

"LIMITLESS POTENTIAL" MURAL AT SKY AT JORDAN DOWNS

THIS SECTION OF THE MURAL PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE THAT BUILT WATTS IN ITS EARLY DAYS, CELEBRATING THE RICH HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE PEOPLE WHO CAME HERE TO MAKE A BETTER LIFE.

Many of the first people to live in Watts helped build the railways connecting Los Angeles to the rest of America. These included Mexican, Black and Asian railroad workers who stayed and built homes and families after construction was done.

Watts was made up of different immigrants from the Deep South, Mexico, Asia, and Italy. Many came from the country and built small farms and churches.



Many of the first African American residents of Watts were the Black Porters of the Argonaut rail line. The Argonaut connected Los Angeles to Louisiana, Texas and the Deep South. These men saw the sunshine and freedom of California and brought their families westward to escape racism.

Mexican railroad workers and revolution refugees came to Watts to escape the war and protect their families. They built their first homes out of abandoned railway boxcars and got the nickname "Traqueros" from their homes and jobs.

1. Los Angeles Independent. (2024, November 21). The Neighborhood Project: Watts. Retrieved from <https://laist.com/news/the-neighborhood-project-watts>

Many Black families and neighbors migrated to Watts from the 1930s-1970s, escaping the racism and Jim Crow laws of the South. They were sharecroppers and brought their farm skills to Watts, which had a strong small-town connection.

Watts residents rode the Pacific Electric trolley into Los Angeles for work and fun. Today the Blue Line 103rd station serves the community.



Many of first Mexican, White Oakie and Black residents of Watts came from the rural country and worked in the fields around Southern California. Their strength planted the seeds of the Civil Rights Movement and Watts Rebellion.

Toypurina was a native woman who led a revolt at the San Gabriel Mission to protect her people from Slavery. The native Tongva/ Kizh peoples were used as labor to build the missions and blended into Mexican families.

2. Historic American Landscapes Survey, C., Rodia, S. ", Southern Pacific Railroad, Mobley, L., Watts Towers Community Action Council, Cultural Crescent Master Plan [...] Moffitt, A. L., Moffitt, A., photographer. (2000) *Watts Cultural Crescent, Bounded by historic Watts Station to the north; the commercial and commuter train lines to the West; Graham Avenue, Santa Anna Boulevard North, and Wilmington Avenue to the east; and East 107th Street to the south.*, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, CA. Los Angeles Los Angeles County California, 2000. Stevens, C. M. M., McPartland, M. & Stranieri, M., trans Documentation Compiled After. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/ca4479/>. Women & the American Story. (2021). Toypurina. Retrieved from New-York Historical Society: <https://wams.nyhistory.org/settler-colonialism-and-revolution/settler-colonialism/toypurina/>

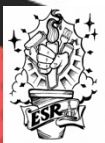
3. Women & the American Story. (2021). Toypurina. Retrieved from New-York Historical Society: <https://wams.nyhistory.org/settler-colonialism-and-revolution/settler-colonialism/toypurina/>

THIS SECTION OF THE MURAL ILLUSTRATES THE FUTURE OF WATTS, IN EDUCATION AND MINDFUL POSITIVITY.



The Black/ Brown Power fist rises from roses, symbolizing the Civil Rights struggle growing out of the hard work of our original elders in Watts, many who escaped racism and violence by coming to Watts and working for justice. PEACE and UNITY will make Watts stronger!

The Future of Watts is shown, beginning with Malcom X and Black and Brown Unity. Different STEM technologies are shown which lead to education being key to success. Finally, a Space Shuttle lifting off showing Sky's the Limit as well as a tribute to Black and Brown motorcycle clubs.

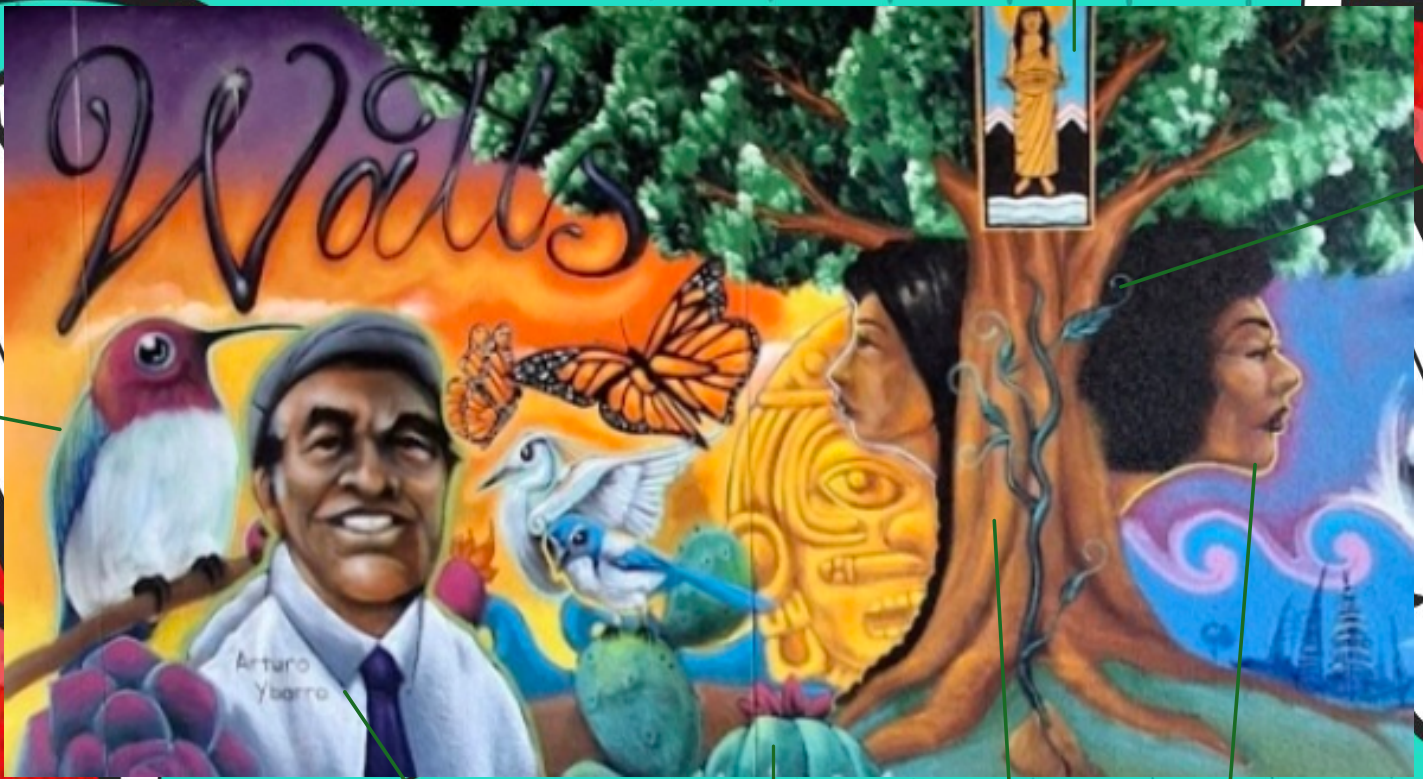


"NATURE BASED INSPIRATION" MURAL AT OAK TERRACE AT JORDAN DOWNS

THIS MURAL FOCUSES ON NATURE AND ITS CONNECTION TO THE LEADERS, LAND AND NATIVE ANIMALS IN WATTS.

Watts is celebrated with native plants and animals such as hummingbirds, monarch butterflies, a heron and plants.

The mural is centered by a large Oak tree with Toyapurina in the LA County symbol. A vine sprouts from the earth to symbolize growth and respect for nature.



Community Leader Arturo Ybarra is memorialized in the mural, surrounded by native plants and animals. Arturo was the founder of the Watts Century Latino Organization and escaped violence from the Mexican government he faced as a student organizer to continue his community work in Watts for many decades. The seed Arturo planted with his work still grows, symbolized by the growing cactus, bearing fruit for the community in and around Watts.

Looking out from the Oak tree is a Latina and African American woman, showing growth and strength to lead our Watts into the future. Behind them is a Mexica sun and the Watts Towers showing the rich history and pride of our community.

4. Los Angeles Times. (2023, August 14). Arturo Ybarra dies: Watts, South Los Angeles Latino advocate. <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2023-08-14/arturo-ybarra-dies-watts-south-los-angeles-latino-advocate>

The mural includes a tribute to Betty "Mama Day" who worked for decades to keep the peace and help the youth and mothers of Watts. Mama Day founded the Watts Gang Task Force, fighting to stop police brutality & gang violence in the community she loved.



Behind Mama Day is a Map of the Tongva-Kizh villages that the original natives of the area lived in. This map shows the history of the area and the rich cultural heritage of the lands we now call home. The map is framed by acorns, central to the native diet, as well as wave patterns and a whale symbolizing the Pacific Ocean and the natural beauty that surrounds Watts that our community can enjoy.

NOW THAT YOU KNOW EVERYTHING THE MURALS REPRESENT, VISIT THEM AND TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS THE RICH STORY THE ARTWORK TELLS ABOUT THE JORDAN DOWNS COMMUNITY!



5. Watts Gang Task Force. (n.d.). About. Retrieved from <https://www.wattsgangtaskforce.com/about>

THANK YOU WATTS!

**IN HONOR OF OUR COMMUNITY'S CREATIVITY,
CULTURE, AND UNITY**

**THIS MURAL STANDS AS A TESTAMENT TO THE
RESILIENT SPIRIT OF WATTS AND THE
COLLECTIVE EFFORTS OF OUR DEDICATED
PARTNERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS.**

WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO:

**THE MICHAELS ORGANIZATION, URBANO
STRATEGIES, EAST SIDE OF THE RIVER, BETTER
TOMORROWS, HACLA & WATTS RISING,
GUADALUPE ALCALA, LORENA GUTIERREZ, AND
AND ALL THE RESIDENTS OF JORDAN DOWNS.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE
CONTRIBUTIONS, ENSURING THAT OUR
HERITAGE AND DREAMS ARE VIVIDLY
REPRESENTED AND CELEBRATED.**



Michaels

COMMUNITIES THAT *lift* LIVES

