



BOYLE HEIGHTS



THANK YOU FROM COUNCILMEMBER HUIZAR

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you as I approach the end of my term as the Councilmember representing the 14th District of the City of Los Angeles. From my first day in office, I have focused my energies on improving the quality of life for residents of our community. I walked these same streets as a boy – and frankly, I can't imagine a better place to grow up. An early settler described the area as "a land made ready by God for human hands to embellish." Truer words have never been spoken.

This booklet captures many of the things that I was able to accomplish during my time in office. It represents the efforts that my staff and I made to improve the quality of life for the constituents of Boyle Heights. Together with your help, we changed things forever - and for the better.

I have been privileged to serve one of the most diverse and thriving areas of the City. Thank you for the support you have shown me. I will always feel humbled and honored that you entrusted me as your representative.

I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

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

José Huizar
Councilmember, 14th District

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTS

Art Development Fee	6
Utility Boxes	
Mural Ordinance	7
Empowerment Mural	8
La Virgen De Guadalupe Mural	9
Self-Help Graphics and Art	10
Casa 0101	11

CULTURE AND EVENTS

Boyle Heights Youth Festival	12
Senior Snowball	
Mariachi Festival	13
Memorial Day	
4th of July Fireworks	14
Veterans Day Celebration	
Operation Gobble Gobble	15
Winter Holiday Event	

EDUCATION

Adelante Awards	16
-----------------	----

PARKS

Park Development Fees	17
Sixth Street Bridge Park	18
Hollenbeck Park	19
Hazard Park - Agreement with USC	20
Hazard Park Skate Plaza	21
Pecan Park	
Ramon Garcia Park	22
Evergreen Park	23
State Street Park	24
Boyle Heights Sports Center	25
Ross Valencia Pocket Park	26
Roosevelt Pool	

ENVIRONMENT

The Elimination of Coal	27
Solar and Renewable Energy	28
Energy and Water Efficiency	29
Clean Air Commute Options	
Electric Buses	30
Capturing and Reusing Water	31
Water Saving Building Codes	32
Plastic Bag Ban	33
Clean Up Green Up	34
Exide Remediation	35
Reducing Noxious Odors	36
Smokeless Tobacco Ban	37
Residential Beekeeping	
Farmers Market	38
Urban Agriculture	

TRANSPORTATION

Mobility Plan 2035	39
CicLAvia	40
People Street Program	
Road Diets	41
AB390	

HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness and Poverty Committee	42
Strategic Homeless Plan	43
Homeless Budget	
Linkage Fee	44
Supportive Housing and Motel Conversion	45
Mental Health Crisis	
Renters Rights	47
Exodus Recovery	
Jovenes	48
Women’s Donation Drives	

BIOGRAPHY

José Huizar	49
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ARTS

ART DEVELOPMENT FEE

In an effort to free up the millions that developers have contributed toward the arts, Councilmember Huizar piloted the City's Arts Development Fee Ordinance. The measure lifted cumbersome requirements that formed the basis of the previous statute. The goal was to more effectively channel funds into public art capital improvement projects.

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 drab 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.

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

- José Huizar



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 collaborated with fellow advocates to encourage the City to adopt a new ordinance that would permit muralists to utilize their creative talents once again. As the Chair of the Planning & Land Use Management Committee, Huizar helped enact a law that 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

EMPOWERMENT 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 in the mural's restoration.



SELF-HELP GRAPHICS & ART

Dedicated to producing and promoting Chicana and Latinx 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.



CULTURE AND EVENTS

BOYLE HEIGHTS YOUTH FESTIVAL

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

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

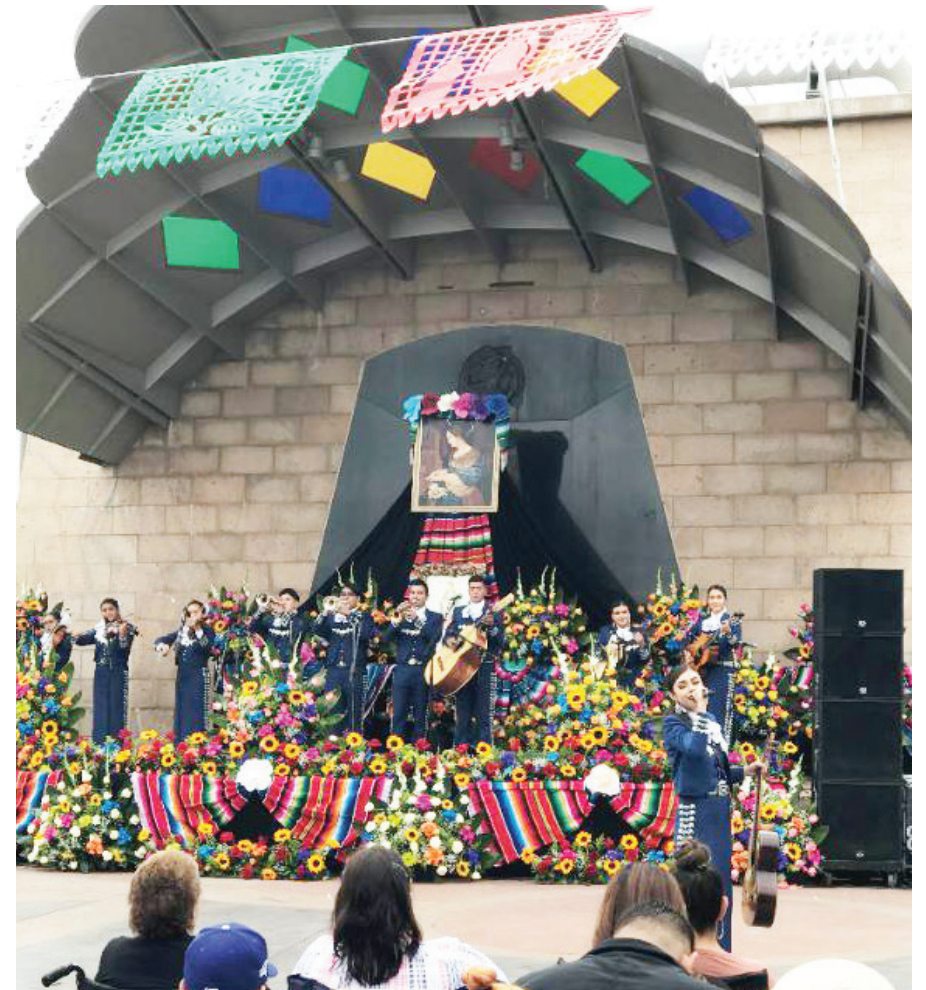
This annual winter formal dance and luncheon honoring local seniors has been hosted by Councilmember Huizar for more than a decade. Uniting nearly 30 senior clubs from across Northeast Los Angeles, DTLA, Boyle Heights, and El Sereno, the Senior Snowball attracts an average of 500 seniors every year.

The celebration includes food and live music. Seniors are transported back to yesteryear with live music, including jazz, swing, pop, cumbia, and salsa favorites.

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 daylong festival attracts visitors from across Southern California.



MEMORIAL DAY

Councilmember Huizar supports a 24-hour, Memorial Day vigil in Boyle Heights at the Mexican American 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.



4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS

After decades without a fireworks show, Councilmember Huizar brought back 4th of July celebrations to Boyle Heights. Hosted at Hollenbeck Park, the pyrotechnics are accompanied by an array of live music. Local organizations are encouraged to set up booths in order to inform the community about available resources.

The celebration is the single most popular event held in Boyle Heights, attracting both residents and people who live outside the neighborhood.



VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Paying tribute to Los Angeles' large veteran community has long been a hallmark of Councilmember Huizar's tenure.

As with Memorial Day, ceremonies are held at the Mexican American All Wars Monument at Cinco Puntos.



OPERATION GOBBLE GOBBLE

The Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway is a community favorite and a great way to lend a little help to those in need. Every year, Councilmember Huizar distributes well over 500 turkeys to seniors, veterans, schools, homeless organizations, and community groups - ensuring a special holiday for all.

WINTER HOLIDAY EVENT

Councilmember Huizar sponsors the annual Boyle Heights Winter Wonderland celebration in collaboration with partners, such as El Centro de Ayuda, SCE Federal Credit Union, College Track, and the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council.

The event features live music, a toy giveaway, and holiday treats. El Centro de Ayuda provides the opportunity for families to take a portrait with Santa, while a variety of other organizations offer holiday-related craft booths.

Huizar even arranges snow for the events. Designated areas are created where children can make snow angels, build snowmen, and throw a few (friendly) snowballs.



EDUCATION

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 located 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.



PARKS

PARK DEVELOPMENT FEES

In one of the most significant parks-related initiatives in recent history, Councilmember Huizar introduced legislation to increase the City's park development fees. Also known as Quimby fees, these charges are imposed on residential projects involving the subdivision of land or air space. The fee is factored on a "per unit" (for condominiums) or "per lot" basis, with the amount of the fee dependent on the zoning of property.

The measures led by Huizar dramatically improved the Department of Recreation and Parks' ability to purchase park land and build new facilities, and they provide tax incentives for developers who install on-site recreational amenities that are open to the public. Huizar's initiative also encouraged construction of affordable housing in Los Angeles by exempting these units from the new fee requirements.

"It's been 31 years since we updated our parks development fees in park-poor Los Angeles. Reform was needed to increase funding for parks by an estimated \$30 million annually citywide, adjust standards so that more green space could get built, and create incentives for developers to build parks on-site."

- José Huizar





SIXTH STREET BRIDGE PARK

As part of the \$482 million Sixth Street Bridge project, Councilmember Huizar worked tirelessly to establish park space beneath the bridge – a space that would connect Boyle Heights with DTLA’s Arts District.

Independent of bridge funding, Huizar secured \$28 million to outfit the park with activities and elements requested by the respective communities. The Boyle Heights side features soccer fields, basketball courts, a skate park, playground, and a dog park. The Arts District side includes a dog park as well as a fitness zone, performing arts plaza, and a multipurpose open space. After cost overruns threatened to eliminate many of these elements, Huizar secured and allocated an additional \$3.7 million to them.

HOLLENBECK PARK

During his term, Councilmember Huizar has contributed to significant improvements to Hollenbeck Park. Two million dollars was spent on cleaning the park's manmade lake, repairing the lake's bridge, repaving the jogging path, adding benches and trees, and installing outdoor exercise equipment.

Another \$400,000 went to renovating the children's playground, including the installation of a child-safe rubber surface, a climbing apparatus, a "mommy-and-me" swing for toddlers, and play equipment for various ages.

Huizar also worked with MTV personality and skateboarding legend Rob Dyrdek to bring a skate plaza to the park, which has proven popular attraction for the area's youth.



HAZARD PARK – AGREEMENT WITH USC

As part of the expansion of the University of Southern California's Health and Medical Campus in Boyle Heights, the school pressed the City to construct an access road through Hazard Park. After multiple meetings with the community, Councilmember Huizar secured an agreement with the USC to vacate its plans.

Huizar also argued that the expansion would affect the community. USC responded by committing \$1,000,000 in improvements to the park, including a new jogging/running path, upgrades to the gym, outdoor basketball/tennis courts and restrooms, outdoor fitness equipment, a toddler play area, additional security lighting, and expanded parking for visitors, as well as another \$100,000 to support for local youth sports programs.

Huizar was also successful in getting USC to agree to dedicate the land to the City's Department of Recreation and Parks.



HAZARD PARK SKATE PLAZA

Councilmember Huizar once again teamed up with MTV skating star Rob Dyrdek – this time to bring a skate plaza to Hazard Park.

The location was selected because of its proximity to other Council District 14 neighborhoods.

Huizar partnered with Dyrdek, Nick Diamond, founder of Diamond Supply Co., the California Endowment and the City's Recreation and Parks Department to bring together \$320,000 for the 10,000 square-foot state-of-the-art skate plaza.



PECAN PARK

Councilmember Huizar teamed up with the City's Recreation and Parks Department to install solar panels over Pecan Park's renovated outdoor basketball court pavilion.

The inaugural project has enabled the park to free itself from the City's electrical grid.

Other upgrades to Pecan include a new gymnasium, outdoor basketball court backboards, floor stripes, lighting improvements, and playground structure.





RAMON GARCIA PARK

Councilmember Huizar helped bring \$400,000 in improvements to Ramon Garcia Park, including resurfaced outdoor and indoor basketball courts, parking lot, and walkway around the childcare center, new basketball court backboards, a state-of-the-art baseball scoreboard, grills and bleachers, improved park lighting, and an additional shade structure.

EVERGREEN PARK

Councilmember Huizar teamed up with Recreation and Parks, the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative, and First 5 LA to bring \$656,000 in upgrades to Evergreen Park.

A pair of playgrounds were constructed – and with more than 13,000 children under the age of five living within a two-mile radius, they get ample use. The improvements were shaped by suggestions from a project steering committee established by Huizar’s office.

In addition, Evergreen received Prop K funds for construction and remodeling upgrades to the recreation center, restrooms, fitness equipment, baseball bleachers, dugouts and outdoor basketball courts.





STATE STREET PARK

Councilmember Huizar partnered with Recreation and Parks, the Los Angeles Clippers Foundation, and The California Endowment to bring much needed upgrades to State Street Park. Improvements include the resurfacing of the playground and basketball court, new playground equipment, a fitness station, and backboards. Huizar also sponsored the installation of a baseball batting cage.

BOYLE HEIGHTS SPORTS CENTER

Councilmember Huizar worked with Recreation and Parks to bring the City's first synthetic soccer field and baseball fields to the Boyle Heights Sports Center.

The \$2.2 million project included remote control scoreboards, sports field lighting, and security lighting along the trail, basketball, and playing areas. Huizar identified City funds to complete the project when the State's budget crisis put the renovation in jeopardy.

In addition, Huizar worked with Recreation and Parks and the Bureau of Engineering to design and construct a new 17,000 square foot gymnasium and recreation center as specified under Proposition K.



ROSS VALENCIA POCKET PARK

Built by the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative, this pocket park on 1st and Chicago was named in honor of “Mr. Boyle Heights,” Ross Valencia. Valencia was a beloved veteran and community activist.



ROOSEVELT POOL

The \$2.7 million Roosevelt High School pool renovation (including new locker and shower facilities and complete upgrades to the pool and jacuzzi) was one of Councilmember Huizar’s first accomplishments after assuming office. The RHS pool is one of the few campus pools operated by the Recreation and Parks that is open to the community.



ENVIRONMENT

ELIMINATION OF COAL

Councilmember Huizar guided Los Angeles toward a greener tomorrow by implementing numerous strategies that will increase reliance on clean, renewable energy sources in place of coal and natural gas.

In 2013, Huizar collaborated with Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, the Sierra Club, and a coalition of business, labor, community, and environmental groups to implement agreements with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). The agreements made Los Angeles the largest city in the country to dedicate itself to a coal-free future.

Los Angeles' decision to end its reliance on power from Arizona's Navajo Generating Station and Utah's Intermountain Power coal plants includes a commitment to renewable energy sources as well as an expansion of energy efficiency programs. This follows a trend in which municipalities are divesting from out-of-state coal plants due to the mounting financial liabilities.



"This is truly a momentous day for the City of Los Angeles. With this initiative, we are taking the unprecedented step of eliminating our dependence on coal. Now, we need to commit ourselves to a range of renewable energy sources in order to fully maximize the benefits of this groundbreaking decision."

- José Huizar



SOLAR AND RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES

Councilmember Huizar encouraged Los Angeles to approve two of the largest solar projects in the country. Together, they will result in an annual savings of 955,000 metric tons of carbon emissions (the equivalent of removing 184,000 cars from the road).

Huizar also supervised the development of the Clean LA Solar Program, which allows commercial property-owners to use rooftop solar panels to generate energy, and then sell that power to the LADWP. This “feed-in-tariff policy” is the largest urban rooftop solar program of its kind in the country.

Finally, Huizar supported approval of two geothermal projects that will provide power 24 hours a day and a groundbreaking \$120 million energy efficiency budget that increased the amount of spending by tenfold. The initiative includes rebates and direct installation opportunities for businesses considering renewable energy.



ENERGY AND WATER EFFICIENCY

In order to better track a building's overall efficiency, Councilmember Huizar introduced the Existing Building Energy and Water Efficiency Ordinance. Unanimously passed by City Council, the measure requires structures 20,000-square-foot or larger to report their energy and water usage to the Department of Building and Safety on an annual basis.

Every five years, these buildings are required to reduce consumption through an audit, Energy Star certification, or other approved method.

CLEAN AIR COMMUTE OPTIONS

In 2017, Councilmember Huizar secured \$41 million for vehicles and operations that enabled the expansion of DASH bus routes. A year later, Huizar introduced a pair of motions that improved transportation options for commuters seeking additional clean air alternatives. The first expanded options available to City employees by including more opportunities for telecommuting, increased access to bike share services, and larger subsidies for Metro passes and DASH fares.

The second updated the list of commuting programs and traffic-reduction strategies that the City can require when approving private developments that generate significant amounts of traffic.

These initiatives complement the construction of "complete streets". Long championed by Huizar, the strategy provides increased access to bike share, car share, and other transportation alternatives, along with an expansion of pedestrian infrastructure. In another arena, Huizar led the move to require additional electric vehicle infrastructure, including building code improvements to ensure future developments are "EV-ready".



ELECTRIC BUSES

As a result of a motion authored by Councilmember Huizar, Los Angeles made the commitment to convert its fleet of buses to electric by 2030. The initiative will make Los Angeles a regional electric bus hub.



"Given today's political climate, it is critical that the City of Los Angeles continues to lead the way in environmental protections. The rest of the nation will follow."

- José Huizar

CAPTURING AND REUSING WATER

In order to establish more aggressive goals for capturing rainwater, cleaning groundwater, and using recycled water, Councilmember Huizar introduced a motion designed to accelerate LADWP's scheduled shift to local water supplies.

In addition, Huizar helped usher in a policy that saves millions of gallons of water from going to waste. The approach was straightforward - LADWP was mandated to recapture and reuse water that would have previously been discarded into storm drains during system repairs.

Expanding on the policy of reusing water, a motion introduced by Huizar and Councilmember Koretz changed city code to address "de-watering" (the removal of groundwater that interferes with buildings and infrastructure). The measure provides that groundwater must be captured and reused. If the effort proves impossible, the water must be discharged into the sewer where it has the potential of reuse through the City's expanded water recycling system.



WATER SAVING BUILDING CODES

Councilmember Huizar introduced a series of changes to City building and plumbing codes that set higher conservation standards in new buildings. These changes include:

- Requiring pool covers for homes and duplexes
- Mandating the use of City-recycled water for bathrooms, floor drains, and cooling systems when the water is available within 200 feet of the property line
- Tightening standards on faucets and bathroom fixtures to cut down on water waste
- Requiring individual meters for apartments and condos with less than 50 units
- Implementing a system for all new buildings to be greywater ready, which means alternate waste piping must be installed in order to funnel discharge from showers, washing machines, wash basins, etc. in order to be used for greywater irrigation systems
- Requiring all construction projects cut back on overall water use by 20 percent



PLASTIC BAG BAN

After ten years of debate, Councilmember Huizar successfully led the City in adopting a policy that phases out plastic grocery bags. While this shift had been considered for years, Huizar revived the effort in 2012 when he became the Chair of the Energy and the Environment Committee.

By January 1, 2014, the plastic bag ban took effect, making Los Angeles the largest city in the country to pass such a policy. This initiative eliminates about two billion single-use plastic bags annually and further safeguards Los Angeles' waterways from pollution and litter.

"We've seen plastic bags clogging our gutters, polluting our rivers, and piling up on our beaches. The City of Los Angeles took a stand to protect our environment, which also sends a strong and clear message to every big city in the nation that they should follow our lead."

- José Huizar





CLEAN UP GREEN UP

Created by Councilmember Huizar in 2010, Clean Up Green Up is a multifaceted initiative that addresses the disproportionate impact of pollution on lower-income neighborhoods. It was passed by the City Council in 2015.

Clean Up Green Up requires effective air filtration systems citywide in new developments built within 1,000 feet of a freeway, encourages smaller businesses in the three most polluted areas of the City to shift to more environmentally efficient operations; and creates development codes to help address conflicts that occur where industrial development is adjacent to residential neighborhoods.

EXIDE REMEDIATION

Councilmember Huizar championed a much needed clean-up of Exide Technologies, despite the fact that the polluted site is located outside the City of Los Angeles.

Huizar was concerned about Exide because lead emissions from the plant have polluted the surrounding areas for decades. Responding to pressure from the Councilmember, Governor Brown awarded \$176 million for a clean-up in 2016. The money was dedicated toward testing and cleaning all homes, schools, daycare centers, and parks within a 1.7-mile radius of Exide. In 2019, Governor Newsom earmarked an additional \$50 million to speed up the operation.





REDUCING NOXIOUS ODORS

Councilmember Huizar pushed for regulations that would dramatically reduce the presence of noxious odors emitted from Vernon's "rendering" facilities. The stench is a product of animal byproducts that are cooked down for disposal or reuse in the slaughterhouses.

After years of debate and rule development at the South Coast Air Quality Management District, Huizar helped craft new guidelines with input and support from community members and environmentalists. Now, the facilities are compelled to reduce the odors that they emit and work to control exhaust.



KNOCK TOBACCO OUT OF THE PARK

SMOKELESS TOBACCO BAN

Hoping to set a good example for the youth and looking to protect the health of athletes, Councilmember Huizar led the charge to end the use of smokeless tobacco products at all baseball fields and other athletic venues in Los Angeles. The move came in 2015 when all eyes were on Los Angeles Dodgers as the team made a run for another World Series.

"The time to act on smokeless tobacco is now. We must do what we can to save others, particularly our young people, from an extremely addictive and potentially deadly product"

- José Huizar

RESIDENTIAL BEEKEEPING

Upon hearing the concerns of his constituents, Councilmember Huizar reacted by championing an ordinance that allowed for residential beekeeping. Bees are valuable pollinators in California, and their global decline is a risk to farmers and backyard gardens alike.

By legalizing backyard beekeeping, Huizar offered a way for small-scale agriculture to flourish, while further educating residents about the Los Angeles ecosystem.



"We are working to become a more sustainable City to confront the environmental crises of today. Urban agriculture, bees and beekeepers, and deeper connections to the natural world are all part of the solution."

- José Huizar



FARMERS MARKETS ACCESSIBILITY

Addressing food access limitations from multiple angles, Councilmember Huizar has worked tirelessly to promote the proliferation of farmers markets throughout Los Angeles.

As a result of an ordinance introduced by Huizar, all farmers markets in the City must now accept EBT as payment, which is a food subsidy that allows low-income families to purchase fresh, healthy foods at farmers markets.

In addition to the EBT requirement, the Councilmember has helped usher in multiple ordinances that make it easier for farmers markets to get “up-and-running” without having to go through a lengthy approval processes.



URBAN AGRICULTURE

In an effort to further expand access to green space and locally grown, fresh food, Councilmember Huizar helped develop an Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone program that allows underutilized property to be used for farming within the City.

As Chair of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee, Huizar led the adoption of a system where property owners who agree to provide their land for a minimum of five years for urban agriculture, receive tax cuts in exchange. During this time, the community will be able to plant gardens, which offer income and sustenance to residents in need.

TRANSPORTATION

MOBILITY PLAN 2035

As Chair of the City's Planning Committee, Councilmember Huizar, along with Transportation Committee Chair Councilmember Mike Bonin and the Planning and Transportation Departments, developed a 193-page roadmap that outlines a new vision for moving around Los Angeles.

The Mobility Plan 2035 is intended to reduce traffic congestion by providing residents with safer, more effective ways to bike, walk, and use public transit in the City. Prioritizing safety and building the vision on a "Complete Streets" model, this mobility plan is the first major overhaul to Los Angeles' transportation policies since the 1990s.





CICLAVIA

Councilmember Huizar has been a champion for CicLAvia since its inception in 2010. The one-day event transforms Los Angeles streets and major auto thoroughfares into pedestrian and biking boulevards and encourages foot traffic for local businesses, as well as interaction and discovery of Los Angeles' unique communities.

"Each and every CicLAvia event draws well over 100,000 participants - people from every corner of our city. This event does more to advance the cause of pedestrian and bicycle use in Los Angeles than any single act of legislation could ever do."

- José Huizar



PEOPLE STREET PROGRAM

The Department of Transportation's People Street program for adding parklets, bike corrals, and plazas was first developed through initiatives developed by Councilmember Huizar.

ROAD DIETS

Councilmember Huizar is a strong supporter of comprehensive road diets that are aimed at making thoroughfares safer, more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly, and destination-oriented in order to support local businesses through community interaction.

Huizar has advocated road diets throughout Boyle Heights. He also piloted the City's first green bike lanes, which have increased auto visibility and bicyclist safety along 1st Street.



AB390

The City of Los Angeles updated its technology to include countdown crosswalk signals in 2008, but state law was never amended to take into account the technology.

Following a series of law-enforcement stings that focused on pedestrians, Councilmember Huizar crafted legislation that called upon state officials to change the law to allow for someone to enter a crosswalk while a countdown signal or flashing signal was still active. The State code was updated in 2017, via AB390, with plenty of support from pedestrian advocates.



HOMELESSNESS

HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY COMMITTEE

In 2015, Councilmember Huizar approached Council President Wesson with an idea: “We need a homelessness committee. We need a place where we can create a real plan to address homelessness.”

From that conversation, the City’s Homelessness and Poverty Committee was born. Huizar was its first chair, a duty he later shared with Councilmember Harris-Dawson. Together, the two worked out details of a Homelessness Strategic Plan that created policy norms and improved citywide coordination to combat homelessness.

“We cannot litigate our way out of homelessness. We cannot arrest our way out of it, and we can no longer continue the failed ‘out of sight, out of mind’ containment policies of the past. Homelessness is an issue that requires a comprehensive, proactive, and humanitarian response.”

- José Huizar



STRATEGIC HOMELESS PLAN

In 2016, after months of in-depth research by the Homelessness and Poverty Committee, Councilmembers Huizar and Harris-Dawson released a report that outlined 64 strategies for combating homelessness in the City. The bulk of the findings stressed the urgent need for rental subsidies and supportive housing options, including a core directive to provide 10,000 units of housing for the homeless. This “Housing First” model included the designation of City funds to supplement those from the County and State.

I'm proud to say that the City Council is forward thinking on the matter of homelessness. There is a general consensus that we must use every tool at our disposal to tackle the problem.

- José Huizar

HOMELESS BUDGET

Throughout his tenure in office, Councilmember Huizar has helped construct a City budget that reflected the true state of the homelessness crisis, while allowing for long-term, multifaceted solutions. Prior to 2015, Los Angeles funneled most of its resources toward police and paramedics, relying primarily on first-responders. A CAO report found that the approach costs taxpayers more than \$100 million annually. It was a waste of resources because many of the homeless cycle through the City's system without getting the assistance and services they required to get off the streets.

Under Huizar's guidance, the City increased its funding for the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority fivefold - from less than \$10 million in 2014 to \$50 million in 2016. Local government now provides hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for homeless services and housing through Measures H and HHH.

"The misery, despair, and hopelessness that so many suffer is truly heart-wrenching. We need a response that is equal to the tragedy. We need a response that puts an end to homelessness once and for all."

- José Huizar



LINKAGE FEE

As chair of the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee, Councilmember Huizar ushered in an ordinance that guarantees that new construction in Los Angeles will be offset by an increased availability of affordable housing. By passing a measure that institutes a “linkage fee” (which requires developers to pay up to \$15 for each square foot of property they build based on the location and type of construction), the City is protecting Angelenos from being priced out of their homes and neighborhoods.

The funds collected from these developers – an estimated \$100 million per year - are used to help construct new affordable housing as well as protect thousands of existing affordable housing units throughout Los Angeles. The plan was initiated by the City’s Homelessness Strategic Plan and backed by Mayor Garcetti.

“Los Angeles has long needed to ensure that residents and families who live here can continue to call the city that they love their home. No Angeleno should ever have to choose between feeding their family and paying their rent.”

- José Huizar



SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND MOTEL CONVERSION

In 2018, the City Council approved the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Ordinance and the Motel Conversion Ordinance (MCO). The initiatives, introduced by Councilmembers Huizar and Harris-Dawson, were supported by the United Way as crucial to creating more supportive housing across Los Angeles.

Combined, these ordinances significantly reduce construction timelines and costs – a key element in stretching Measure HHH funds.

For example, the PSH ordinance alone will result in \$1 million savings on a typical 60-unit building.

The ordinances were first recommended as part of the City's Comprehensive Homelessness Strategic Plan, which Huizar and Harris-Dawson helped draft as co-chairs of the Homelessness and Poverty Committee.

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

While these efforts have moved the dial on homelessness considerably, Councilmember Huizar believes there is much more to be done, especially when it comes to securing assistance for those individuals struggling with mental illness issues, which represent about a third of the homeless population.

"We're calling on the governor to treat homelessness like the crisis it is. With additional funding, we can get more people off of the streets and back to living the life they deserve."

- José Huizar



COUNCILMEMBER HUIZAR CALLED FOR:

- An expansion of crisis-ready response teams to prevent a mental health crises from becoming a crime.
- Dedicated mental health clinicians in City jails to help people who have been arrested break the cycle of homelessness and incarceration.
- Comprehensive discharge plans by hospitals to more effectively connect mentally ill patients with long-term services.
- The establishment of court conservatorships to protect those who are unable to care for themselves.
- Redefinition of California's "gravely disabled" law.
- Encourage the State and County to build more psychiatric beds.

RENTERS RIGHTS

Seventy-five percent of Boyle Heights residents are renters and more than 88% of them are protected by the Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO). Recognizing this, Councilmember Huizar developed numerous strategies to educate his constituents on the subject of renter's rights.

For instance, Huizar worked with nonprofit organizations, such as InnerCity Struggle, CASA0101, and Self Help Graphics & Art to create and implement a Know Your Rent Control Rights Campaign.

Council District 14 representatives went door-to-door to educate tenants. In this first-of-its-kind effort by a City Council office, the team reached nearly every single RSO unit in Boyle Heights, approximately 15,000 locations, to share information about arbitrary rent increases, harassment, and evictions.



EXODUS RECOVERY

Exodus Recovery is a nonprofit organization that leads Council District 14's intensive homeless outreach teams in Boyle Heights.

Councilmember Huizar helped provide Exodus with Americorps workers, and his office coordinated with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to ensure expanded outreach service.





JOVENES

Jovenes serves one of Boyle Heights most vulnerable populations – homeless youth. The organization has taken up the task of proving these individuals with much-needed housing and services.

Councilmember Huizar assisted Jovenes in securing a City-owned duplex on 4th Street to develop eight units of housing for homeless college students. The 6000 square-foot lot is dedicated to Jovenes' College Success Initiative, which is designed to help young people who are enrolled in community college achieve stability through supportive housing.

Huizar also arranged for the donation of City land on Pleasant Avenue to Jovenes. The grant allowed for a cohesive expansion of the organization's campus.



WOMEN'S DONATION DRIVES

Councilmember Huizar also organized annual women's donations drives. Overwhelming community response had a major impact on the lives of women who were experiencing homelessness.

Items were donated to Proyecto Pastoral's Guadalupe Homeless Project in Boyle Heights.

BIOGRAPHY

Jose Huizar was elected to the Los Angeles City Council's 14th District in 2005 and overwhelmingly re-elected in 2007, 2011 and what will be his final term, 2015. Councilmember Huizar has been fearless in creating policies that are moving the City of Los Angeles forward. He championed successful efforts to address homelessness and the affordable housing crisis, protect the environment, increase park space, advance innovative transportation policies, and revitalize Downtown Los Angeles. He has fought to bring new resources to the communities he represents, including Boyle Heights, El Sereno, Northeast Los Angeles and Downtown Los Angeles.

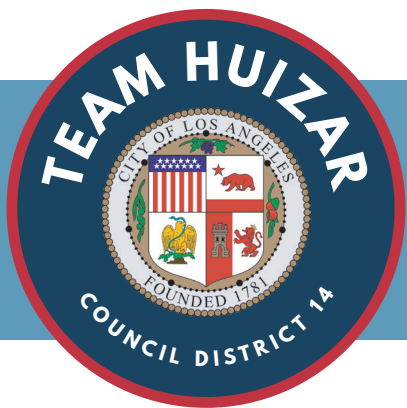
In his zest to assist those in need, Councilmember Huizar helped establish the City's first-ever committee on Homelessness and as chair of the committee co-authored and adopted the City's first-ever Comprehensive Strategic Plan to Combat Homelessness. In implementing the Plan, Councilmember Huizar was one of the architects and leaders in the campaign to adopt the voter-approved Measure HHH, which will provide \$1.2 billion over 10 years to build 10,000 units of permanent supportive housing.

On the environmental front, he led efforts to ban plastic bags, dramatically increase the Department Water and Power's energy efficiency program, significantly increase solar power operations, and commit the City to getting off a coal energy use by 2025. Councilmember Huizar is also one of the City's leading "Complete Streets" proponents. He ushered in groundbreaking pedestrian and bike-friendly policies that are seen as the model for the entire City.

As a strong proponent for economic development and creating cultural destination points, Councilmember Huizar has steadfastly helped revitalize Downtown Los Angeles by increasing and reimagining its public spaces and promoting its economic and residential growth. Through his 10-year Bringing Back Broadway initiative, Councilmember Huizar assisted in the historical preservation of the beautiful corridor, reinvigorated 6 of its 12 historic theaters, and has created a framework to bring the beloved Streetcar back to the City of Los Angeles.

Councilmember Huizar has been awarded numerous awards and distinctions, including profiles by the Los Angeles Business Journal as one of the 25 figures in the Los Angeles Area that "stand out for their potential to shape lives" and by Hispanic Business Magazine as one of the "100 most influential Hispanics" in the United States.

Huizar was born in Zacatecas, Mexico and raised in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles. He currently resides with his wife Richelle and their four children.



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