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In a Divided World, Art Illuminates the Path to Justice: La Piedra Art Collective's "That Stubborn Resistance" Exhibition Opens in Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA – In today's polarized political climate, where debates about immigration, equity, and human rights dominate the national discourse, the power of art to inspire empathy and understanding has never been more crucial. Art is not just a reflection of society but a catalyst for change—a way to amplify voices, challenge injustices, and imagine a better future.

The Museum of Social Justice, in collaboration with the Central American Historical and Ancestral Society of California (<u>CAHAAS</u>), proudly presents La Piedra Art Collective's *That Stubborn Resistance*, an extraordinary exhibition showcasing the artistry and activism of Central American and Mexican immigrant artists.

Opening reception on **Saturday, February 15, 2025**, this powerful collection celebrates the enduring resilience and cultural contributions of immigrant communities in Los Angeles and beyond.

Exhibition Details:

• Location: Museum of Social Justice at La Plaza United Methodist Church,

115 Paseo de la Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012 (Main entrance at Olvera

Street & Paseo de la Plaza)

- Opening Reception Date: February 15, 2025 at 4 pm. The exhibit will be available February 15 through July 27, 2025.
- Reception Time: 4 PM 6 PM
- **Parking:** Paid public parking is available on N. Main Street. (Media trucks can park on N. Los Angeles Street)
- Regular hours of operation:
 - Open: Thursday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.*
 - Closed: Monday–Wednesday
 - Admission: Free

Media Availability: Artists can be available for interviews in English and Spanish.

Videotaped artist interviews are also available here: La Piedra Artists Videos

*In the case of heavy rain, the museum will be closed; please check for updates.

Why Art Matters to Social Justice

Art has the unique ability to bridge divides and reveal the humanity behind political struggles. Immigrant art offers a deeply personal lens on the ongoing fight for justice and equality. It captures the histories, dreams, and dualities of those who navigate the complexities of belonging to two worlds.

Through vivid imagery and poignant storytelling, *That Stubborn Resistance* highlights the continuation of social struggles—underscoring how today's movements for justice are built on the legacies of those who fought before us.

About the Exhibition

This exhibition explores themes of historical memory, political conflict, and the resilience of immigrant communities through the eyes of La Piedra, a collective of Central American and Mexican artists. Featuring works spanning three decades, it reflects the rich tapestry of experiences, from fleeing homelands to building lives in a new country.

Key Highlights:

- Artworks Rooted in Advocacy: Each piece bridges past and present, reflecting the challenges and triumphs of immigrant communities while advocating for justice and equity.
- Oral Histories on Migration and Identity: Short videos directed by CAHAAS co-founder Claudia A. Portillo trace the migration waves of the 1980s and their transformative impact on Los Angeles, offering intimate glimpses into personal and community histories.
- A Legacy of Resilience: The exhibition honors the collective history of La Piedra's members, many of whom fled violence and persecution to find refuge in the United States.

As La Piedra states, "It is precisely the struggles for social justice that have not only inspired and nourished our art but have accompanied those feats carried out by different peoples in their search for better societies free of oppression."

An Invitation to Engage

La Piedra's That Stubborn Resistance is more than an exhibition—an urgent call to reflect on the interconnectedness of art, identity, and justice. It challenges invisibility and erasure, celebrating the enduring strength of immigrant artists who refuse to be silenced.

Join Us in Celebrating Art as Resistance

This exhibit invites you to experience the power of creativity to illuminate injustice, build empathy, and inspire action. By engaging with these poignant works, you honor the voices and stories that contribute to the vibrant fabric of our shared humanity.

For more information, contact info@museumofsocialjustice.org.

About the Museum of Social Justice

The Museum of Social Justice is dedicated to telling the neglected stories of the diverse people of Los Angeles. By showcasing the history of social movements from the perspective of marginalized groups, the Museum inspires visitors to engage with social justice principles and advocate for change.

Art is resistance. Art is resilience. Art is the bridge to a more just world. Visit *La Piedra's That Stubborn Resistance* and discover the enduring power of creativity in the fight for social justice.