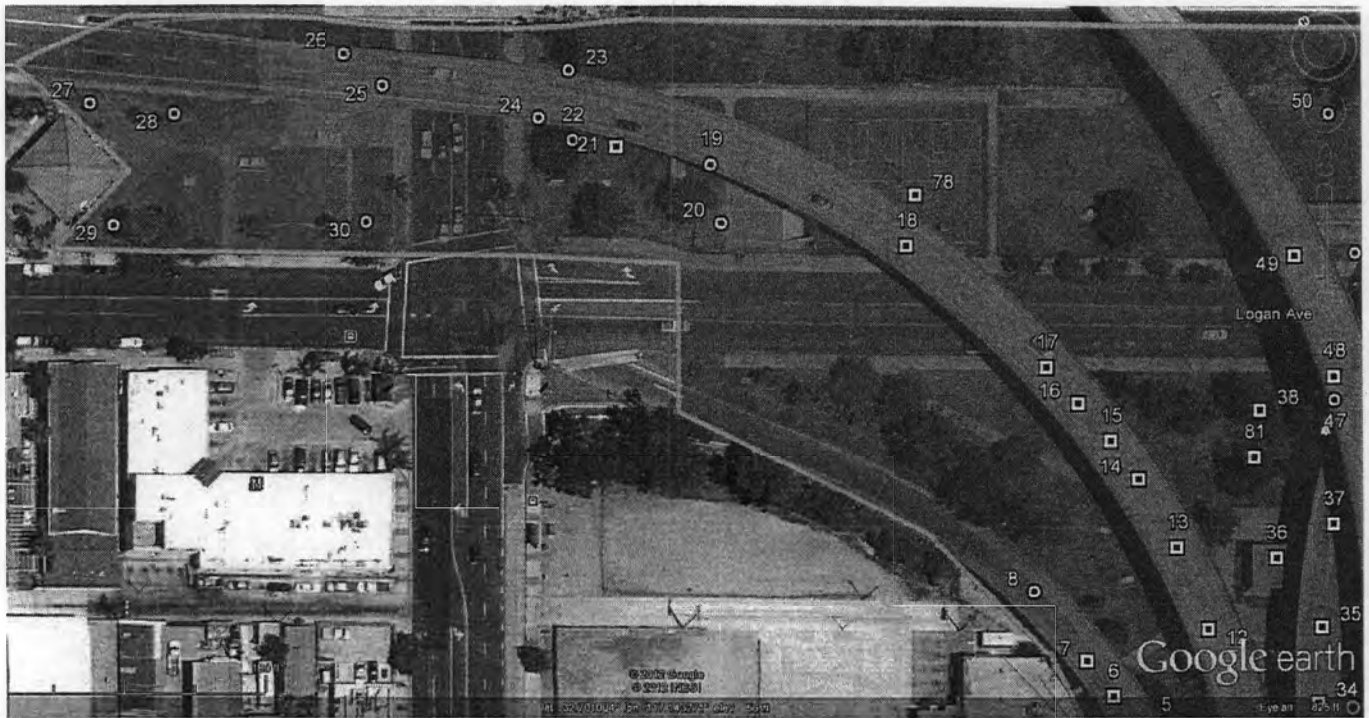
Name of Property  
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Figure 10. Close-up sketch map, west portion of Chicano Park



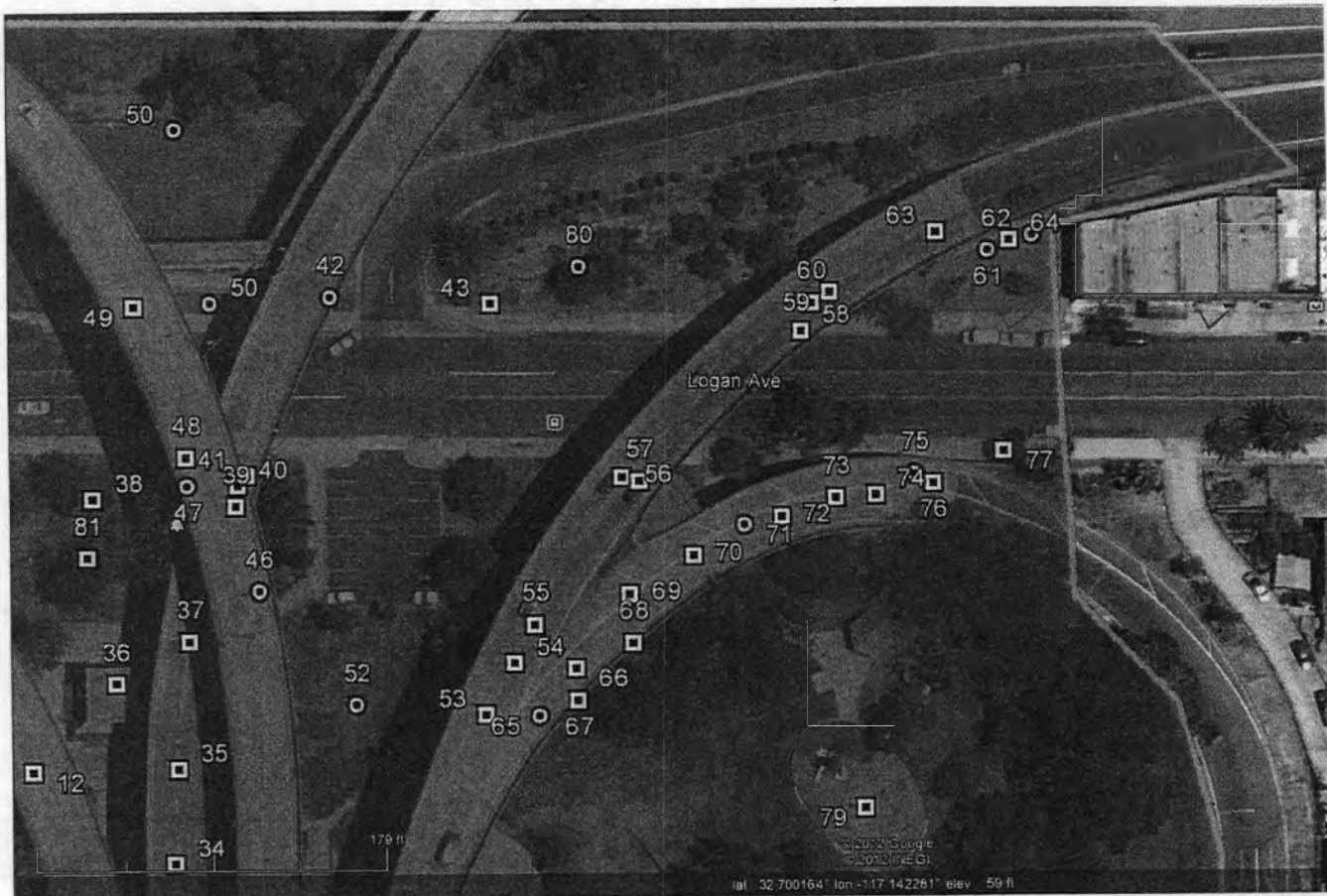
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Figure 11. Close-up sketch map, east portion of Chicano Park



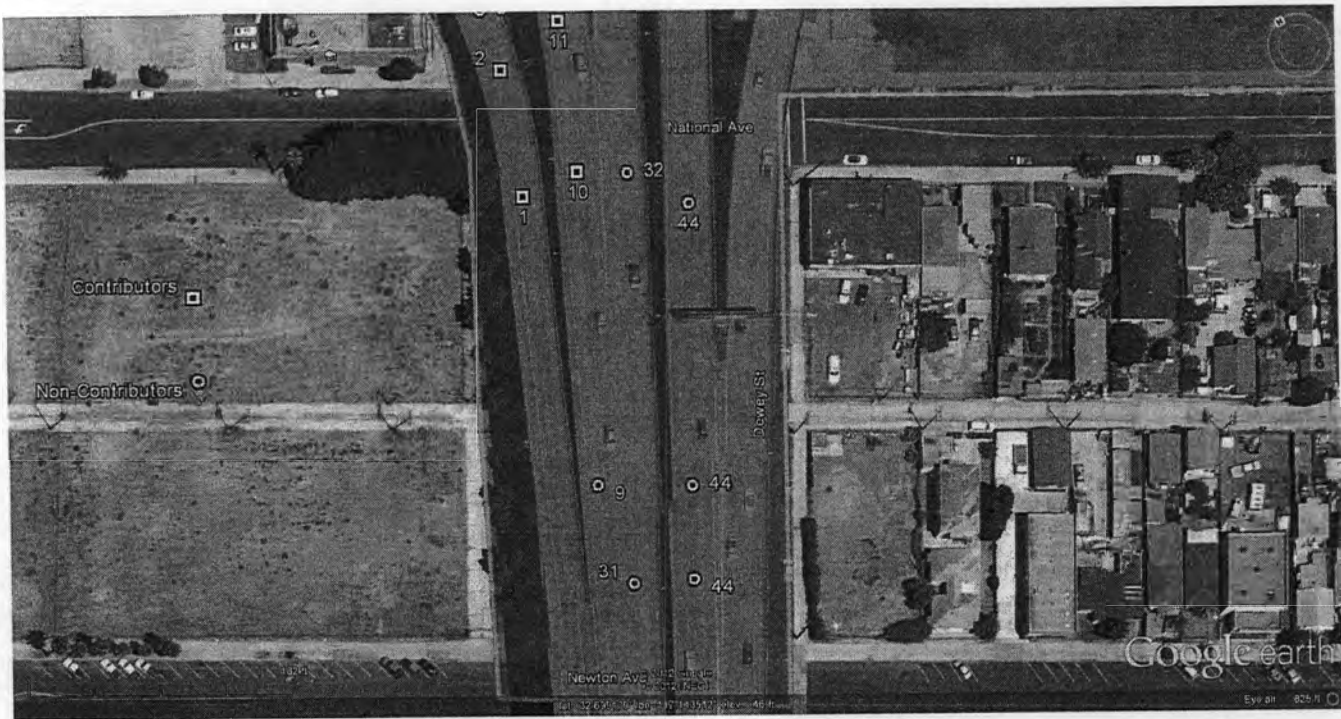
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Figure 12. Close-up sketch map, west portion of Chicano Park



RECEIVED  
Historical Record  
1971-1972

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
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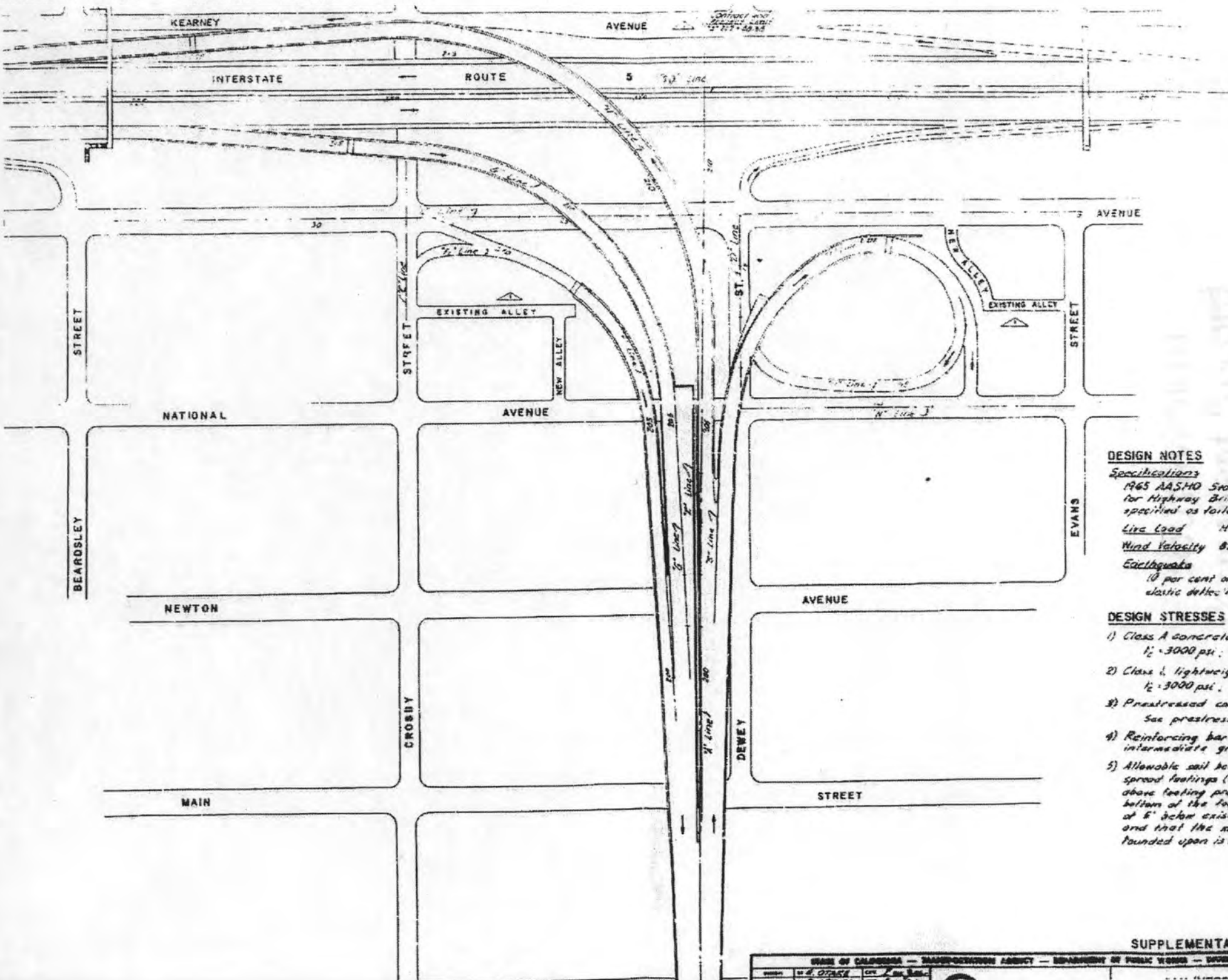
**Figure 13: Boundary Map Indicating Decimal Degree References**



**Decimal Degrees of Boundary Map Points:**

- Point 1: Latitude 32.702469, Longitude -117.144846
- Point 2: Latitude 32.699872, Longitude -117.141061
- Point 3: Latitude 32.698773, Longitude -117.142261
- Point 4: Latitude 32.698629, Longitude -117.144150
- Point 5: Latitude 32.699018, Longitude -117.144665





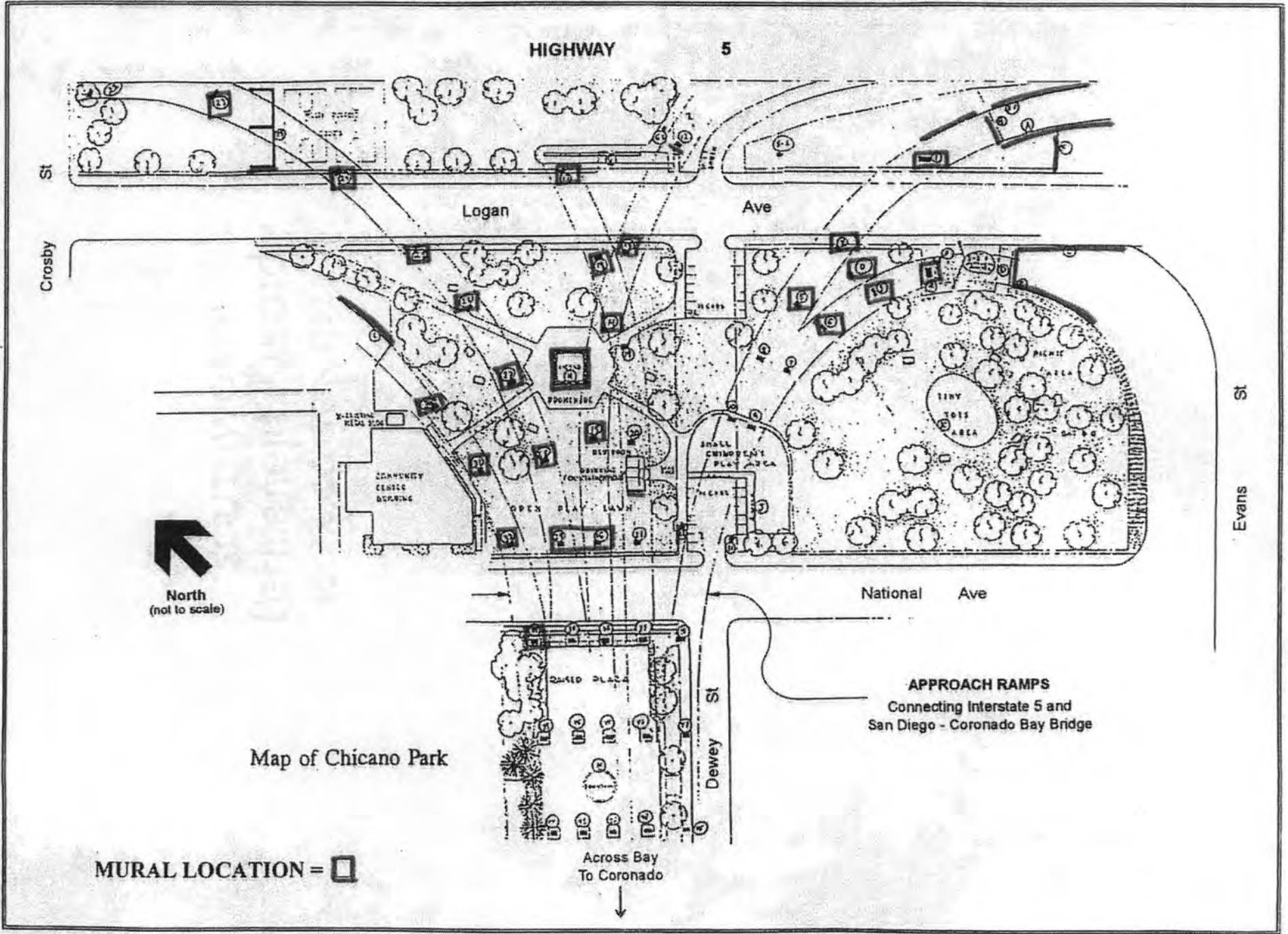
**DESIGN NOTES**

Specifications  
 1965 AASHTO Standard S  
 for Highway Bridges was  
 specified as follows:  
 Live Load H.S. 20 + 4  
 Wind Velocity 85 miles,  
 Earthquakes  
 10 per cent of dead in  
 elastic deflections but in

**DESIGN STRESSES**

- 1) Class A concrete  
 $f_c = 3000$  psi;  $f_t = 1200$
- 2) Class I, lightweight concrete  
 $f_c = 3000$  psi;  $f_t = 1200$  p
- 3) Prestressed concrete  
 See prestressed girder
- 4) Reinforcing bar steel sh  
 intermediate grade.  $f_y =$
- 5) Allowable soil bearing pres  
 spread footings (DL + LL) +  
 above footing pressure as  
 bottom of the footings sh  
 at 6" below existing gro  
 and that the material  
 founded upon is a dense

FIGURE 2



MURAL LOCATION = □

Map of Chicano Park

APPROACH RAMP  
Connecting Interstate 5 and  
San Diego - Coronado Bay Bridge

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

=====

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 12001192      Date Listed: 1/23/2013

Chicano Park  
Property Name

San Diego      CA  
County                  State

N/A  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

[Signature]  
Signature of the Keeper

1/23/13  
Date of Action

-----  
Amended Items in Nomination:

**Significance:**

The appropriate *Areas of Significance* under Criterion A and C should read: *Art, Ethnic Heritage-Hispanic, and Social History*. [Landscape Architecture, as currently developed, is not justified. The physical description of the park design outside of the mural artwork is rather limited and little supporting documentation is provided justifying its significance as a work of formal landscape design. A case might be made that the park stands as a unique example of vernacular landscape design responding solely to the design considerations of the local Hispanic citizens that crafted the park to fit their own needs, cultural practices, and use, but little such justification is provided in the current document, nor is there sufficient information on the evolution of the physical park design since its 1970s establishment, other than as it applies to the mural artwork. Social History is more relevant to our understanding the significance of the park to the social and cultural history of the city and its Chicano citizens

These clarifications were confirmed with the CA SHPO office.

-----  
DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Chicano Park  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, San Diego

DATE RECEIVED: 12/07/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/23/13  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12001192

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: Y  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

\_\_\_ACCEPT \_\_\_RETURN \_\_\_REJECT \_\_\_\_\_DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

See Attached Comments

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criteria A+C  
REVIEWER Paul R. Losiguan DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 1/23/13

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

## NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW COMMENTS

### Chicano Park

San Diego, San Diego County, CA

---

NR Criterion: A and C; Criteria Consideration G (<50)  
Areas of Significance: Ethnic Heritage-Hispanic; Art, Landscape Architecture  
Period of Significance: 1970—1989  
Level of Significance: Local & State

Chicano Park was the site of a peaceful protest in 1970 by members of the local San Diego Hispanic community over the planned redevelopment of a vacant site within the Barrio Logan community that had been previously promised to the community as public open space. The peaceful occupation of the site and the subsequent successful struggle to turn the location into a vibrant community gathering spot is closely associated with the local Chicano Civil Rights Movement in San Diego. The largely marginalized Chicano community in San Diego rose up against continued public policies negatively impacting their community and found a modest victory that established a strong cultural and social identity and voice for local Hispanic residents.

In subsequent years the park became the setting of important examples of Chicano Movement muralism, as local and regional artists came to the park to paint various monumental works on the columns of the freeway overpasses that defined the created-space park. The cohesive collection of political and social activist artwork represents both a significant collection of twentieth century mural art and a visual expression of local ethnic culture and pride.

The mural work has been the subject of considerable academic and scholarly study, despite its recent dates. That research points to both the artistic and social significance of the site, particularly as it relates to Hispanic/Chicano history and culture.

There appears to be sufficient scholarly appreciation and perspective to evaluate the exceptional significance of the property. In addition, the rather fragile nature of the exposed outdoor art, speaks to its early designation despite its rather recent vintage. The park's establishment in 1970 as a result of the occupation protests and the initial development of artwork in the 1970s justifies the beginning dates of the proposed period of significance. The development of new mural work continues today, but the end of the period of significance was established at 1989 to recognize the end of the second major phase of mural work. There are a total of over 80 murals in the park currently. 40 were completed between 1970 and 1979; 10 between 1980 and 1988; and 30 between 1990 and 2004 (most between 1995 and 1997).

The scholarly appreciation of the value of the site could have been more directly cited in the nomination, but the bibliography appears detailed. Although only seeking local and state level significance, it might have also been useful to provide additional context regarding the larger Chicano Civil Rights movement and how it evolved within the larger era of political and civic unrest and protests during the 1960s and 1970s.

Recommend approval under NR Criterion A and C at the local and state levels under the areas of Ethnic Heritage-Hispanic, Art, and Social History. Additional contextual development and comparative analysis with other Chicano Civil Rights sites and more importantly Chicano muralist collections might address national significance questions. Paul Lusignan, 2013

**Chicano Park**  
**San Diego, San Diego County**  
**Staff Report**

Chicano Park is a 7.4 acre park located in San Diego's Barrio Logan neighborhood, beneath the east-west approach ramps of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge. The park is based around an assemblage of murals painted on the support pillars, abutments and ramps beneath the approach bridges. Chicano Park was established in 1970 as a public park, featuring murals that commemorate the park's creation, the history of the community, and iconography of the Chicano Movement.

The park consists of the murals, a central "Kiosko" structure, statues, gardens and landscaped areas along the interchange between Interstate 5 and the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge. The approach bridges are less than 50 years old and not individually eligible for the National Register as bridges; this nomination reflects the property's association with historic events, and the concrete structures that make up the highway bridges are the canvas for the murals as contributing properties.

The property is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the April 22, 1970 takeover of the area by members of the Barrio Logan community, in response to news that a California Highway Patrol substation was under construction on the site, previously identified as a location for a proposed neighborhood park. This community action resulted in a change in planned use by the City of San Diego, establishing Chicano Park as a city park, and as a city historic site in 1980. The property is also eligible under Criterion C as an assemblage of masterworks of Chicano Movement muralism. Artists throughout the western United States came to Chicano Park to create murals, including many recognized as the greatest masters of Chicano Movement artwork, alongside the works of students and local community groups.

The period of significance is 1970-1989, the period from the Chicano Park takeover to the end of the first major period of mural creation and park improvements. The property satisfies the requirements of Criteria Consideration G as an exceptionally significant place; Chicano Park is the best-known and among the most thoroughly documented of any Chicano Movement muralism site. Documentation includes academic works on Chicano art, histories of the Chicano Movement in California, and public history documents exploring historically significant sites related to Latino history in California, providing scholarly analysis of the site's historic context under both Criterion A and Criterion C.

The property is owned by the California Department of Transportation, who determined the property eligible for the National Register in 1996 as the result of a federal highway project, an earthquake retrofit that was redesigned to avoid damaging the murals. The property received federal funds (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, or ISTEA) in 2000 for restoration of the murals. Many were restored in 2008-2010 by the original artists. The nomination has received eight letters of support.

Staff recommends the Commission determine that Chicano Park is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C, and meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration G, at the state level of significance. Staff further recommends the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination for forwarding to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register.

William Burg  
State Historian I  
October 11, 2012





CHARLOTTE, SANGRE DE LA TIERRA - KANTO DORRER

UNTO UNION

LA TIERRA







ALL THE WAY TO THE BAY



HASTA LA BAHIA II





HUELGA

UFW

















WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF  
WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF



MURA

LA  
REVOLUCION  
MEXICANA











LET ME SAY,  
AT THE RISK  
OF SEEMING  
RIDICULOUS,  
THAT THE  
TRUE  
REVOLUTIONARY  
IS GUIDED  
BY GREAT  
FEELINGS  
OF LOVE.  
DEJEME *Che*  
DECIRLE A RIESGO DE  
PARECER RIDICULO,  
QUE EL REVOLUCIONARIO  
VERDADERO ESTÁ GUIADO  
POR GRANDES  
SENTIMIENTOS  
DE AMOR *Che*



CHICANO PINTO UNION



BAY



FRIDA KAHLO

MURALISTAS MEXICANOS  
OUR TIME







Agnes  
M. G. G.  
Carter & Funder



Nacimiento del  
**PARQUE**

**CHIGANO**

22 abril 1970





VARRILO DEAM

© 2011

TODD STAND







AL

THE BAY











Me duele la cabeza y no sé  
qué es. Qué día de un día  
Pasa el día de un día  
H.

Me duele la cabeza y no sé  
qué es. Qué día de un día  
Pasa el día de un día  
H.

ESCUELA









¡BARRIO  
YONKES SI  
NO!





Historical Mural

La Lucha Continúa

LA TIERRA MIA





STRENGTH THROUGH UNITY

INDIVIDUALS  
SD

KLIQUE  
SD

OLDIES  
SD

AMIGOS  
SD

Domestic  
SD

RagTops  
SD

CHEWIE  
SD

Majestics  
SD

SAN DIEGO

Lozinger  
Council





Calixto Torres Baturo  
José María Torres  
José Luis Barrios  
Gonzalo Torres  
José María Torres  
José María Torres  
José María Torres  
José María Torres



السلامة  
والصحة  
والبيئة  
والثقافة  
والرياضة  
والفنون  
والترفيه  
والسياحة  
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والسياحة



















## Missing Core Documentation

**Property Name**

Chicano Park

**County, State**

San Diego, CA

**Reference Number**

12001192

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

Nomination Form

Photographs

USGS Map

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
P.O. BOX 942896  
SACRAMENTO 94296-0001  
(916) 653-6624  
FAX: (916) 653-9824



January 31, 1997

Reply To: FHWA970121X

Mr. Chris White, Chief  
Environmental Analysis Branch "B"  
Department of Transportation  
District 11  
P.O. Box 85406  
San Diego CA 92186-5406

Re: 11-SD-75; P.M. R21.9/R22.3; 021941; San Diego-Coronado Bay  
Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project 4

Dear Mr. White:

In accordance with the requirements of the "Programmatic Agreement Regarding the Seismic Retrofit of Bridge Structures in California" (PA), Caltrans has submitted for my review and comment an Historic Properties Survey Report (HPSR) for the undertaking cited above. Thank you for consulting me. My comments on the documentation and on the Caltrans findings submitted are presented below.

I. Area of Potential Effects (APE)

I do not object to the manner in which the APE for Project 4 was delineated.

II. Identification of Historic Properties

Efforts to identify historic properties within the APE were superior. The professional, sensitive and forthright manner in which Caltrans addressed the challenge of evaluating extraordinary resources like Chicano Park and its murals for National Register eligibility, is commendable.

I agree that site constraints make it impractical to conduct preconstruction testing at this time within the 6 areas of potential historic archeological sensitivity identified in the HPSR.



### III. Properties Eligible for Inclusion in the National Register

I agree with Caltrans that the following properties within the APE appear to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register:

#### A. Chicano Park

Chicano Park appears to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register under Criterion A at the local level of significance for its association with the development of the Chicano Civil Rights Movement and with a critical phase of that development in the larger context of San Diego's social, cultural and political history. Sufficient studies and historical perspective exist to permit use of the National Register Criteria in this case and to conclude that the Park is exceptionally important. Property location, boundaries and period of significance are set forth in the DPR 523B-Test BSO form prepared for this property.

#### B. Chicano Park Murals

The Chicano Park murals appear to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register under Criterion A at the local level of significance as visually striking and magnificently executed artistic expressions of themes and events associated with the Chicano Civil Rights Movement. The murals are emblematic of the social, cultural and political struggles and aspirations that were brought to the forefront by the Movement. They continue the tradition of outdoor muralism as a mainstay of Hispanic artistic culture in this hemisphere and pointedly communicate the debt this culture owes to the artistic, cultural and religious traditions of the hemisphere's first inhabitants.

Sufficient scholarly study has been conducted and enough time depth is present to conclude that the murals are exceptionally important. The bridge columns of the five eastern approach ramps that serve as a canvas for the murals are considered a contributing element of the property.

Property locations, boundaries and period of significance are set forth in the DPR 523B-Test BSO form prepared for this property.

Mr. Chris White  
January 31, 1997  
Page Three

SDI/COR BR RETRO

IV. Properties Not Eligible for Inclusion in the National Register

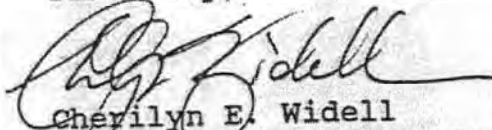
I agree that the following properties within the APE are now not eligible in any manner for inclusion in the National Register for the specific reasons cited in the HPSR:

- A. Bridge 57-857 (SDI-Coronado Bay Bridge)
- B. Bridge 57-856 (Dewey Street Pedestrian Overcrossing)
- C. Bridge 57-847G (Logan Avenue Undercrossing)
- D. Bridge 57-912G (Northwest Connector Overcrossing)
- E. Bridge 57-846G (Southwest Connector Overcrossing)
- F. Bridge 57-939H (Westbound Approach Ramp)

In conclusion, I wish to congratulate Caltrans for the scope, comprehensiveness and sensitivity of the public involvement program conducted in connection with this undertaking and for making a commitment to continue this effort in the future.

The opportunity to participate in the National Register assessment of properties within this undertaking's APE is appreciated. I look forward to further consultation on effects. If you have any questions, please call Hans Kreutzberg at (916) 653-9107.

Sincerely,



Cheryl E. Widell  
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: FHWA  
BMcDonnell

**CHICANO PARK STEERING COMMITTEE**  
**P.O. BOX 12524**  
**SAN DIEGO, CA 92112**  
**(619)563-4661**  
**EMAIL: [cpscchicanopark@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cpscchicanopark@sbcglobal.net)**  
**[www.chicano-park.com](http://www.chicano-park.com)**



September 18, 2012

California State Historic Preservation Officer M. Wayne Donaldson  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dear SHPO Donaldson,

This letter is in support of the nomination of Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals to the National Register.

Chicano Park is recognized for its historical significance in defining an era in the development of San Diego, when the community stood proud and took-over land initially targeted as a California Highway Patrol substation and parking lot.

Racism and cultural isolation was not a new phenomenon to the residents of Logan Heights prior to the "Takeover" of Chicano Park. Chicanos and Blacks, having lived in the area since the 1890's, remained in the area long after San Diego's use of restrictive covenants in housing contracts were deemed unlawful. Logan Heights was a self contained community until 1950's when the City of San Diego changed the zoning from residential to light industrial, which brought in an insurmountable amount of junk yards and recyclers. In the 1960's changes in transportation and land use policies allowed Interstate 5 to barrel right through the center of the community dislocating families and business through eminent domain laws. The building of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge further bisected the neighborhood with its east-west footprint.

Community and local business leaders began a request to the City officials for a park to maintain a sense of community. Many residents in Barrio Logan had believed that they would gain access to land that would be used to build a park. On April 22, 1970, the formal struggle for a park in Barrio Logan began when residents of the neighborhood, along with students, families, elders, and children occupied the land under the approach ramps of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge, after they learned that a California Highway Patrol (CHP) station was scheduled to be built there. Between 250 and 500 people representing a wide cross-section of the community disrupted grading work that was already in progress. The site was occupied for twelve days and the demand that a park be created immediately was the rallying cry to the community. To emphasize the point, the community began the work of creating their own park by using shovels, pickaxes, hoes and rakes to prepare the ground for the planting of grass, shrubs and flowers.

The Chicano Park Steering Committee was established the very night of the occupation to oversee (on behalf of the community) the continuing development and expansion of the Chicano Park. For more than 42 years we have remained stewards of the park and the monumental murals. There are more than 73 murals painted on the pillars, ramps and abutments of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge. They have gained international recognition for their artistic excellence created by master artists. The park and its murals are worthy of being recognized as national treasures.

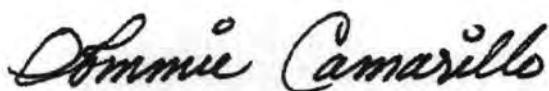
Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals are exceptional cultural resources to San Diego and the nation. The City of San Diego recognized the park's significance as early as 1980 only 10 years after its founding, when the San Diego Historic Site Board designated Chicano Park as a city historic site. The Board's report noted: "Chicano Park is a significant representation of an era in the development of San Diego. It is also associated and identified with important events in the main currents of local history. It exemplifies the broad cultural, political, economic and social history of the community. It is an urban park with recreational facilities, a kiosk in the shape of an Aztec/Mayan temple, and bridge supports painted by Mexican American/Chicano artists from the community and California. The artistic representation depicts the thinking, the background, the neighborhood, the Mexican/Chicano people and their struggles.

Most recently, on May 24, 2012 the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board awarded Chicano Park artists, cultural workers and the Chicano Park Steering Committee, *The 2012 Annual Historic Preservation Awards* for their contribution to the preservation of San Diego's History and Heritage (Chicano Park Murals HRB Site 143.)

In 1996 former State Historic Preservation Officer Cheryl Widell, concurred with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) 1996 *State Historic Research Education Report for the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge* that Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals, although not yet 50 years old, meet the exceptional importance criterion for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources. The San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge piers and supports that are grounded in Chicano Park are the "canvas".

The Chicano Park Steering Committee approves of and whole heartily supports the submission of Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals to the National Register.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tommie Camarillo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Tommie Camarillo  
Chairperson

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0079  
(916) 319-2079  
FAX (916) 319-2179

DISTRICT OFFICE  
303 H STREET, SUITE 200  
CHULA VISTA, CA 91910  
(619) 409-7979  
FAX (619) 409-9270

WEBSITE: [asmcd.org/hueso](http://asmcd.org/hueso)

# Assembly California Legislature



**BEN HUESO**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-NINTH DISTRICT

**COMMITTEES**  
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JOB CREATION

September 19, 2012

California State Historic Preservation Officer M. Wayne Donaldson  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816

**RE: Support the nomination of Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental  
Murals to the National Register**

Dear SHPO Donaldson,

As a representative of the San Diego region, I am writing to urge the nomination of Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals to the National Register at your November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.


Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals are internationally recognized and are an exceptional cultural resource to San Diego and the nation. The City of San Diego recognized the park's significance in the early 1980's when the San Diego Historic Site Board designated Chicano Park as a city historic site. The Board's report noted: "Chicano Park is a significant representation of an era in the development of San Diego".

This assemblage of murals commemorates the events of April 22, 1970 when members of the Barrio Logan community first occupied the land under the approach ramps of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge, creating a community park. The property is nominated for its significance to the Chicano Movement and as an assemblage of murals representing the masters of Chicano Movement artwork. It exemplifies the broad cultural, political, economic and social history of the community.

Chicano Park and the Monumental Murals fit the criteria that Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, is putting forward in the American Latino Heritage Initiative. The listing on the National Register would recognize these resources as National Treasures worthy of preservation.

For this reason, I am pleased to offer my support for the nomination of Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals to the National Register. Please feel free to contact me at 619-409-7979 if you have any questions or require more information.

Sincerely,

  
BEN HUESO  
Assemblymember, 79th District

BH/JO





COUNCILMEMBER  
DAVID ALVAREZ

CITY OF SAN DIEGO



September 26, 2012

M. Wayne Donaldson  
California State Historic Preservation Officer  
Office of Historic Preservation  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dear Mr. Donaldson:

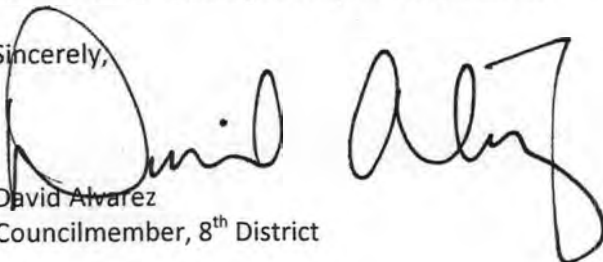
I am writing in support of the nomination of Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals to the National Register of Historic Places. These treasured cultural resources are internationally recognized.

The City of San Diego recognized the park's significance as early as 1980, only 10 years after its founding, when the San Diego Historic Site Board designated Chicano Park as a city historic site. This park exemplifies the broad cultural, political, economic and social history of the community. It is an urban park with recreational facilities, a kiosk in the shape of an Aztec/Mayan temple, and bridge supports painted by Mexican American/Chicano artists from the community and California. The artistic representation depicts the thinking, the background, the neighborhood, Chicano people and their struggles.

Most recently, the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board awarded Chicano Park artists, cultural workers and the Chicano Park Steering Committee, *The 2012 Annual Historic Preservation Awards* for their contribution to the preservation of San Diego's History and Heritage (Chicano Park Murals HRB Site 143.)

The listing on the National Register would recognize these resources as national treasures worthy of preservation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David Alvarez  
Councilmember, 8<sup>th</sup> District



BOB FILNER  
51ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
RANKING MEMBER

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
COMMITTEE

AVIATION

HIGHWAY AND TRANSIT

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 28, 2012

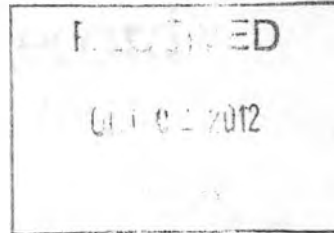
2428 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
TEL: (202) 225-8045  
FAX: (202) 225-9073

333 F STREET, SUITE A  
CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA 91910  
TEL: (619) 422-5963  
FAX: (619) 422-7290

1101 AIRPORT ROAD, SUITE D  
IMPERIAL, CALIFORNIA 92251  
TEL: (760) 355-8800  
FAX: (760) 355-8802

website: [www.house.gov/filner](http://www.house.gov/filner)

Officer Milford Wayne Donaldson, SHPO  
Office of Historic Preservation  
Department of Parks & Recreation  
1725 23rd St.  
Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816



Dear Officer *Wayne* Donaldson:

I write to you in support of the nomination of Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals for placement on the National Register.

Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals are internationally recognized and are exceptional cultural resources to San Diego and the nation. Ten years after its founding, the City of San Diego recognized the park's significance when the San Diego Historic Site Board designated Chicano Park as a city historical site.

Chicano Park and the Monumental Murals are a significant part of the community because it exemplifies the cultural, political, economic and social history of the community. As a former City Councilman, whose district included Barrio Logan, I was aware of the negative impact the construction of the Coronado Bridge had on the community of Barrio Logan and I supported the recognition of Chicano Park and the Monumental Murals.

This national treasure is worthy of preservation, therefore, I urge you to place the Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals on the National Register. If I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me or Wayne Lucero of my staff at 619-422-5963.



BF/wl  
2623262

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER  
Member of Congress



## THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

October 5, 2012

M. Wayne Donaldson  
California State Historic Preservation Officer  
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dear Mr. Donaldson,

This letter is to support the nomination of Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals to the National Register.

Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals are internationally recognized for their artistic quality and as the largest concentration of outdoor public art murals in one place, 73 murals located in a 7.4 acre park. Forty-nine of the murals and one sculpture are identified as having been created during the height of the Chicano Civil Rights era. Many of the artists have local, statewide, national and international reputations.

The City of San Diego recognized the park's significance as early as 1980 only ten years after its founding, when the San Diego Historic Site Board designated Chicano Park as a City historic site. The Board's report noted: "Chicano Park is a significant representation of an era in the development of San Diego. It is also associated and identified with important events in the main currents of local history. It exemplifies the broad cultural, political, economic and social history of the community. It is an urban park with recreational facilities, a kiosk in the shape of an Aztec/Mayan temple, and bridge supports painted by Mexican American/Chicano artists from the community and California. The artistic representation depicts the thinking, the background, the neighborhood, the Mexican/ Chicano people and their struggles."

In 2000, Caltrans applied and was awarded \$1.6 million in funding from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) for the restoration of San Diego's Chicano Park historic murals. The project was completed August 2012. On May 24, 2012, the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board awarded Chicano Park artists, cultural workers and the Chicano Park Steering Committee, *The 2012 Annual Historic Preservation Awards*, in the area of Cultural Landscape, for their contribution to the preservation of San Diego's History and Heritage (Chicano Park Murals HRB Site 143.)

Although neither the park nor the murals are 50 years old, they meet a number of the criteria: a property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history and embody the distinctive characteristics of a period; and represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals listing on the National Register would recognize San Diego's cultural and historic resource as a National treasure worthy of preservation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Victoria L. Hamilton  
Executive Director



### Commission for Arts and Culture

1200 Third Avenue, Suite 924, MS 652 • San Diego, CA 92101-4106  
Tel (619) 236-6800 Fax (619) 236-6812







THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**Historical Resources Board**

DATE ISSUED: October 11, 2012 REPORT NO. HRB-12-057  
ATTENTION: Historical Resources Board  
Agenda of October 25, 2012  
SUBJECT: **ITEM #6 – Chicano Park**  
APPLICANT: Josie Talamantez  
Owner: City of San Diego  
LOCATION: National Ave. at Dewey Street, Barrio Logan Community, Council  
District 3  
DESCRIPTION: Review the National Register Nomination of Chicano Park

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Recommend the listing of Chicano Park to the Office of Historic Preservation. The 7.4 acre park was established in 1970 and is located in the Barrio Logan neighborhood beneath the east-west approach ramps of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge. The site is bound by Interstate 5 to the east and National Avenue to the west.

BACKGROUND

This item is being brought before the Historical Resources Board pursuant to the Office of Historic Preservation requirement that the local jurisdiction be provided 60 days to review and comment on a National Register of Historic Places nomination. Chicano Park is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, C, and Criterion Consideration G as a significant historical resource for its critical association with the Chicano Civil Rights Movement, its significance to the City of San Diego's political and social history and for its assemblage of murals created by masters of the Chicano Movement. The City's Historical Resources Board designated Chicano Park and its large murals as a local landmark in 1980 (HRB #143).

## ANALYSIS

A National Register of Historic Places Nomination Report was prepared by Josie Talamantez, which concludes that the resource is significant under National Register Criteria A, C and Criterion Consideration G. Staff concurs that the site is a significant historical resource under National Historic Register Criteria A, C and Criterion Consideration G as follows.

*CRITERION A – Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.*

Chicano Park is located within the Barrio Logan community, one of San Diego's oldest and longest established Mexican-American or Chicano communities. Chicano Park is linked with the Chicano Civil Rights Movement both locally and nationally and the community's takeover of the land on which Chicano Park sits has contributed significantly to the broad patterns of our history.

From the early part of the twentieth century, Barrio Logan established a distinctive identity that came to represent a major center for Chicano culture and activities. The area originally provided low cost housing for local workers in fish canneries, lumber, shipbuilding and the railroad industry spurring considerable growth in its population. By World War II, Barrio Logan had the second largest Chicano population on the west coast behind Los Angeles.

Originally a part of the Logan Heights community, Barrio Logan exists as it does today as the result of the construction of Interstate 5 in 1963 and the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge in 1969. The construction split the neighborhood in two and the area to the southwest of Interstate 5 became known as Barrio Logan. The name Barrio Logan evolved from the Spanish speaking residents referring to Logan Heights as the barrio (neighborhood). The City officially adopted the name to describe the area in the 1970's.

Barrio Logan's physical makeup began to change in the 1950's when the predominantly residential area was rezoned as mixed use allowing a flood of automotive scrap yards and industrial businesses to the area. The mixed use classification and the construction of Interstate 5 and the Coronado Bay Bridge resulted in the displacement of many families and businesses. Between 1969 and 1979, Barrio Logan's population dropped from 20,000 to 5,000. The drastic population decline and physical change in the area during this time is responsible for igniting the local Chicano Movement that advocated for the rights of the community's residents and inspired a renaissance in Chicano art, music, literature, and theater.

In April of 1970, the Chicano Movement reached a new high with the takeover of the land beneath the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge. The takeover propelled the Chicano Movement into the consciousness of the larger San Diego and national community. On April 22, 1970, Barrio Logan residents were warned of the construction of a California Highway Patrol Substation beneath the bridge on the land which City officials had promised residents a park. This was viewed as an insult to the residents who had by now experienced many negative changes to their community. Protestors successfully stopped the ground breaking when 200-500 people occupied the park for twelve days. On the third day of the occupation the prominent Cacho family of San Diego lent protestors tractors, bulldozers and other farming tools to assist

the community in creating their park. After twelve days the City agreed to grant the land totaling 7.4 acres to the Barrio Logan community. The takeover influenced a series of community and political organizations to support and provide social services to the Chicano community.

The creation of the park was a major defining moment in the history of Barrio Logan and San Diego as a whole and today the park serves as a cultural center for the Chicano community of San Diego and the region. Every year the neighborhood celebrates the anniversary of the park takeover and on April 21, 2012, Chicano park celebrated its 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary.

*CRITERION C – Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.*

Chicano Park is an urban park made up of recreational facilities, a dance pavilion kiosk in the shape of an Aztec temple, gardens, sculptures and over one hundred colorful murals painted by local and national Chicano artists. The murals possess high artistic value and deep meaning to the Chicano community. The site includes two contributing structures including the dance pavilion and a statue, and fifty contributing murals with a total of fifty-two contributing resources and thirty-two noncontributing resources within the park.

The Park has gained a great deal of local, national and international recognition. The Historical Survey of the Barrio Logan Community states that Chicano Park “contains one of the finest and largest collections of Chicano murals in the country and serves as a gathering place for the region’s Mexican-American populations.” The City’s Historical Resources Board designated Chicano Park including its large murals as a local landmark in 1980 (HRB #143). At that time, the Board stated:

“Chicano Park is a significant representation of an era in the development of San Diego. It is also associated and identified with important events in the main currents of local history. It exemplifies the broad cultural, political, economic and social history of the community. The artistic representation depicts the thinking, the background, the neighborhood, the Chicano people and their struggles.”

The Chicano political activism of the 1960’s through 1989 initiated the creation and inspired the designs of the murals in Chicano Park. The Chicano Civil Rights Movement throughout urban United States emphasized graphics, including mural painting, to disseminate information and to communicate demands with both the literate and illiterate population. According to the report, artists “vowed that Chicano artists and sculptors of the community would turn the gloomy gray columns of the bridge into things of beauty, ‘an outdoor museum,’ reflecting the Mexican-American Culture.”

The Chicano Park murals are located on five bridge approach structures and the other contributing resources are associated with these structures. The bridge structures include:

- Westbound Approach Ramp (Bridge #57-939H). Resources 1-8
- Northwest Connector Overcrossing (Bridge #57-912G). Resources 9-30
- Logan Avenue Undercrossing (Bridge #57-847G). Resources 31-51
- Southwest Connector Overcrossing (Bridge #57-846G). Resources 52-64

- Dewey Street Pedestrian Overcrossing (Bridge #57-856). Resources 65-77

The bulk of the murals were painted within the 1973-1989 proposed period of significance and this 27 year period is broken up into three phases. The murals depict images of pre-Columbian gods, myths and legendary icons, botanical elements, animal imagery, the Mexican colonial experience, revolutionary struggles, Chicano achievements, cultural heroes, and scenes based on contemporary Chicano civil rights history.

Phase 1- Lasting from 1973 to 1974, the first phase began on March 23, 1973 when two groups of Chicano artists including the *Los Toltecas en Aztlán* and *El Congreso de Artistas Chicanos en Aztlán* began to paint the murals on the concrete pillars of the bridge approaches. The first phase represented the park takeover and murals from this period emphasized community and cultural history.

Phase 2 – Lasting from 1974 to 1975, Chicano artists from communities throughout California and the Southwest were invited to contribute to the murals in Chicano Park. Murals were greatly influenced by these visiting artists and represent more national and regional themes of the Chicano Civil Rights Movement.

Phase 3 – Lasting from 1977 through the end of the 1980's, the third phase celebrated a resurgence of community pride. Murals from this period question the physical surroundings and the large number of junkyards and their impact on quality of life. This is exemplified in one of the most well known murals at the Park, "Varrio Si, Yonkes No!" from 1977. In 1978, influential Chicano Muralist Victor Ochoa organized a 20 day Mural Marathon with an emphasis on educational and historical themes.

The two additional contributing resources were constructed in the Park during this time period. The Park's dance pavilion called "Kiosko-Tenochtitlán" designed by architect Alfredo Larin and painted by muralists Vidal Aguirre and Felipe Adame was added in 1978. The contributing statue titled "Anguila en Aztlan" was added in 1986.

Murals continue to be painted in Chicano Park today. In 2002, Caltrans applied and was awarded 1.6 million in funding from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) for the restoration of the murals which was completed by many of the original artists and their teams in August 2012. The assemblage of murals created by masters of the Chicano Movement possess high artistic value and represent exceptionally significant works of public art from their period of significance of 1973-1989.

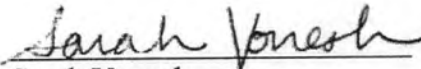
CRITERION CONSIDERATION G – *less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.*

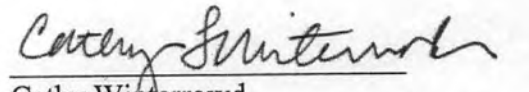
Chicano Park meets requirements for Criteria Consideration G for its exceptional significance. Chicano Park is well established as a part of the Chicano Civil Rights Movement both locally and nationally. It also has been recognized for its significance in development of San Diego. The Park was listed as a historic site locally in 1980, only ten years after its establishment. In 1996, the California State Historic Preservation Office concurred with the *State Historic Research Education Report for the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge* which expressed that Chicano Park

and its murals met the exceptional significance criterion for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register for Historical Resources. Additionally, the 1.8 million dollar restoration project completed in August 2012 demonstrates the recognized significance to the larger community. Chicano Park and its murals have clearly established significance at the local, national and international level within the past 50 years and therefore should be recommended for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

CONCLUSION

Based on the information submitted, it is recommended that the Historic Resources Board forward a positive recommendation for Chicano Park to be listed on the National Register of Historical Places under Criteria A, C and Criterion Consideration G with a period of significance of 1970-1989.

  
Sarah Vonesh  
Planning Intern

  
Cathy Winterrowd  
Assistant Deputy Director/HRB Liaison

SV/jb/cw

Attachment: Applicant's National Register of Historical Resources Nomination Report under separate cover

# California State Senate

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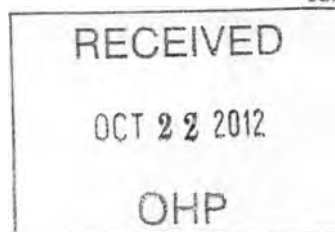
SENATOR  
**JUAN VARGAS**  
FORTIETH SENATE DISTRICT



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
EDUCATION  
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT &  
RETIREMENT  
JOINT RULES

October 17, 2012

California State Historic Preservation Officer Carol Roland-Nawi  
Office of Historic Preservation  
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816



Dear SHPO Roland-Nawi,

I am writing in support of the nomination of Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals, which reside within the City of San Diego portion of my district, to the National Register of Historic Places.

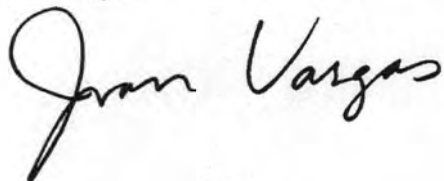
Chicano Park is internationally recognized for its critical significance in the Chicano Civil Rights Movement and as a cultural resource for San Diego, California, and the entire nation. The triumphant struggle for the creation of the park marked a defining moment in the history of the Barrio Logan community and a major victory for the Chicano movement. The City of San Diego recognized the park's significance as early as 1980, only 10 years after its founding, when the San Diego Historic Site Board designated Chicano Park as a city historic site. The Board's report noted: "Chicano Park is a significant representation of an era in the development of San Diego. It is also associated and identified with important events in the main currents of local history. It exemplifies the broad cultural, political, economic and social history of the community."

The Monumental Murals are internationally recognized as the work of master mural artists. The murals are not only examples of artistic mastery, but also parallel the history of the Chicano movement. As the Board stated, "The artistic representation [in the murals] depicts the thinking, the background, the neighborhood, the Mexican/Chicano people and their struggles." By the late 1970s, nearly every major Chicano muralist in California and the Southwest had participated in the making of the Chicano Park Monumental Murals including: Salvador Torres, Mario Torrero, Victor Ochoa, Esteban Villa, Ricardo Favela, Guillermo Rosette, Juanishi Orosco, Jose Montoya, Charles "Gato" Felix, Rupert Garcia, Yolanda Lopez, Celia Herrera Rodriguez, Irma Barbosa, Glory Sanchez, Gilbert "Magu" Lujan, Norma Montoya, Victor Cordero, Jari Alvarez, Alvaro Milan, Jose Cervantes and Isaias Crow. Due to the widespread recognition of the historical and artistic significance of the murals, the California Department of Transportation applied for and was awarded \$1.6 million in funding for the restoration of San Diego's Chicano Park murals. The restoration project was completed in August of this year.

Chicano Park and the Monumental Murals fit the criteria that Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, has put forward in the American Latino Heritage Initiative. Listing Chicano Park and the Monumental Murals on the National Register would recognize these exceptional resources as National Treasures worthy of preservation and maintain them for future generations.

Again, I urge you to nominate Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals to the National Register of Historic Places. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Chief of Staff, Janine Pairis, at 619-409-7690. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juan Vargas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JUAN VARGAS  
State Senator  
40<sup>th</sup> District

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# CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL

EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., GOVERNOR

ADVANCING CALIFORNIA THROUGH THE ARTS & CREATIVITY

CRAIG WATSON, DIRECTOR

October 24, 2012

M. Wayne Donaldson  
California State Historic Preservation Officer  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816



Dear Mr. Donaldson,

This letter is to support the nomination of Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals to the National Register.

Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals are internationally recognized for their artistic quality and as the largest single concentration of outside public art murals in one place. The park and murals are often referred to as an Open-Air Museum. There are over 73 murals located in the 7.4 acre park. Forty-nine of the murals and one sculpture are identified as having been created during the height of what is referred to as the Chicano Civil Rights era. Many of these artists have statewide, national or international reputations. And many have been adjudicated by the California Arts Council's statewide peer review panels over the years to participate in our Artists in Residence, Fellowships or other programs of the agency.

The City of San Diego recognized the park's significance as early as 1980 only 10 years after its founding, when the San Diego Historic Site Board designated Chicano Park as a city historic site. The Board's report noted: "Chicano Park is a significant representation of an era in the development of San Diego. It is also associated and identified with important events in the main currents of local history. It exemplifies the broad cultural, political, economic and social history of the community. It is an urban park with recreational facilities, a kiosk in the shape of an Aztec/Mayan temple, and bridge supports painted by Mexican American/Chicano artists from the community and California. The artistic representation depicts the thinking, the background, the neighborhood, the Mexican/Chicano people and their struggles."

On May 24, 2012 the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board awarded Chicano Park artists, cultural workers and the Chicano Park Steering Committee *The 2012 Annual Historic Preservation Award* in the area of Cultural Landscape, for their contribution to the preservation of San Diego's History and Heritage (Chicano Park Murals HRB Site 143.)

Although neither the park nor the murals are 50 years old, they met the exceptional importance "Criterion C" for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources. The San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge piers and supports that are grounded in Chicano Park are the "canvas" on which the artists painted.



October 24, 2012  
M. Wayne Donaldson

Chicano Park and the Monumental Murals fit the other criteria for the National Register in the following areas: A—Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; and C—Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic value, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals listing on the National Register would recognize California's internationally known cultural and historic resource as a National Treasure worthy of preservation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "W".

Craig Watson  
Director  
California Arts Council



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

# Historical Resources Board

November 5, 2012

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Department of Parks and Recreation

ATTN: Carol Roland-Nawi, SHPO

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100

Sacramento, CA 95816

Subject: Historic Preservation Commission Review and Comment on the Nomination of Chicano Park to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Roland-Nawi:

At the request of your office and consistent with the City of San Diego's status of Certified Local Government, we offer our recommendation on the listing of Chicano Park on the National Register of Historic Places. In reviewing the nomination, staff conducted a site visit and reviewed the National Register listing criteria. The attached staff report presents the recommendation of the Mayor's office to support the listing of Chicano Park on the National Register with a period of significance of 1970 to 1989.

On October 25, 2012 at its regularly scheduled meeting, the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board (HRB) reviewed the nomination of Chicano Park to the National Register. The HRB voted unanimously to support the listing of Chicano Park on the National Register with the period of significance 1970-1989.

The City of San Diego appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on this nomination to the National Register. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Jodie Brown  
Senior Planner

Attachment: Historical Resources Board Report No. HRB-12-057



Development Services • Planning Division

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calshpo@parks.ca.gov  
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



December 3, 2012

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service 2280  
1201 I (Eye) Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

Subject: **Chicano Park**  
**San Diego, San Diego County, California**  
**National Register of Historic Places**

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the **Chicano Park** nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. This property is located in the city of Pasadena, Los Angeles County, California. On November 9, 2012, the State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the property eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C at the state level of significance.

The property is nominated on behalf of the property owner, the California Department of Transportation. Eight letters of support were received for this nomination.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact William Burg of my staff at 916-445-7004.

Sincerely,

Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D.  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures