

ARTS & CULTURE

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SUPPORTING ARTS, CULTURE & COMMUNITY BUILDING EVENTS

Whether leading efforts on the policy level or collaborating with various stakeholders, Councilmember Huizar has made the promotion of arts, culture, and community-building events a top priority.

Huizar worked with local artists to end the City's ban on private property murals. Once again, Los Angeles can reclaim the title, "Mural Capital of the World."

The Councilmember worked with his colleague, Mitch O'Farrell, to overhaul the City's Art Development Fee structure. Millions of dollars are now available for public art projects.

Huizar has successfully helped bring back local community traditions that had been abandoned for decades. He has also championed new ones. His goal is to celebrate the rich diversity of Council District 14.

MOVING POLICY TO ASSIST ARTISTS AND COMMUNITIES



MURAL ORDINANCE

In the Seventies and Eighties, artists, including a large contingent on Los Angeles' Eastside, created thousands of murals that told the story of our City's distinct communities and at one point earned Los Angeles the title of "Mural Capital of the World".

More recently, however, artists who wanted to create murals on private property were faced with a ban on their work due to ongoing litigation with sign companies.

In 2013, after an 11-year moratorium and countless legal hurdles barring the creation of new murals on private property in Los Angeles, Councilmember

Huizar, working with advocates ranging from Boyle Heights to Venice, encouraged the City to adopt a new ordinance that would permit muralists to utilize their creative talents once again. The new measure identified murals as "original works of art," instead of simple sign postings. The result was a removal of the ban on murals.

"Murals define our unique and diverse city. They are a part of what makes Los Angeles one of the world's great metropolitan centers. It's important that we embrace our history and continue to affirm our commitment to supporting the arts."

- José Huizar

REVISED ART DEVELOPMENT FEE LEGISLATION

In an effort to free up the millions that developers have contributed toward the arts, Councilmember Huizar and colleague Mitch O’Farrell led the effort to revise the City’s Arts Development Fee Ordinance. The measure lifted cumbersome requirements that formed the basis of the previous statute. Upon the ordinance’s passing, \$1.7 million was immediately released to build public art displays throughout the City.

UTILITY ART BOX MURAL PROGRAM

Councilmember Huizar’s realization that the City’s traffic electrical boxes could be transformed into expressions of public art gave birth to the Utility Art Box mural program. The experiment has grown from a pilot effort in Council District 14 to a citywide initiative.

There are now more than 200 painted utility boxes in Council District 14 alone, and more than 600 throughout the rest of the City. Huizar managed the accomplishment by partnering with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation. Together, they created a streamlined process that encouraged access to the boxes.

The concept has spread to neighboring cities such as Glendale, Pasadena and Burbank. Councilmember Huizar’s office has assisted in the rollout of these community beautification projects.



UPLIFTING ANGELENOS

ADELANTE AWARDS

Councilmember Huizar's annual Adelante Awards (Onward Awards) recognize academic and community excellence of students from the 63 elementary, middle, and high schools within Council District 14.

Since its inception 15 years ago when Huizar served on the LAUSD School Board, an estimated 1,700 students have earned Adelante Awards. At the ceremony, students, their families, and school representatives are treated to brunch and entertainment before presentation of a certificate and trophy. The Adelante Awards are intended to encourage students to continue on the path of excellence.



"A quality education is society's great equalizer. Our students' success benefits them and their families, Council District 14, and the City of Los Angeles. Without a doubt, these young people are the future leaders of our communities."

- José Huizar

NIGHT ON BROADWAY

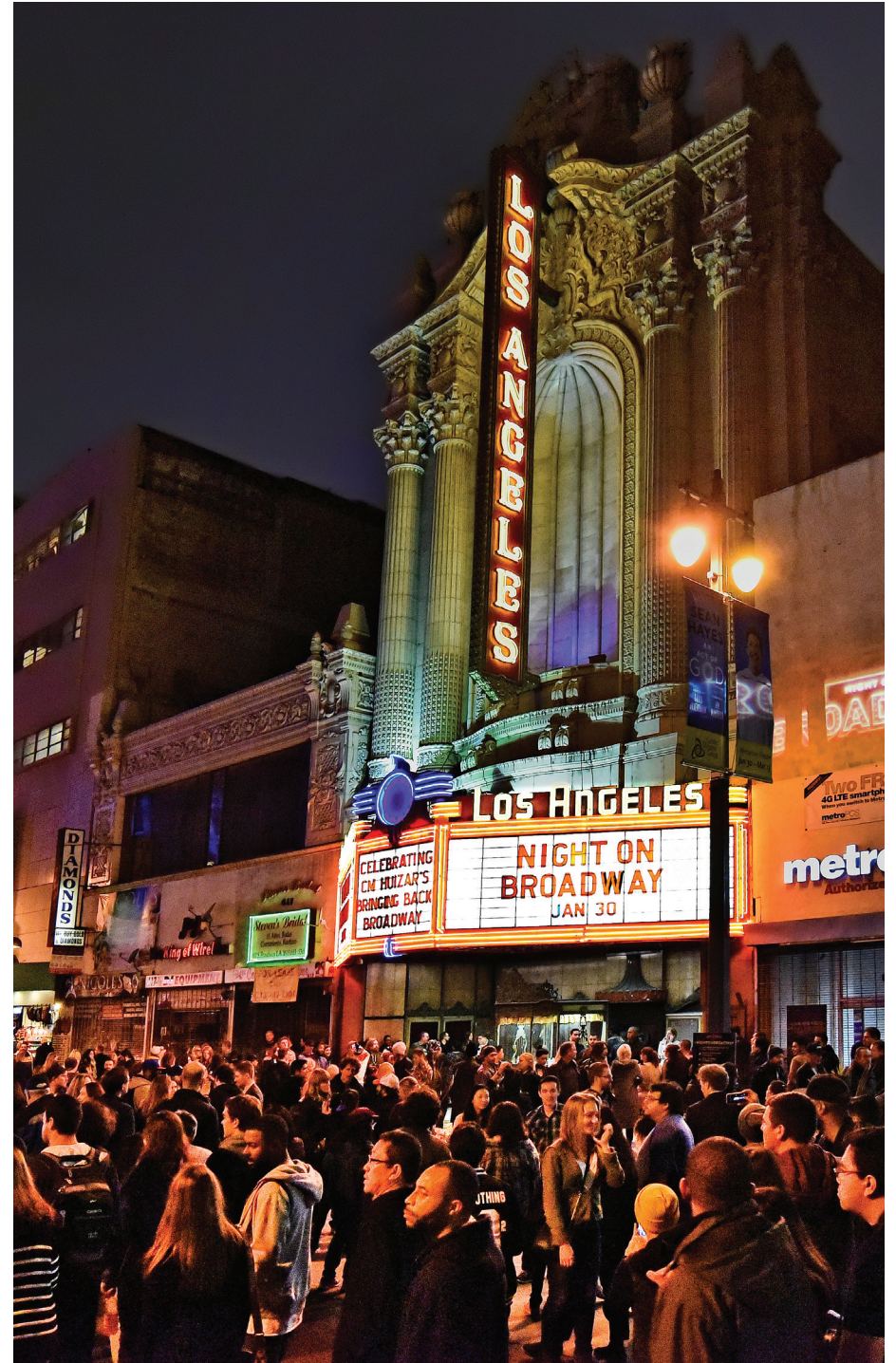
Councilmember Huizar's Bringing Back Broadway initiative, which was focused on rejuvenating DTLA's historic Broadway corridor, celebrated the culmination of the 10-year initiative in 2018.

Its namesake festival, Night on Broadway, closed down a mile of the storied Broadway corridor and featured more than 250,000 people in attendance.

Acknowledged as the fastest-growing one-day arts and music festival in North America, Night On Broadway hosted a combination of big-name acts like The B-52s, War, Aloe Blacc, Ozomatli, and Oingo Boingo Dance Party, as well as a variety of local artists, performers and installations, while the corridor's historic theaters hosted special event programming.

"Night on Broadway is a love letter to Los Angeles. The event allows Angelenos to come together to enjoy art, food, and music, while experiencing their own history through Broadway's stunning turn-of-the-century theaters."

- José Huizar



EAGLE ROCK MUSIC FESTIVAL

This six-block free street festival sponsored by the Eagle Rock Center for the Arts and Councilmember Huizar was created “by locals, for locals.” During its two decades of operation, the event expanded into a multi-stage party featuring DJs, local artists, and performers who span nearly every genre of entertainment.

Beyond offering great music, arts, and community organizations booths along Colorado Boulevard, the Eagle Rock Music Festival served as the biggest business day of the year for many of the independently-owned restaurants and businesses in the area.



BRINGING BACK COMMUNITY FIREWORKS

After decades without a fireworks show, Councilmember Huizar brought back 4th of July celebrations to Boyle Heights, El Sereno, and Eagle Rock. Hosted at area parks, the pyrotechnics are accompanied by live music, games, and carnival rides. Festivities in El Sereno include a parade.

The Councilmember hosts these events in collaboration with community partners, such as the El Sereno Bicentennial Committee, the Eagle Rock Chamber of Commerce and CASA 0101. Record attendance is evidence that the fireworks and accompanying concerts have been embraced by residents.



BOYLE HEIGHTS YOUTH FESTIVAL

An innovative event “for youth, by youth,” this free block party was created in collaboration with high school students, LAPD, and other community partners. Hosted at Boyle Heights City Hall, the all-day festival included a skate park, obstacle course, rock-climbing wall, arts-and-crafts, and free food - paletas (Mexican popsicles) and elote (corn).

Largely organized by 20 Boyle Heights teenagers who met over the course of two months to plan details of the festival, the event provided an opportunity for area youth to enjoy themselves and learn about available programs and services.

SENIOR SNOWBALL

This annual winter formal dance and luncheon honoring local seniors has been hosted by Councilmember Huizar for more than a decade.

Uniting nearly 30 senior clubs from across DTLA, Boyle Heights, El Sereno and Northeast Los Angeles, the Senior Snowball attracts an average of 500 seniors every year. The celebration includes food and live music. Seniors are transported back to yesteryear with live music, including jazz, swing, pop, cumbia, and salsa favorites.



HONORING THE VETERANS OF LOS ANGELES

Paying tribute to Los Angeles' large veteran community has long been a priority for Councilmember Huizar. Sponsoring Veterans and Memorial Day events in El Sereno, Boyle Heights, Northeast Los Angeles, and DTLA have been hallmarks of Huizar's tenure.

In 2014, Councilmember Huizar secured \$100,000 in funding for a new veterans statue in El Sereno, a community with a rich history of military service. The El Sereno Veterans Monument was constructed with assistance from the Bureau of Street Services on a median along Huntington Drive North in the heart of the neighborhood. The monument honors all five branches of the military. It is surrounded by benches so that visitors can sit and contemplate its meaning.

"This beautiful tribute allows El Sereno Veterans, community members and visitors to honor and reflect on those who answered the call to service and thank them for their sacrifice. I have the utmost respect for our veterans and all they have done for each and every one of us, for our communities and for our country - any assistance we can offer them pales in comparison to what they have given us."

- José Huizar



In addition, Huizar supports a 24-hour, Memorial Day vigil in Boyle Heights at the All Wars Monument at Cinco Puntos. Over the course of 24 hours, local veterans and supporters stand guard at this sacred monument, rotating every 30 minutes in advance of the Memorial Day ceremony.

Finally, the Councilmember has a special place in his heart for the service members of Go For Broke - Japanese American World War II veterans who live in DTLA's Little Tokyo. Huizar assists in planning recognition events for these American heroes.

OPERATION GOBBLE GOBBLE

Every year, Councilmember Huizar arranges Thanksgiving turkey giveaways for district residents. Teaming up with community organizations and donors, the events ensure that every family is able to enjoy the holiday.



HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTINGS

Councilmember Huizar sponsors free holiday festivities in every neighborhood of his district. These annual, open-to-all events often include a celebratory tree lighting, live music, toy giveaways, and holiday treats. Huizar even arranges snow for the events. Designated areas are set up for children to make snow angels, build snowmen, and throw a few (friendly) snowballs.





SUPPORTING ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

SELF-HELP GRAPHICS & ART

Dedicated to producing and promoting Chicana and Latina artists, Self-Help Graphics & Art provides artists with access to workspace, professional training, and critical financial support. The nonprofit center has been active in Boyle Heights and Eastside for almost 50 years. It has played an important role in fighting for resources for artists and arts-based community programming.

In order to safeguard this legacy, Councilmember Huizar secured \$825,000 in CRA bonds to assist Self-Help in purchasing the property they had previously been renting.

"Self-Help Graphics & Art is an arts organization that grew out of a real need in the 1970s to nurture Chicano expression in the arts. In spite of challenges, this organization has grown in capacity, influence, and recognition, benefitting Eastside artists and our youth with needed programming."

- José Huizar



CASA 0101

Founded in 2000 by Josefina Lopez, writer of the play and film, “Real Women Have Curves,” Casa 0101 has become an epicenter for theater and culture in Boyle Heights by providing year-round, free art classes to kids, offering reduced price classes for adults, and hosting special events, like film festivals.

The theater started as a bootstrap operation in a converted bridal shop, but with Councilmember Huizar’s help, Casa 0101 relocated and opened as a deluxe 5,400-square-foot facility, complete with classroom and an accompanying art gallery. Huizar was able to expedite City permit processing for Casa 0101 and secure partial relocation support with Council District 14 funds.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ARTISTS

As rents skyrocket across Los Angeles and residents struggle with the availability and affordability of housing, Councilmember Huizar recognized the needs of one particularly vulnerable subset; the artists of DTLA's historic Arts District.

The Arts District has long served as an influential and anchoring community, but increasingly artists have been priced out of the area. In an attempt to protect them, Huizar introduced a motion to explore the feasibility of creating an artists' affordable housing program. The effort is in the initial planning stages.

"We are a city that values its artists. The insight and innovation they lend to Los Angeles cannot be overstated."

- José Huizar

HONORING THE CITY'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

THE BRACERO MONUMENT

Beginning in World War II, the Bracero program was established to offset the shortage of workers in America. As a result, millions of Mexican men came to the United States to work as laborers in farms, mines and railyards. Councilmember Huizar's father, Simon Huizar Bañuelos, and his uncles worked as braceros picking fruit across the Southwest after leaving their home in the state of Zacatecas.

In order to pay tribute to the sacrifices made by the Braceros, Huizar worked with the Union of Bi-national Ex-Braceros, the Department of Cultural Affairs, Los Angeles Public Works, Bureau of Street Services, and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation to orchestrate the construction of a monument. The towering statue by artist Dan Medina serves as the focal point of the new Migrant's Bend Plaza and celebrates the City's immigrant community.

The monument is one component of the \$3.2 million streetscape and pedestrian improvement project on Cesar Chavez Avenue.



"The Bracero monument is a tribute to every immigrant who has ever come to this land. It is a testimonial to their courage and their contributions. The decision to erect this monument across the street from where our city was founded serves as an expression of our gratitude"

- José Huizar

REMEMBERING ANTONIO AGUILAR

Councilmember Huizar declared September 16, 2012, Antonio Aguilar Day in honor of the late Mexican singer and actor who rose to fame from humble beginnings.

Aguilar, who passed away in 2007, came to Los Angeles as an immigrant in 1940 with little money and slept on benches at El Pueblo de Los Angeles (Olvera Street) before eventually finding fame as a performer. With the generous support of private donors, Councilmember Huizar led efforts to erect a statue of Aguilar.





LA FERIA DE LOS MOLES

Councilmember Huizar stepped in when a street fair celebrating the popular Mexican specialty, mole, outgrew its original location at El Pueblo de Los Angeles.

Partnering with the Union de Poblanos, Huizar helped create La Feria De Los Moles. The fair has become the largest Mexican food festival in the U.S., attracting tens of thousands of people to its new location at DTLA's Grand Park.

The day-long event showcases the incredibly time-consuming and unique art of mole-making, allowing guests to sample dozens of varieties while learning about its origins. The event also features live music, arts and crafts, performances, and a mole competition.



HONORING FILIPINO AMERICANS

Greater Los Angeles is home to the second largest Filipino population in the world. Council District 14's Northeast Los Angeles has a particularly high concentration of Filipinos.

These individuals are a driving force behind the growth, prosperity, and civic engagement of the community. In order to pay tribute to their contributions, Councilmember Huizar and his colleague, Mitch O'Farrell joined with the Filipino Consulate and the Los Angeles Filipino Association of City Employees (LAFACE) to create the annual Filipino Independence & History Council Presentation and Resolution Ceremony.

MARIACHI FESTIVAL

One of the most iconic landmarks in Council District 14 is the historic Mariachi Plaza in Boyle Heights. Since the 1930s, mariachi groups have congregated at this open space in the hopes of stardom.

To celebrate the plaza's long and meaningful history, the Mariachi Plaza Festival Foundation – with the support of Councilmember Huizar and other local sponsors – hosts an annual Mariachi Festival to showcase local talent. The day-long festival attracts visitors from across Los Angeles.



MURAL RESTORATION AND CREATION

Through a multifaceted approach that includes transforming city policy, challenging pre-existing notions of art, fostering relationships with community partners, and identifying funds for new murals and classic-mural restorations, Councilmember Huizar has helped reinvigorate Los Angeles' art scene.

Location by location, Huizar has helped transform the face of the City and created an abundance of new creative space for local talent to showcase their work and beautify their communities.

There is a total of 841 existing murals in Council District 14: 393 in DTLA; 270 in Boyle Heights; 121 in El Sereno; and 57 in Northeast.



AMÉRICA TROPICAL MURAL

Located at the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, this historic and controversial 1932 David Alfaro Siqueiros mural is the only one that still exists in its original U.S. location. The mural depicting an indigenous person on a cross has been the inspiration for countless Latino artists.

Recognizing that the piece required conservation, Councilmember Huizar introduced a motion that earmarked \$500,000 for the purpose. The restorative efforts, a collaboration between the City of Los Angeles and the Getty Conservation Institute, include a protective shelter for the pieces, a viewing platform, and measures designed to protect the mural from further deterioration.



POPE OF BROADWAY

Located in the heart of DTLA, the 70-foot-tall Pope of Broadway mural, has served as an iconic symbol since 1985. The colorful portrayal of two-time Academy Award winner Anthony Quinn has weathered years of graffiti, chipped paint and moisture damage, all which took a toll on its preservation and vibrancy.

Councilmember Huizar, through his Bringing Back Broadway initiative, helped identify \$150,000 in funding to restore the expansive piece with the assistance of the Mural Conservancy of Los Angeles.

Quinn was born in Mexico and raised in East Los Angeles. before ascending to fame as a performer. While many say the mural represents Quinn in one of his most famous roles as “Zorba the Greek,” muralist Eloy Torrez actually intended to pay tribute to Quinn’s importance to the Latino community, which kept Broadway alive for decades, as well as his historic ties to the neighboring theater district.

“The Pope of Broadway is not only an important part of our Bringing Back Broadway initiative, it is a brilliant piece of art that reminds us why mural restoration is so important. This is the reason we overturned the 11-year ban on murals on private property. We can now look forward to the creation of new masterpieces.”

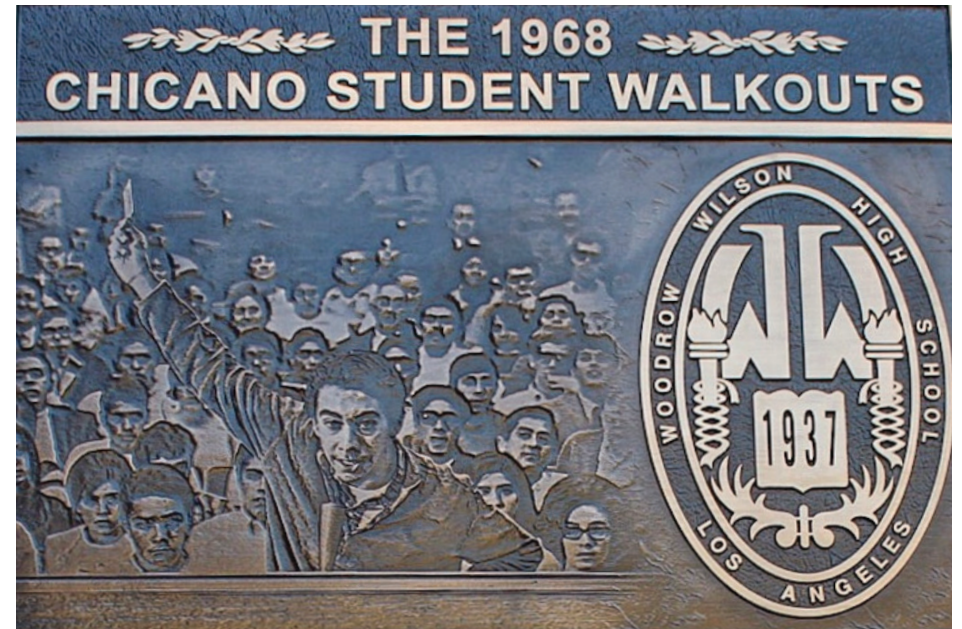
- José Huizar



HONORING CHICANO WALKOUTS

Wilson High School, in El Sereno, played a vital role in the Chicano Rights Movement. It was the first high school to participate in the historic walkouts (or Blowouts) that protested racism and systemic inequalities within LAUSD schools in 1968. Councilmember Huizar provided \$5,000 toward efforts undertaken by Wilson Mules Alumni Association, the El Sereno Historical Society, and InnerCity Struggle to create a plaque and mural to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1968 Chicano Walkouts.

The plaque and mural (created by Wilson alumnus, Carlos Callejo) were installed at El Sereno Middle School, home to the original Wilson High School.



CALLE DE LA ETERNIDAD (ETERNITY STREET) MURAL

While helping to usher in a vibrant future for DTLA, Councilmember Huizar has also made it his priority to preserve the community's rich history. In 2012, Huizar was able to strike a deal between real estate developer David Gray and SPARC, a Southern California mural preservation group, to digitally preserve a mural on the side of one of Gray's buildings that was under renovation.

In order to save the Calle de la Eternidad mural, but still allow for building improvements, SPARC digitally scanned the entire mural before it was removed. Plans are underway to reproduce the piece on a different wall at a later date.



"This effort highlights two things I am extremely passionate about - the historic preservation of our iconic buildings and our beautiful murals."

- José Huizar



HISTORY OF HIGHLAND PARK MURAL

Wrapping around a building on Avenue 56, this sprawling Highland Park mural first painted by renowned artists Judy Baca, Joe Bravo, Sonya Fe, Arnold Ramirez and Sonny Williams more than 40 years ago, represents the history of the surrounding communities.

After years of anti-graffiti coating applications and constant graffiti removal, it fell into disrepair. In an effort to revive the piece, Councilmember Huizar worked with the building's owners, AT&T, and the original artists to secure this \$78,000 restoration.



BOYLE HEIGHTS GIRL SCOUT MURAL

Isabel Peinado, a troop member of the Pasadena Girl Scouts, was just 15 years old when she created Empowerment, a mural in Boyle Heights that depicts 16 of the most famous women in history. Peinado painted everyone from Rosa Parks to Susan B. Anthony. The achievement won her the highest of Girl Scouts honors, the Gold Award.

The idea for the mural manifested while Peinado and her friends, including Councilmember Huizar's daughter Emilia, had been walking about DTLA and noticed the abundance of creative murals. Feeling inspired, Peinado expressed her interest in creating her own mural, and Emilia passed the information on to her parents.

The Councilmember and his wife, Richelle, worked to locate a wall in Boyle Heights. They found an appropriate space at Ray & Roy's, a local market that had been struggling with graffiti. With the help of friends, fundraising, and donations, Isabel spent more than 600 hours turning her dream into a reality.





LA VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE MURAL

Along with the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, Councilmember Huizar provided funding and worked with Boyle Heights artist Raul Gonzalez and Ramona Gardens community members to restore the neighborhood's beloved La Virgen de Guadalupe (Virgin Mary) mural.

The mural was originally painted in the Seventies and redesigned by artist Joe Rodriguez in the early Nineties. Gonzalez consulted with Rodriguez on the restoration and brought in artist Sonji Mariposa to assist on the project. Neighborhood youth were given stipends to assist and receive training in mural restoration.

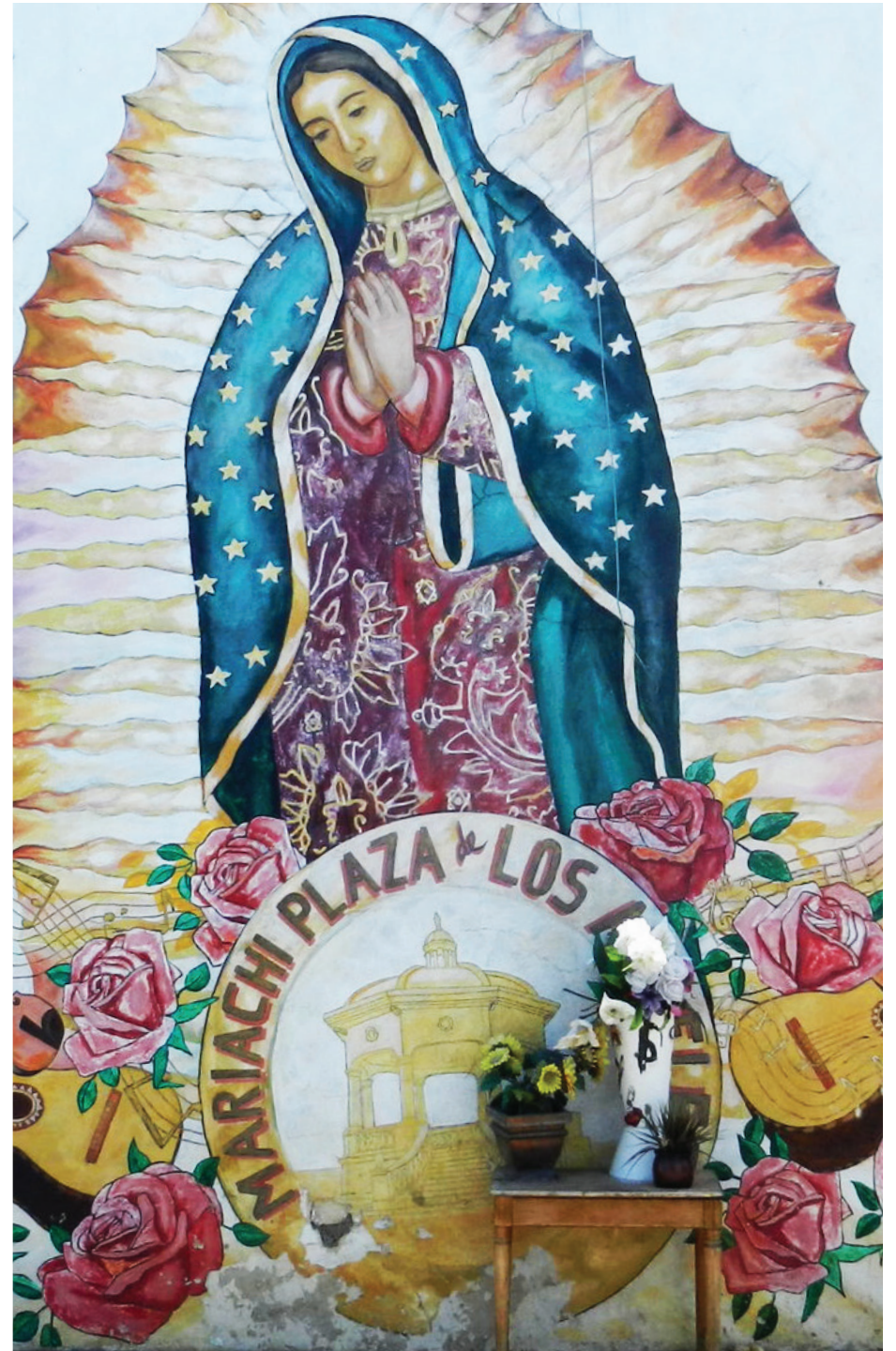
MIKE MUIR MURAL

The mural of punk rock icon Mike Muir from the band Suicidal Tendencies was unveiled in DTLA's Arts District with an accompanying free public concert. Located near the future site of the 6th Street Bridge, this larger-than-life image of the lead singer was created by local artist Robert Vargas. Councilmember Huizar worked with the City's Department of Cultural Affairs to secure funding for the creation of the mural.

THE VIRGIN MARY AT MARIACHI PLAZA MURAL

The Virgin Mary at Mariachi Plaza was completed in 1995 by artist Juan Solis. Solis began painting at the age of 12 and spent eight years at the Academia de Arte Yepes of East Los Angeles, where he developed his own techniques under the tutelage of Chicano artist George Yepes. Solis would go on to complete two other works at Mariachi Plaza, as well as many others pieces throughout Los Angeles.

After learning that the Virgin Mary mural was in dire need of restoration, Councilmember Huizar committed \$5,000 to restore the piece.



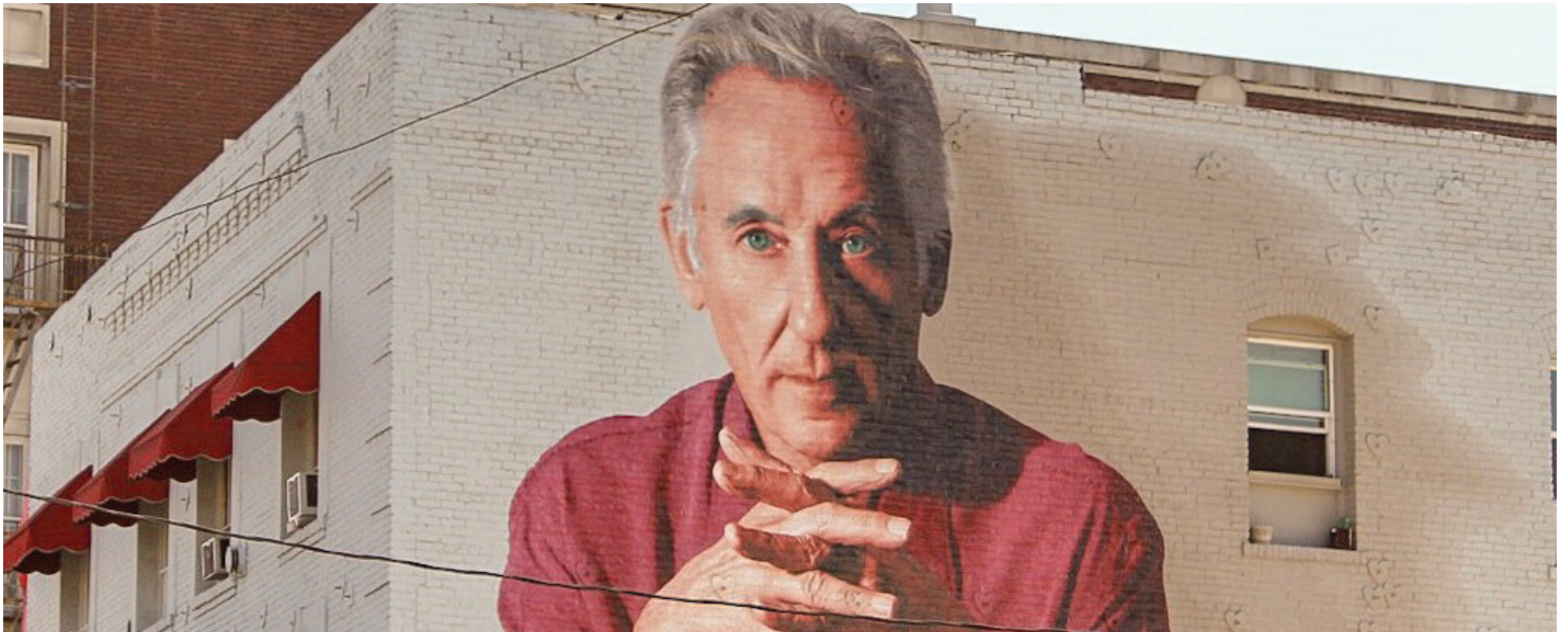
ED RUSCHA MURAL

Artist Kent Twitchell painted his mural of famed pop artist Ed Ruscha in 1987 on the side of a Hill Street building. After it was accidentally whitewashed, Councilmember Huizar got involved.

In 2015, Huizar secured an agreement with the owner of the American Hotel in the Arts District to have Twitchell recreate the Ed Ruscha mural on the building's exterior. Huizar sponsored the subsequent project along with All City Mural Endeavor.

"Kent Twitchell is absolutely fundamental to the Los Angeles art scene. With this piece, he has expanded on a body of work that has helped solidify his place among Los Angeles' greatest muralists."

- José Huizar





ART HEALS MURAL

The Art Heals mural at the Ramona Gardens housing project celebrates women in their roles as sisters, daughters, mothers and grandmothers. Funded by a \$20,000 allocation from Councilmember Huizar, Art Heals was created by three local artists who painted a Tongva Native American woman as the mural's focal point, then surrounded her with indigenous figures and modern representations of female role models.

FRANKLIN MURAL PROJECT

With the help of Community Beautification funds secured by Councilmember Huizar, students of Franklin High School, led by two substitute teachers, created a dynamic mural known as the Franklin Mural Project. The piece features original inhabitants of the area surrounded by native flowers and Northeast Los Angeles landscapes.



UNDISCOVERED AMERICA MURAL

Painted in 1992 by Earth Crew 2000, Undiscovered America is located in DTLA's Art District. The mural pays homage to the Los Angeles' indigenous culture and history.

The more than 25-year old piece of work is protected as a "grandfathered mural" by the Department of Cultural Affairs. Councilmember Huizar worked with the original artists, Erick "Duke" Montenegro, Benjamin James Frank Jr., Rogelio Cabral, Nuke Montalvo, and Helen Samuels to revive this remarkable mural and restore it to its former glory.





NIGHT ON BROADWAY ART BOX PROGRAM

In collaboration with local Business Improvement Districts and the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative, Councilmember Huizar supported an effort by Christian Ceci in which the artist painted 21 utility boxes along the Broadway corridor between 1st and 12th Streets.

Ceci's brilliant designs showcase the rich, diverse history of Broadway. Each box features iconic architecture and important figures, along with historical overviews. The mile-long art project, planned in coordination with the 10th year of the Bringing Back Broadway Initiative, creates a lasting gallery that details Broadway's storied past.

LITTLE TOKYO COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION MURAL

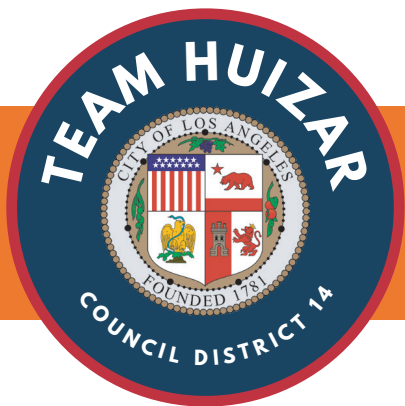
Councilmember Huizar assisted in securing more than \$5.3 million in funding for pedestrian and street improvements in DTLA's Little Tokyo. A key feature of the project includes a new mural at 2nd and Alameda by artist Kent Yoshimura.





ARTS DISTRICT ART SHARE MURAL

Councilmember Huizar supported a competition in collaboration with Art Share LA and the Department of Cultural Affairs to select a muralist for a commissioned project. Muralist Mikael B was selected from amongst the various entrants to create a mural on the Art Share LA Arts District's facade. The artist is inspired by the vibrant urban scenery found on the streets of Los Angeles, and his work on the Art Share LA wall reflects that aesthetic.



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