



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO COMPLETE
PUBLIC MURAL BY ARMANDO CID (1943-2009)**

DATE: August 16, 2010

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WHAT: Public Art Mural by Armando Cid Unveiled in the Alkali Flat Neighborhood of Sacramento.

WHERE: Washington Square Apartments, adjacent to Zapata Park, 905 E Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

WHEN: August 21, 2010, 11:00 a.m.

Sacramento, CA – In a unique collaboration between the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission (SMAC), the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), and the Community Housing Opportunities Corporation (CHOC), a public mural designed by late artist Armando R. Cid, and fabricated by his friends and family has been installed on the west facing façade of the Washington Square Apartments, adjacent to Zapata Park, 905 E Street, in the Alkali Flat neighborhood of Sacramento.

The community is invited to gather for the unveiling of the mural on Saturday, August 21, 2010. Ceremonies will begin at 11:00 a.m. followed by a community celebration at adjacent Zapata Park, co-sponsored by the family of Armando Cid and the Washington Neighborhood Center.

The 6' high by 20' wide brightly colored mosaic mural replaces one of two murals installed by Armando Cid 34 years ago. The original murals, "Sunburst" and "Olin," were two of the first public artworks commissioned by the City of Sacramento's Art in Public Places Program.

Over the past 34 years, the murals became an important part of the Alkali Flat neighborhood's identity, culture and history. In 2008, the conservation of the murals came to the attention of SMAC through SHRA and CHOC's renovation of the Washington Square Apartments. Many tenants expressed an interest in the conservation of the murals as their long time place of residence underwent renovation.

Armando Cid was commissioned to replace "Sunburst" and had completed the conceptual design of the mural when he passed away unexpectedly on July 13, 2009. Armando's family

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Great art makes a great community!

and friends gathered at the Washington Neighborhood Center (WNC) located in Alkali Flat, which houses the Barrio Art Program, to fabricate the mural, pay respect to the artist, and carry on his commitment and dedication to the arts and public service in Sacramento. Generous contributions from Susan Willoughby, Muriel Johnson, Tracy Bowman, and Jim Loehr, allowed for the successful completion of this project.

Armando R. Cid, a prominent and important Sacramento artist, celebrated traditional Mexican folk ways as an educator, activist, and founding member of the Royal Chicano Air Force art group. He studied at the Pasadena College of Art and Design and earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from California State University, Sacramento. Cid is a nationally recognized artist and his work can be found in many private and public collections including the Smithsonian Institute. In the late 1970's Armando Cid served as an Arts Commissioner for the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission.

This mural, in addition to a new playground and community garden at Zapata Park, celebrates the revitalization of the community and serves as a neighborhood landmark representing a vital part of the historic significance of Alkali Flat.

The Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission is devoted to supporting, promoting, and advocating for the arts in the region. For further information on programs and opportunities through the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission go to: www.sacmetroarts.org SMAC is funded by the City and County of Sacramento.

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AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW: Please contact Shelly Willis at 916 808-3971, e-mail swillis@cityofsacramento.org to schedule interviews.



Photo Description: Public Mural by Armando Cid, ceramic, porcelain and glass tile, west facing exterior wall, Washington Square Apartments, 6' H x 20' W

Photo provided by the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission

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