

Communication from Public

Name: Robin Murez

Date Submitted: 03/05/2023 07:06 PM

Council File No: 21-0353

Comments for Public Posting: Without conducting the customary public outreach, as is required for the placement of art or monuments in public places, and particularly in a prominent historic site, and with total disregard for public safety, visibility, access and the historic cultural significance of the site, The Venice Mexican American Traqueros Monument, a sculpture that is to recognize the contributions of Mexicans who participated in building the railroads in California was approved by the LA City Council for installation in Windward Circle in Venice. Windward Circle was Tongva wetlands and in 1904 became the Lagoon, a waterway and the center city of Venice of America and never had a railroad, trolley car nor anything related to the concept that the Traqueros monument would address; Since being paved over, Windward Circle continues to be a main access point along the historic Windward Colonnade to Venice Beach, and being a traffic circle, the Department of Transportation has repeatedly stated that it is unsafe to draw pedestrians to the center island and there are no crosswalks; Due to Covid, the proposal for installing this sculpture was sped through approvals without informing the public nor undertaking a customary review by the Department of Cultural Affairs; and Alternative sites for the Traqueros monument that consider public safety, access and cultural integrity exist in Venice and throughout Los Angeles, (for example is the nationally recognized historic 100 year old Short Line Trolley Car Bridge, which spans the Venice Canals between North and South Venice Boulevards and Centennial Park, among others); The we request that the Bureau of Engineering, Department of Cultural Affairs, and Department of Transportation review their plans and install the Venice Mexican American Traqueros Monument which pays tribute to Mexicans who built California's railroads, in a safe, accessible, historic and culturally appropriate site in Los Angeles, such as adjacent to Venice's Historic Short Line Trolley Car Bridge or in Centennial Park.

Communication from Public

Name: Venice Public Art

Date Submitted: 03/05/2023 07:38 PM

Council File No: 21-0353

Comments for Public Posting: This is an Unsafe location, creating an “Attractive Nuisance” The scale of the sculpture installed in the middle of the traffic circle would make it only visible if pedestrians run through traffic circle Visually & regarding access it is the wrong scale for this site It is culturally inappropriate: Historically, Windward Circle was always a waterway, for the Tongva and in Abbot Kinney’s day, it was The Lagoon. Railroads never passed through this site. We need not destroy cultural history to pay tribute to Traqueros! Other sites in Venice did not have railroads but did have Trolley Cars and could be suitable for this sculpture. No Community Outreach was conducted, including by the Department of Cultural Affairs, due to Covid and racial pandering by Mike Bonin
ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS: 1. Install Traqueros in Centennial Park where railroad tracks reference the historic Trolley Car route and people can safely approach to see and take selfies. 2. Install near the Historic Red Line Trolley Car Bridge between N and S Venice Boulevards. Same reasons. 3. Select a contemporary sculpture by this artist, Jorge Marin. His contemporary sculptures are monumental, world renown, figures with wings or “Wings” alone. Los Angeles was gifted a Jorge Marin “Wings” sculpture. It is temporarily installed in Griffith Park. If installed on Venice Beach, in place of the temporary du Suvero “V” which is slated for removal, it would be a huge tourist attraction, selfie destination, a safe and worthy tribute to Mexican cultural heritage, without degrading other historic sites. See: News regarding "Wings in Los Angeles" https://www.theeastsiderla.com/neighborhoods/los_feliz/wings-of-mexico-sculpture-finally-lands-in-griffith-park/article_475e4fee-e5f7-11ec-a32e-b3a82f38b484.html

Communication from Public

Name: Robert Haro

Date Submitted: 03/05/2023 08:01 PM

Council File No: 21-0353

Comments for Public Posting: See:
https://www.westsidecurrent.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-to-editor-mexican-heritage-landmark/article_ab90bc78-3b60-11ec-963a-c383d0b77266.html Nov 1, 2021 I've grown up in Venice. My family has had our restaurant here for three generations. I've read recent articles about how a proposed housing project at the beach has disrespected Venice's Black cultural leaders. I want you to know and share that it also disregards our Mexican heritage. It was Mexicans and Chinese who built the railroads in California. And it's Mexicans who have maintained the Venice Canals, forever. On this proposed site, we have the original, historic Red Car Trolley Bridge crossing over the historic Venice Canals. My children love riding bikes over it, as I have. This project would prevent us from doing so ever again. Also, it seems hypocritical that the LA City Council voted to put a "Monument to Traquero's," the Mexicans who built our railroads, in the middle of what was Venice's Lagoon. The Lagoon was center of the Venice Canals, a waterway. No railroad ever went there. I don't even know how that project was passed. I never heard of it - and no one in Venice did - until it was already approved by the City Council. These two proposals are affronts to Mexican cultural history, and all of Venice's history. The Red Car Bridge and the Venice Canals are our Landmarks of Mexican, Chinese, Black and all Venice cultural heritage. Venice has always been a multicultural community. Let's not let that be destroyed by one oversized building complex of 140 units that would prevent hundreds of thousands of people - many Mexican Americans - from coming to the beach. That housing can be provided elsewhere in Venice and LA. The Bridge and Canal are irreplaceable. They should be celebrated with plaques, a bike path and a park, so that everyone knows and can continue to respect our cultural history. Please do not let our history be hidden and destroyed, forever. Sincerely, Robert Haro Casablanca Restaurant Venice, CA