

# Muwekma Ohlone Tribute

Artist: Carlos Perez

June 2020

Seven Trees Community Center / 3590 Cas Dr, San Jose, CA / Council District 7

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Artist Carlos Perez’s colorful mural is vibrant visual tribute to the Ohlone creation myth. The artwork, which wraps around this service building at Seven Trees Community Center, features imagery and symbols important to the Ohlone including the hummingbirds, coyote, and water. In developing the artwork he engaged closely with the community. In tribute to their strong connection with nature in this area, the trees featured in the mural have seven branches. In this way he worked to anchor the artwork to stories of the first people inhabiting this land and to the story of people who live here now.

This project is part of the City’s Right the Blight project, a beautification mural program developed as a result of the City tracking specific sites that are chronic hotspots for graffiti. Using tracking data from the City’s graffiti-reporting app, key hotspots were identified and a dialogue began on how to mitigate them. This led to City Council-initiated funding to support bringing artists on board to create murals in these hotspots. The thinking is that when a mural of high quality – one that goes through a good community process - goes in, blight is reduced. Enter local artist Carlos Perez. Carlos worked with the community to develop a mural design that honored the City’s original inhabitants and gave a voice to their culture. This project, a chance to test this theory out, has proven the idea works.



## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Carlos Perez, an artist, designer and community activist with great priced in Latino/Chicano cultural heritage, is recognized for his visual art creations that are found in public and private collections throughout the region and the world.

His artistic works are found in public and private collections, such as Harrison Ford, James Olmos, Rosario Dawson, Sir Ben Kingsley, Lupe Ontiveros, Diablo Cody, Spike Lee, Lalo Schifrin, Danny Glover, Benjamin Bratt, and other such notables.



Carlos Pérez's mixed media paintings canvases come from a visceral place and are a reflection of his life experiences. Influenced by artists of the Mexican, Chicano and Indigenous art movements, his artworks speak to an indigenous spiritual heritage; they are textural, colorful and symbolic.

Also a distinguished designer, in 1977 while working on the design team at the Regis McKenna firm, Carlos created the original drawings the Apple logo, one of the world's most iconic logo of our time.

Raised in the Guadalajara region of Mexico, Carlos Perez immigrated Mexico City in 1972. He attended San Jose State University with his fingerprints on a part of the American Fabric.

Learn more about Carlos Perez and his body of work at [www.artorigindesign.com/](http://www.artorigindesign.com/)

## ABOUT THE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The City of San José Public Art Program seeks to build community identity by initiating artworks and exhibitions that enhance the civic landscape and experience. Through active community engagement, public art strives to reflect the City's diversity, historic richness, and envision its present and future.

The Public Art Program is part of the City's Cultural Affairs, a division of the Office of Economic Development. The Public Art Program was established by a 1984 municipal ordinance that provides public art through funding from City capital improvement projects and eligible private development.

For further information and photos, please contact the San José Public Art Program.



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