

ten years of operation. In 1976, she co-founded the Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC), a non-profit arts organization dedicated to the production, exhibition, distribution and preservation of public artwork, where she still serves as Artistic Director. As the country's leader in mural production and documentation, SPARC maintains a strong reputation for its domestic and international projects. The organization administers, under the auspices of Mayor Tom Bradley, the City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Pride-Great Walls Unlimited mural program which produced 15 murals in 1990 and houses an art gallery and mural resource center. SPARC is funded by the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs, National Endowment for the Arts, California Arts Council, Pac Bell and the Ahmanson, Hitachi, Rockefeller and ARCO Foundation.

Ms. Baca has received numerous awards and recognition for her work from community groups, local and national government agencies, the AFL/CIO, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley. Ms. Baca serves on the Board of Directors of the American Council for the Arts and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles. She has served in an advisory capacity on local committees and the National Endowment for the Arts and is an assistant professor at the University of California, Irvine.

Ms. Baca is a native of Los Angeles. She currently resides in Venice, California.

#####



Biography of
JUDITH FRANCISCA BACA

Judith Francisca Baca is a Chicana muralist best known for designing - THE GREAT WALL OF LOS ANGELES, a one-half mile long mural that spans the Tujunga drainage canal in the San Fernando Valley. Painted over the course of five summers beginning in 1976 by the mutual efforts of assisting artists and disadvantaged neighborhood youths, THE GREAT WALL is a visual history of California, from prehistoric times to the 1950s, which depicts the contributions and struggles of California's ethnic groups. According to most sources, THE GREAT WALL is the world's longest mural. Ms. Baca's unique collaborative methods unite community members to work toward a common goal. By involving disadvantaged youths in the creative process she provides art and history instruction and employment in an environment that promotes interpersonal communication skills among multi-ethnic and racial groups.

Other works by Ms. Baca include commissioned murals for the 1984 Olympics, a mural dedicated to the homeless and an historical mural colonnade in Guadalupe, California for which Ms. Baca used her collaborative approach to bring together members of a rural farmworkers' community.

As an arts activist, Ms. Baca founded the first City of Los Angeles' mural program in 1974 which produced over 250 murals, including THE GREAT WALL, and employed over 2,000 participants in its