

W.E.B. Club

Where Everybody Blossoms

Los Angeles River High School

2050 San Fernando Rd.

Los Angeles CA 90065

5/5/17

Regarding to the Mural Project at the Post Office.

Students at Los Angeles River High School, an LAUSD Pilot school in Glassell Park, along with teachers Reies Flores and Arturo Romo, founded W.E.B. Club (Where Everybody Blossoms), as a place where the visual arts and ecology intertwine. The club is dedicated to researching, raising awareness and developing solutions to environmental and humanitarian concerns both locally and globally.

Though only three months old, club members have spearheaded the relandscaping of an area of the campus using native plants which are both water saving and provide habitat and food for native animals. This project was completed in collaboration with Hahamongna Nursery's Nicholas Hummingbird, an expert in native Southern California culture and habitats. They have also worked with the Southeast Asian Community Alliance which facilitated a workshop exploring the environmental and social impact of the LA River.

When club members heard of the proposal for the Glassell Park Post Office mural, they were interested in participating. We held a special meeting dedicated to researching possible mural subjects with a focus on the history and present of Glassell Park. During this meeting, students were able to read the original call and do further research of the source materials listed. It was from this meeting and the fruitful research and conversation that ensued that the following points were made:

History of Glassell Park

- 1.) The mural should include Tongva people. They are the original people of this area. They've been here for tens of thousands of years and they've made this area what it is.
- 2.) The mural should include Spanish and Mexican history of Glassell Park. The oldest structure in Northeast LA, the Jose Maria Aguilar Adobe is located in Glassell Park. Glassell park was once part of the Rancho Cañada de los Nogales, which he bought from Jose Maria Verdugo.
- 3.) Andrew Glassell was a sympathizer to the Southern cause of secession during the civil war. During the civil war, he refused to take an oath of loyalty to the Union. He obtained the land that became Glassell Park as payment for a suit dealing with the partition of Rancho San Rafael. These facts should be reflected in the mural.
- 4.) The mural should show the fight to preserve open green space in Glassell Park/West Mount Washington including the preservation of Elyria Canyon

Present of Glassell Park

- 1.) The mural should show that Glassell Park is a diverse community with a large Latino and Asian population.
- 2.) The mural should show that Glassell Park is home to immigrants
- 3.) The mural should accurately depict the landscape of Glassell Park, its hills and canyons and closeness to the LA River
- 4.) The mural should show families enjoying the parks and pool
- 5.) The mural should reflect the experiences of residents struggling with the effects of gentrification
- 6.) The mural should show the fairs and festivals put on by the GPNC and the GPIA
- 7.) The mural should show the fight to protect Black Walnut Canyon by NELA Greenspace and others

Thank you for your consideration and for taking our research into account.

Sincerely

Arturo Romo

Co-Founder of W.E.B. Club

Los Angeles River High School

