Boulevard Sentinel

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Pillarhenge Plan Advances



Bye Bye Birdie?

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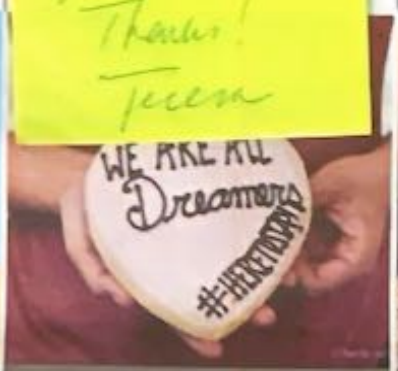

Hearts and Minds Engage the Fight

Making Art History



"Green Night Deluge" by Camille Rose Garcia

Development Appears Headed for Approval

by Jeffery Marino and Bill Hendrickson

Plans to develop the Pillarhenge site on the east end of Colorado Boulevard in Eagle Rock are far along and moving fast. On Oct. 12, the Planning Commission for the City of Los Angeles is expected to decide on whether (or not) to approve a proposal to turn Pillarhenge into an exceptionally large mixed-use building.

Eagle Rock, which already has a bulk of a building on the west end of Colorado, seems poised to get another one on the east end of the boulevard.

Meet the Developer

The owner and developer of the Pillarhenge site, Imad Boukai, a businessman from Orange County, met publicly with local residents for the first time on Sept. 5, at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council (ERNC). The meeting was packed with residents who wanted to comment on Mr. Boukai's proposal – even though their opportunity to comment was coming late in the game. There had been no initial public meeting with the developer in the Land Use and Planning Committee of the ERNC. In addition, by the time the Sept. 5 ERNC meeting with Mr. Boukai took place, the City Planning Department had already announced that a public hearing on the proposed Pillarhenge development would be held on Sept. 19.

(see Pillarhenge, Page 5)

Turning Creative Energy into Political Power

by T.A. Hendrickson

Hispanic Heritage Month, from September 15 to October 15, is well underway in Northeast Los Angeles, with street fairs, music festivals and other events to celebrate Hispanic culture.

But there's a sharp political edge to the celebrations this year. NELA and communities everywhere were gut punched in early September, when the Trump administration announced the end of DACA – the federal program that allows young adult undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children to live and work in the country without fear of deportation. Unless Congress passes a law or President Trump changes his mind, DACA protection will disappear in coming months.

"We proudly celebrate the contributions by Hispanics to the County of Los Angeles," said Hilda Solis, the L.A. County Board Supervisor for NELA, adding, "We will not let the heartless actions of this Administration hinder our ultimate goal: fighting for justice and the rights of our immigrants."

In one way, the attack on DACA – which stands for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals – has made the cultural events of Hispanic Heritage Month all the more important, a way of saying, "We are here to stay." The "El Mercado" street fair held in Highland Park in the run up to Hispanic

(see Hispanic Heritage Month, Page 10)

Major Buzz for NELA Art Galleries

by T.A. Hendrickson

Two art galleries in Northeast Los Angeles have been chosen to participate in Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA, the ambitious series of Latino and Latin American exhibitions taking place through January, 2018 across Southern California.

This. Is. A. Really. Big. Deal.

The Taj Art Studio Gallery in Eagle Rock and Bermudez Projects in Cypress Park are on the roster with more than 70 major museums and dozens of galleries in what is, by all accounts, a path breaking exhibition. Five years in the planning, Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA (PST) is a $16 million effort by the Getty to explore the long cultural exchange between Latin America and Los Angeles and, more broadly, between Latin America and everywhere else.

The presence of NELA galleries in the PST exhibit is a testament to both the creativity and commercial potential of the area's art scene. It is also a testament to the galleries' owners, who conceptualized the exhibits that will now go down in art history as part of PST. Trace Johansson, an artist who is a graduate of Art Center College of Design, founded Taj Art in December, 2016, as "a different way to give back to the community," she said. In addition to showing and selling art, she donates a portion of the gallery's proceeds to

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Fall Fun

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High School Pigskin Challenge


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Candidates Race for Cash

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Meet Marissa Christiansen

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Local Real Estate Sales


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