



EL PASO COUNTY STATE OF TEXAS

RESOLUTION



WHEREAS, The El Paso County's Healing Garden at Ascarate Park, a National Memorial, stands as a beacon of hope in honor of the lives lost and those who were deeply impacted on August 3, 2019. As part of Phase II of the El Paso County Healing Garden, Judge Ricardo Samaniego, put out a call to all mural artists to submit mural artwork for consideration to be placed on the South facing wall of the Healing Garden. The proposed mural wall will be one of the most pivotal initiatives since the creation of the Healing Garden. The completed artwork to be unveiled on August 3, 2024, on the 5th Anniversary. Local community artists will have the flexibility and the autonomy to arrive at producing one of the most powerful and iconic murals in the history of murals in our community; and,

WHEREAS, a selection committee of 5 members participated by submitting their vote to select the winners. The Commissioners Court collectively had one vote in assisting to select the final winners alongside County Administrator Betsy Keller, Barracuda CEO Marina Monsisvais, Veterans Program Director Yvonne Whitiker, and Michelle E. Grady; and,

WHEREAS, The Winners selected are Cesar Inostrozo, Jesus "Cimi" Alvarado, Blanca Estrada, Albert "Tino" Ortega and Christin Apodaca; and,

WHEREAS, Cesar Inostrozo was born and raised in South El Paso where he completed his first mural at Bowie High School at 16 years of age. Cesar's has obtained a degree in Advertising Graphics and Art Education and has worked with assistants who worked with Diego Rivera. Cesar has the ability to convey strength and passion through his artwork; and,

WHEREAS, Jesus "CIMI" Alvarado's artistic journey began as a graffiti artist in El Paso, Texas, leaving a lasting mark on the city's historic Segundo Barrio and beyond. Cimi's portfolio includes collaborations with renowned brands like Amazon, Apple Music, Jose Cuervo, El Paso Locomotives, and many more. His work is a tribute to Mexican American culture, with a commitment to community engagement and to supporting emerging artists; and,

WHEREAS, born in Jalisco, Mexico, and raised in El Paso since the age of 12, Blanca Estrada also known as "Bloo" is a self-taught artist flexible in various mediums and styles. Since June 2022, her art business has been operational for over eight years providing group painting classes, commission portraits, fine art, fan art, murals, and participating in a variety of local shows and markets like Chalk the Block, Las Artistas, and El Paso Comic Con. She was recognized in the El Paso Inc. Best of El Paso 2023 as the 1st place Artist in Visual Category; and,

WHEREAS, Christin Apodaca, an artist born and raised in El Paso, holds a degree in Studio Art from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. She lives in El Paso, where she maintains an active career as a muralist and exhibiting artist. Christin draws inspiration from the Chihuahuan Desert, her artwork uplifts the resilience, strength and inherent beauty of women, inviting viewers to reflect on the profound connection between nature and femininity; and,

WHEREAS, Albert "Tino" Ortega is a self-taught mural artist that has worked on various murals throughout El Paso. Tino combines elements of street and fine art to create colorful works of art. Tino was one of two El Paso artists who participated in the Healing Uvalde project organized by MAS Cultura in Austin, which invited artists to paint murals of the 23 victims.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court congratulates all 5 winners and thank them for their participation as they collaborate to create one of the most impactful murals in our community.

SIGNED, this 4th day of December 2023

Commissioner Carlos Leon, Pct. 1

Commissioner David C. Stout, Pct. 2

Commissioner Iliana Holguin, Pct. 3

Commissioner Sergio Coronado, Pct. 4

County Judge Ricardo A. Samaniego