



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXHIBITION: *¡Ya Basta! The East L.A. Walkouts and the Power of Protest*

ON VIEW: June 15, 2018 – January 14, 2019

LOCATION: LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes, 501 North Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

**ARE YOU AN ACTIVIST? HISTORY AND LEGACY OF THE
1968 EAST LOS ANGELES WALKOUTS IN NEW EXHIBITION AT LA PLAZA DE CULTURA Y ARTES
OPENING RECEPTION JUNE 15**

*¡Ya Basta! The East L.A. Walkouts and the Power of Protest
Brings the Story of the Historic Chicana/o Civil Rights Moment to a New Generation of Students
With Photographs, Memorabilia, Music, Film Footage, Public Programming, and More*

LOS ANGELES - (June 8, 2018) - LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes presents *¡Ya Basta! The East L.A. Walkouts and the Power of Protest*, a retrospective exhibition which celebrates the 50th anniversary of the East Los Angeles walkouts and brings the story of this important moment in the history of civil rights to a new generation of students. Through photographs, posters, documents, memorabilia, music, film footage, and contemporary art, the exhibition explores educational inequality in California and the actions taken by the Mexican and Mexican American students of East Los Angeles to change unequal conditions in their schools. *¡Ya Basta!* links the East L.A. walkouts to a longer history of Latinx protest, including recent student activism around gun control. Interactive exhibition elements challenge visitors to stand up against injustice and become a part of this powerful legacy. Public programming throughout the run of the exhibition, including films, panel discussions, and guided student tours, will inspire intergenerational conversations about the past, present, and future of Latinx activism. The exhibition is on view from June 15, 2018 to January 14, 2019.

“The 1968 walkouts were a flash point in the civil rights movement and one of the seminal moments in student-led activism,” said John Echeveste, CEO of LA Plaza. “By combining historic memorabilia with contemporary art and interactive elements, *¡Ya Basta!* provides an immersive experience for visitors, especially students that demonstrates the effectiveness of peaceful protest as a tool for social change.”

“*¡Ya Basta!* examines the history of educational inequality in California that precipitated the walkouts, the major players in and actions undertaken during the protests, and their impact—both immediate and long-term,” said Erin M. Curtis, Ph.D., Senior Curator. “We delve into stories about how the walkouts were planned and executed; the reprisals faced by students, teachers, and organizers for their courageous actions; and the legacy of protest they inspired. The exhibition encourages students to compare their experiences with those of the 1968 protestors, consider what they would have done in similar circumstances, and identify practical steps they can take to positively impact their schools, neighborhoods, and communities.”

The exhibit connects the walkouts to a broader history, of school segregation, global uprisings of students and people of color in the late 1960s, the Chicana/o Movement, and Latinx resistance through the present day, including immigration protests, the Women’s March and activism on behalf of Dreamers.

Objects on view will include protest posters and flyers, photographs, and personal mementos such as teacher and leader Sal Castro's classroom podium and jacket, activist Gloria Arellanes' brown beret, high school organizer Paula Crisostomo's yearbook and class ring, and artwork by Walkouts participants Margarita "Mita" Cuarón and Harry Gamboa Jr. The exhibition also includes contemporary artwork and photography by Shizu Saldamando, Patrick Martinez, Pablo Cristi, Oscar Magallanes, Amina Cruz, Nery Gabriel Lemus, Oscar Castillo, Sergio Hernandez, Yreina D. Cervántez, George Rodriguez, Star Montana, Ken Gonzales-Day, and more. An interactive section of the exhibit invites students and others to understand the ramifications of public protest while giving them an opportunity to express their own commitment to causes.

A companion exhibition organized by youth from Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA), *Education, Not Deportation*, will also be on display at LA Plaza. Under the direction of L.A. artists Pearl C. Hsiung, Raul Baltazar, and Dusty Tailor, HOLA students designed posters and staged a protest at MacArthur Park against recent threats to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy. Posters and photography will be on display in LA Plaza's Main Street windows.

To ensure historical accuracy of the presentation, LA Plaza convened an advisory board of scholars and individuals who participated in the walkouts, including Victoria Castro, Paula Crisostomo, Moctesuma Esparza, Carlos Montes, Carlos Muñoz, Jr., George Sanchez, and Richard Santillan. Among the additional contributors and lenders are the Castro Family; Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA; Chicano Studies Research Center, UCLA; Helen Topping Architecture and Fine Arts Library, USC; John F. Kennedy Memorial Library, Cal State LA; Leatherby Libraries, Chapman University; Center for the Study of Political Graphics; Los Angeles Public Library; Oviatt Library, CSUN; and Collections & University Archives, Stanford University.

RELATED PROGRAMMING

LA Plaza will host a series of free public programs complementing *¡Ya Basta! The East L.A. Walkouts and the Power of Protest* throughout the run of the exhibition.

Opening Reception: *¡Ya Basta! The East L.A. Walkouts and the Power of Protest* | Friday, June 15 | 5-8pm

Special guests include organizers of the 1968 East L.A. walkouts and students from Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA). Music by Chulita Vinyl Club. Light refreshments will be served. Free and open to the public.

Teacher Training | Civic Justice: Activism of the East L.A. Walkouts | Saturday, July 28 | 12-4pm

The 1968 East LA Walkouts demonstrated the impact that youth voice and activism can have on uniting a community to agitate for change. This teacher training explores the historical context and pedagogical approaches that will help teachers include this event into their courses and includes conversations with educators and historians, and two hands-on sessions focused on integrating activist art into the history/ethnic studies classroom. Presented in partnership with UCLA History-Geography Project.

Summer Film Series: *Walkout (2006) Unrated* | Saturday, July 28 | 6pm

The story of a profoundly significant moment in Los Angeles when high school students challenged authority with a mass student walkout. 2 hours. Live music, food, and beverages. Film starts at dusk.

Walkouts in Pasadena | Thursday, August 16 | 7pm | FREE

Although East LA had the most visible student protests, walkouts by Mexican American high school students occurred in other cities as well. In Pasadena, student protests led to the establishment of Chicano-based curriculum, cultural centers, and the reform of hiring policies. Speaker: Roberta H. Martinez, writer and historian.

The 1968 East L.A. Chicano Blowouts: 50-Year Report Card of the Student Demands | Thursday, August 23 | 7pm

The presentation engages the audience in a rigorous assessment of the progress and status of the Los Angeles Unified School District in addressing student demands for the improvement of educational improvements. Guest speaker: David L. Moguel, Ph.D., Professor of Secondary Education, CSU Northridge.

Guided Student Tours (9-12th Grade) | September 17, 2018 through January 14, 2019 | 10am-1pm

Book a guided group tour for 9-12th grade classrooms. Students are guided through the exhibition, *jYa Basta! The East L.A. Walkouts and the Power of Protest* and participate in a hands-on art workshop.

The Past, Present and Future of the Chicano Movement: Social and Political Activism Then and Now | Saturday, October 6, 2018 | 3pm

Key figures of the 1968 Chicano Student Blowouts, including Carlos Montes, Paula Crisostomo, Victoria Castro, and Margarita "Mita" Cuarón examine their roles in the origins, achievements, and legacy of the East L.A. Walkouts. With a daunting array of challenges confronting Chicano and Latino communities, elders face the future in conversation with young activists of today. Moderator: David L. Moguel, Ph.D., Professor of Secondary Education, California State University Northridge.

About LA Plaza:

LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes is the nation's premier center of Mexican American culture. LA Plaza's interactive exhibits and dynamic programs invite visitors of all backgrounds to explore as well as contribute to the ongoing story of Mexican Americans in Los Angeles and beyond. Located near the site where Los Angeles was founded in 1781, LA Plaza's 2.2-acre campus includes two historic and newly renovated buildings (the Vickrey-Brunswick Building and Plaza House) surrounded by 30,000 square feet of public garden.

About HOLA

Heart of Los Angeles provides underserved youth with exceptional programming within a nurturing environment, empowering them to develop their potential, pursue their education and strengthen their communities. HOLA helps students realize their dreams of attending and graduating from college

LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes, 501 North Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Hours: M, W, & Th, 12-5 pm, Fri-Sun 12-6 pm

Admission: FREE

Website: www.lapca.org

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Hashtags: #LAPLazaLA #YaBasta

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Note to editors & reporters:

"LA" in "LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes" is part of the official name and should be capitalized

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