



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Angie Castro
at (213) 703-2823 (cellular)

GLORIA MOLINA TO ATTEND UNVEILING OF GARFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MURAL WITH STUDENT LIZETH GUTIERREZ

Student Allocated Award Money to Keep East L.A. Mural Graffiti-Free

LOS ANGELES (August 14, 2008)—Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina will join the East Los Angeles community at the unveiling of a Garfield High School mural—sponsored in part by a \$5,000 donation from Garfield High School alumna Lizeth Gutierrez, which she won through an essay contest—at a ceremony this Friday, August 15, 2008 at 10:45 a.m., during which Gutierrez will read her winning essay aloud.

Through an essay contest sponsored by LEAP (Learning Enrichment After-school Program), Inc. and DROBE Inc. (an organization that promotes higher education), students are provided with an opportunity to express ideas for addressing community issues. Gutierrez gave an inspiring message of hope and unity in answer to the question, “How would you use \$5,000 to enhance the quality of life in your neighborhood?” She suggested extending an existing mural in the alleyway near the corner of Eagle Street and Atlantic Boulevard. That mural remained free of graffiti for more than three years—and Gutierrez wanted to help Gonzalez extend it to a second mural that would protect the adjacent 100 foot wall from graffiti. The alley where the mural is located suffers from random tagging and raises potential safety concerns for the students that walk by it daily.

“The new mural combines images of students marching with a sign saying “Sí Se Puede!” (“¡Yes We Can!”) and César Chávez, Martin Luther King, Jr., Gandhi, and Mother Teresa smiling, giving the neighborhood youth a sense of pride and hope,” said Gutierrez. “The colors bring out the positive aspects of the community and culture, and symbolize the power of unity, importance of family, and value of respect.”

—More—

Gloria Molina to Attend Unveiling of Garfield High School Mural by Student Lizeth Gutierrez, p. 2

Eastside artist Arturo Gonzalez, who designed the mural, also will attend along with LEAP, Inc. Executive Director Ryan Taylor, Sheriff's Dept. East L.A. Station Captain Henry Romero, staff from Bienvenidos Health services, students from Garfield High School, and local East Los Angeles residents.

Friday's mural unveiling will take place tomorrow at 10:45 a.m. directly in front of the mural, which is located adjacent to Garfield High School at 501 South Atlantic Boulevard near its intersection with Eagle Street in East Los Angeles.

###

