



CONNECT | COLLABORATE | CREATE

National Hispanic Media Coalition

13502 Whittier Blvd.
Suite H-480
Whittier, CA 90605
626-792-6462 | bcastillo@nhmc.org | www.nhmc.org

June 19, 2026

Council President and Honorable Members
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Letter of Support — Reject CEQA Appeal, El Corazón Art Park | Council File No. 26-0737

Dear Council President and Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

The National Hispanic Media Coalition is pleased to submit this letter of support for the El Corazón Art Park project and to respectfully urge the City Council to reject the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) appeal filed against the project (Council File No. 26-0737), upholding the determination that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA.

National Hispanic Media Coalition is a 40+ year old 501(c)(3) non-profit, nonpartisan, civil and human rights organization that was founded to eliminate hate, discrimination, and racism toward Latino and marginalized communities. We advance Latino visibility and influence from the halls of Washington, D.C., to the studios of Hollywood. Through our media advocacy and workforce development initiatives, NHMC creates spaces where diverse creators can connect, collaborate, and thrive. Our workforce development programs serve as both incubators and pipelines, preparing the next generation of storytellers, advocates, and industry leaders. Through mentorship, education, networking opportunities, and direct access to entertainment executives, these programs help transform emerging talent into lasting industry voices while expanding authentic representation across media. We lead the work to eliminate online hate and disinformation across media platforms. We advocate for the Affordable Connectivity Program, Lifeline Program, Net Neutrality protections, and closing the digital divide for Latino and other marginalized communities. NHMC works in partnership with other social justice organizations to safeguard democracy in the United States of America.

We write in strong support of this project because NHMC believes in fostering spaces where artists can grow and draw inspiration from. For art to be created our communities must hold space for unity and the belief in investing in one another. That is how we inspire new generations of artists to share their message and work.

Los Angeles, CA | Washington, D.C.
(626) 792-6462 | www.nhmc.org



CONNECT | COLLABORATE | CREATE

El Corazón Art Park represents a meaningful investment in the wellbeing, cultural expression, and shared identity of Los Angeles. The project proposes a temporary activation of a vacant, previously disturbed urban infill site that will provide publicly accessible open space, community art installations, landscaping, cultural programming, and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. The proposal consists of temporary use and minor improvements on an approximately 1.96-acre site in Downtown Los Angeles.

For many years, residents and community organizations have advocated for greater access to quality public spaces in Downtown Los Angeles. El Corazón Art Park offers an opportunity to transform an underutilized site into a vibrant community gathering place where residents, families, artists, and visitors can connect through arts, culture, recreation, education, and wellness.

Beyond the physical improvements, El Corazón Art Park carries profound significance for many Angelenos. Los Angeles is one of the most diverse cities in the world, yet many communities — including Latinos, Mexican Americans, Chicanos, immigrants, Indigenous peoples, and other communities of color — do not always see their histories, cultures, and lived experiences reflected in our public spaces. At a time when many residents feel increasingly disconnected from civic institutions and concerned that their identities and contributions are being overlooked or diminished, projects that create space for cultural expression, visibility, and belonging are more important than ever.

Public spaces are not only places for recreation — they are places where communities gather, celebrate, heal, learn, and see themselves reflected. Through public art, cultural programming, and community engagement, El Corazón Art Park offers a welcoming space where people can honor their heritage, share their stories, and strengthen connections across generations and neighborhoods.

We support rejecting the CEQA appeal for the following reasons:

- The project is temporary in nature and consists of minor improvements to a previously disturbed urban infill site, consistent with CEQA categorical exemption requirements.
- The project will provide significant public benefits, including open space, community art, cultural programming, educational opportunities, and recreational activities accessible to the public.
- The Department of Recreation and Parks and the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners have already reviewed the project and determined that it qualifies for a CEQA categorical exemption.
- Delaying or overturning the project would deny the community the benefits of a thoughtfully planned public space developed through extensive community engagement and public input.



CONNECT | COLLABORATE | CREATE

- The project aligns with the City's goals of expanding access to arts, culture, recreation, and community-serving public spaces, and reflects an equitable investment in historically underserved communities.

To halt this project is to delay more than a temporary activation of a vacant site. It is to postpone a cultural moment — a space where communities can gather, celebrate their heritage, tell their stories, and find belonging. At a time when many Angelenos feel increasingly isolated and underrepresented, El Corazón Art Park offers an opportunity for healing, connection, and dignity.

True to its name, El Corazón seeks to create a heart for community, culture, and connection in the center of Los Angeles — honoring the city's origins and the many cultures, histories, and traditions that built it. **The National Hispanic Media Coalition** urges the City Council to move swiftly to allow this project to proceed and to send a clear message that Los Angeles is committed to building a city where all residents feel seen, valued, and included.

We respectfully request that the City Council **reject the CEQA appeal in Council File No. 26-0737** and allow the El Corazón Art Park project to move forward without further delay.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the people of Los Angeles.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Victoria Castillo
President & CEO
National Hispanic Media Coalition
13502 Whittier Blvd.
Suite H-480
Whittier, CA 90605
bcastillo@nhmc.org | 626-792-6462