

INSIDE LOOK:

PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.
HOLLY SHORES MASTER PLAN,
PHASE 1 IMPLEMENTATION,
RESTORED IN 2018

CURRENT PROJECTS

FOR LA RAZA | BY ROBERT HERRERA AND OSCAR CORTEZ



Painted in 1992 by Robert Herrera and Oscar Cortez, *For La Raza* featured Chicano imagery offering hope and a source of pride and inspiration. Over time, the mural fell into disrepair and much of its imagery, including Aztec gods and symbols of Mexican-American history and identity, had faded or was tagged. In 2016, artist group Arte Texas, whose mission is to restore and create murals in East Austin, was awarded a commission by Austin Art in Public Places to restore the mural.

Arte Texas members Robert and Oscar worked to give new life to the artwork, painting imagery that remains faithful to the original and applying brighter, more vibrant colors. To promote the artwork's

longevity, the wall's verso was coated with a primer which acts as a water barrier, and a new metal cap added to protect against future water penetration. A community-oriented project from its inception, part of the restoration plan saw Arte Texas work with eastside community students and meet with neighborhood associations to share progress. The artists shared their knowledge of mural painting with the next generation of artists, imparting its significance in the Mexican-American tradition as the youth helped paint sections of the wall. Robert Herrera says, "When we were restoring the mural, people would stop and they'd be amazed [...] we can say we painted the mural, but it's not our mural. It's the community's mural."