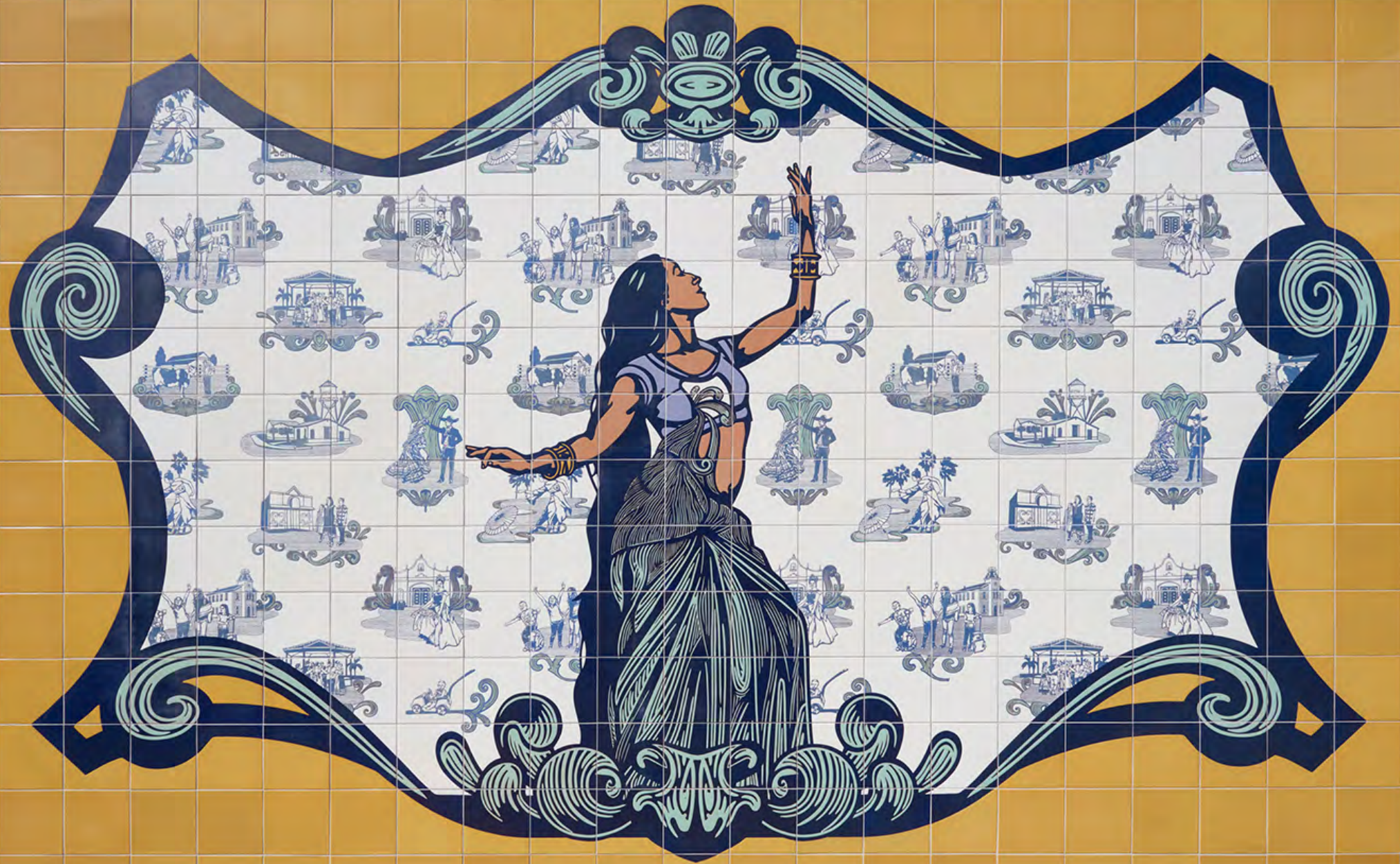




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PARKING
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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
18801 ELAINE AVENUE







Image by Dan Scott
AmericanImageGallery.com



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My name is Sonia Romero and I specialize in creating public artworks that represent the diversity of Californians within local communities. I'm currently working on my 10th public art commission in Los Angeles County. I've worked in various materials such as tile, porcelain enamel and laser cut steel, and I've also completed two painted murals. I recently finished a 1000 square foot painted mural for the Mariachi Plaza Metro station in Boyle Heights which is yet to be installed. I very much enjoyed painting the mural and I'm eager to take on another one.

I've worked with many immigrant communities, such as Greek Americans, Japanese Americans, Mexican and Central Americans, Indian Americans, Portuguese Americans and so on. I noticed that Westminster is known for having the highest concentration of Vietnamese Americans in the country, but is also home to many other ethnic populations. I am interested in learning more about the history, people and atmosphere there.

My plan for community engagement starts with a research and interview phase. After I understand the general layout and history of a city, I am able to come up with the inspiration for the mural. At this point I will seek out imagery for the mural, such as photographing residents or places in Westminster.

To give you an example, to create my most recent mural in Mariachi Plaza, I had people model their hands holding objects of significance that they felt represented themselves as residents of Boyle Heights, or the city of Boyle Heights itself. After several photoshoots I designed the mural based on the photographs I took.

I also designed a mural in Artesia. Artesia is known for being little India, but is actually one of the most diverse cities in the country. It was a challenge to create an artwork that both celebrated the different cultures of the people of Artesia but also united them in one image.

My approach to public art is that the work should reflect both my own artistic contribution and the input of the surrounding community. This work should be a vibrant, beautiful and prideful contribution to a visitor's experience of downtown Westminster.

Image List:

1. Hecho A Mano, detail of mural waiting to be installed at the Metro station in Mariachi Plaza. 1000 square foot hand painted mural, commissioned by the Los Angeles Metro, Boyle Heights, Los Angeles
2. *Lady Artesia*, Artesia County Library, 9 x 14 ft. hand painted/printed tile mural, commissioned by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Artesia, CA

3. *Lady Artesia*, Artesia County Library, 9 x 14 ft. hand painted/printed tile mural, commissioned by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Artesia, CA
4. *They Fly Through the Water*, Belvedere Aquatic Center, (12 exterior tile vignettes with steel laser cut figures and interior lobby installation with mural, tile and steel figure) commissioned by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, East Los Angeles,
5. *They Fly Through the Water*, Belvedere Aquatic Center, (12 exterior tile vignettes with steel laser cut figures and interior lobby installation with mural, tile and steel figure) commissioned by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, East Los Angeles,
6. *Tierra del Sol* (interior powder coated aluminum mural) commissioned by **the Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles (CRA)**, Canoga Park.
7. *Little Tokyo Medallion Project* (40 exterior powder coated medallions adorning the light poles of Little Tokyo), commissioned by **the Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles (CRA)**, Los Angeles,