

Division I

2nd Place

Sequoia Adeline Balboa 8th grade

Renaissance Art Academy

MURALS

What symbolizes Latino Los Angeles to me are murals. Murals are street art that are still found on buildings. Murals tell a story of the community's memories of their past and their feelings. Murals also show poetry in a visual form. It is a history lesson without a classroom and words. A person can interpret the visual painting on a community building as the history of the important stories of the past. Each artist of the mural describes his/her statement in their own way. They interpret aspects of the culture, religion, and history. Then they use a paintbrush to teach us the past in our community of Los Angeles.

Murals show identities of Latino ancestors and those who were a great inspiration to a whole community, which gives our own community a sense of identity and pride in our culture. It brings a neighborhood, town, and city together to express beliefs, pride, and history of religion, cultural identity, and their struggle for civil rights.

Los Angeles is widely considered the capital of muralism. Murals are outdoor museums, with no admission fees. They are reachable to all social classes in a community because they are painted on the outsides of buildings for all to see. Murals are very attached to a community and if removed, it causes emotional turmoil for the people.

Murals are important to me because it gives me a special feeling for the Latino experiences in Los Angeles. It shows Latinos history and pride in an art form. Murals gives me a sense of our place as a community in our city of Los Angeles. For example, on Ave 61 just off of Figueroa, there is a mural called "Love Runs Deep" by artist Raul P. Baltazar with the help of many others. Seeing this work of art gives a sense of serenity for me, and an emotion of well being.