



For Immediate Release

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SAN PEDRO WATERFRONT ARTS DISTRICT ANNOUNCES MURALIST AWARD FOR THE LILYAN FIERMAN WALKWAY



light posts

Design to scale

San Pedro, CA – The San Pedro Waterfront Arts District, in collaboration with the Council District 15 Office of Joe Buscaino and the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs is excited to announce a mural award to local artist Luis Sanchez. The mural award is part of the City of Los Angeles' One Percent for the Arts Funding, negotiated by the Council 15 Office. The mural will be painted on the east wall of 454 West 6th Street in the newly renovated Lilyan Fierman Walkway, connecting 6th street with the municipal parking lot on 5th street.

The Arts District received 46 submissions to their Call for Artists and was assisted by six members of the Arts District Design Advisory Panel, who made recommendations to the Board and the property owner for their final decision. After a long review consensus driven process, it was decided to give the mural award to Pac Arts resident, Luis Sanchez. The Arts District liked the inventive way he captured the soul and spirit of the adjacent Warner Grand Theatre, while creatively highlighting the performing arts.

“Since part of our mission, as an arts district is to put art on the outside for all to enjoy, we are thrilled to be given this opportunity to have this mural painted”, says San Pedro Waterfront Arts District Managing Director, Linda Grimes. “We were completely bowled over by the quantity and quality of the submissions we received and look forward to transforming San Pedro with more artist painted surfaces.” Energizing and repurposing neglected alley ways has become a nationally accepted way to give the community a sense of beauty, safety and pride about their neighborhood.

Born in Mexico City, **Luis Sanchez** is a fine art painter, sculptor and muralist and painted one of the eleven DOT boxes on Harbor Boulevard. He has been a self-employed artist for over twenty-years, exhibiting painting, sculpture in at Premio Bugatti, Italy, the Los Angeles Art Show, Art Basel, Miami and many other galleries, residential and commercial

commissions in a wide range from decorative to trompe l'oeil. Luis notes, "When looking at the history of our historic theatre, its incredible design and history, I wanted to show a tale of past, present, music, dance, movement, celebration of the arts, as well as the diverse culture of San Pedro. I also used some of the applied design aspects from the interior of the Warner Grand."

Luis will begin painting the mural in mid-October with an expected completion by mid-December. The public is invited to the Lilyan Fierman walkway to view the mural progress and the Arts District is planning an unveiling party with the Council Office.

The **Pac Arts Gallery** will be hosting a solo exhibition of Luis Sanchez' work to coincide with the mural award on **November 3rd (FIRST THURSDAY)** at the Pac Arts Gallery. The Opening Reception will start at 6pm and the Gallery is located at 303 South Pacific Avenue in San Pedro.

To celebrate their first major mural commission, the Arts District is sponsoring the following films and activities during the upcoming **San Pedro International Film Festival - spiff.org** on October 6-16th, presented at various venues throughout San Pedro:

- The festival kicks off on **October 6th** during San Pedro's First Thursday Artwalk presenting an art exhibition (at the old Threads of Time space) in conjunction with the documentary **Dark Progressivism**, directed by **Rodrigo Ribera d'Ebre**, the renowned author/historian of urban studies, culture and art in Los Angeles. The film covers LA's history of murals, tagging and street art born during the urban upheaval of the 80s and 90s.
- **Dark Progressivism** screens on **October 15th** at 5:30pm as part of an evening of programming presented with the San Pedro Waterfront Arts District in the historical elegance of the Warner Grand Theatre.
- Also on Saturday, October 15th, a screening of **Playing Lecuona** follows **Dark Progressivism** - the stunning documentary film exploring Cuban pianist & composer Ernesto Lecuona's influence through the lens of three of the maestro's most well-known jazz pianist descendants: Chucho Valdés, son of renowned bandleader and composer Bebo Valdés; Gonzalo Rubalcaba, a Cuban from the generation after Chucho; and the Dominican Michel Camilo. The evening concludes with a VIP reception.
- **GATHERING OF SAN PEDRO'S CREATIVE TRIBE - Sunday October 16th**, 4pm to 6pm at the Warner Grand This panel of professionals from film, technology, industrial design, music, theater, education, and art for a town-hall conversation will gather to discuss how we can both cultivate our town's youth -- and attract innovative professionals to San Pedro. Our goal is to develop our downtown into one of the great creative corridors of Los Angeles. All current and future leaders, innovators, and big thinkers are encouraged to attend.

ABOUT THE SAN PEDRO WATERFRONT ARTS DISTRICT: In downtown San Pedro, the arts and the waterfront are main motivators in the revitalization of the area. Projects and activities in the Port of LA and the San Pedro Waterfront Arts District seek to eliminate blight and provided physical, social, cultural and economic benefits that have transformed downtown San Pedro.

The Arts District has transitioned from the 2009 CRA grant-dependent model to a new self-sustaining non-profit company, the San Pedro Waterfront Arts District. The aim of the new non-profit Arts District is to cultivate more sustaining partnerships; evolve the accomplishments of the past; generate new opportunities to support local arts, culture and entertainment; and fulfill the mission of nurturing the cultural roots of San Pedro through arts advocacy, education and promotion.

Among its goals, the Arts District is committed to fundraising and advocacy for a sustained schedule of Creative Place Making/Public Art projects in and around the downtown area of the Arts District.