



My name is Josephine Suzan Talamantez. I am a co-founder of Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Steering Committee and I am founder and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center located in Chicano Park in San Diego, California.

I am here today to voice my support for HR 486 Chicano Park Preservation Act that requests the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Chicano Park and its Monumental Murals. The Secretary shall:

1) Evaluate the National Significance of the Site

Chicano Park was recognized as a National Historic Landmark, signed by the Secretary of the Interior December 23, 2016, utilizing NHL Criteria 1 Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent the broad national patterns of US history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained; and Criteria 5 That compose integrated parts of the environment not sufficiently significant by reason of historical association or artistic merit to warrant individual recognition but collectively compose an entity of exceptional historical or artistic significance or outstandingly commemorate or illustrate a way of life or culture. Assessment utilized:

- NHL Theme—Expressing Cultural Values; and
- Visual Arts—as many of the Artists and Artists Collective that painted in Chicano Park are internationally recognized; and for
- Architecture—the Chicano Park Kiosk/stage are designed in the shape of a Mesoamerican open air structure
- Areas of Significance: Social History and American Latino ethnic heritage

National Historic Context: following the ***American Latinos & the Making of the United States Theme Study*** in the areas of Chicano Muralism and the Chicano Civil Rights Movement

2) The Secretary shall Determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the sites as an Affiliated Site of the National Park System

Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals would be honored to be designated as an Affiliated Site of the National Park System without falling under the ownership of the NPS.

3) Consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of Chicano Park and the Monumental Murals by Federal, State, or local government entities, or private and nonprofit organizations

The Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center is a 501©3 with a focus on Art, History and Science established for the protection and interpretation of the history of Chicano

CHICANO PARK

M U S E U M



Park, the Monumental Murals, the neighborhood of Logan Heights/Barrio Logan and the Border region.

- 4) Consult with interested Federal, State or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organization or any other interested individuals

The Chicano Park Steering Committee and the Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center works with all who are interested in providing technical support and/or guidance in the maintenance, preservation and interpretation of the cultural resources found in Chicano Park and the surrounding Cultural District—designated by the California State Legislature. We have worked closely with the City of San Diego, SD Historical Society, Save Our Heritage organization, California Arts Council, California Office of Historic Preservation, California department of Transportation and others.

- 5) Identify cost estimates for any development, interpretation, operation and maintenance associated with the alternatives

The Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center is working with the City of San Diego to renovate and abate a 10,000 sq foot facility located in Chicano Park that will maintain collections and archives of Chicano Park; develop programs for identification and protection of the historic site that will make it possible to tell a more complete story of American history. We are currently researching and developing methods for preservation and perfecting restoration and rehabilitation of our nationally significant site for the benefit of the people. We focus on research and interpretation for our future generations. We are currently developing programs and collecting oral histories from elders from the community in conjunction with our local library and through our Turning Wheel—mobile classroom.

We support H.R.486 and it is understood that the report will be available 18 months from the date on which resources are made available for the study. We are confident that this may occur sooner as Chicano Park and the Chicano Park Monumental Murals have gone through extensive assessment to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places and listed as a National Historic Landmark.

Chicano Park is a unique cultural resource adding to the history of our great Nation! Thank you for your time and we hope that you vote favorably for H.R.486.