

said.

The Chavez memorial will be located in Founders Park and will consist of a column of concrete, flat on one side and rounded on the other. Quotes by Chavez in English and Spanish will be etched in the concrete. A bronze sculpture of an eagle will top the column.

The idea for the mural originated in Fall 1993, when student members of the La Raza Political Action Committee decided to pursue the creation of an outdoor mural and the renaming of a campus park in honor of Chavez. A compromise with the administration was reached, stating that the mural would be indoors and would not specifically honor Chavez, and a memorial would be erected instead of a park renamed.

Baca is being paid a \$45,000 commission for the mural, and was selected from a pool of 45 artists. Her best known work is the "Great Wall of Los Angeles," a half-mile long mural along a San Fernando Valley canal. It depicts the ethnic history of California.

Baca is the originator of the first Los Angeles mural program in 1974, and founded the Social and Public Art and Resource Center. She is also a faculty member at the UCLA Cesar Chavez Facility.

Copyright 1996 by the Daily Trojan. All rights reserved.

This article was published in Vol. 127, No. 9 (Thursday, January 25, 1996), beginning on page 1 and ending on page 3.

Arts committee approves mural

By Jonathan Atienza
Staff Writer

Judy Baca
at USC

A mural designed to honor Latino culture and history was approved Wednesday after its artist made several minor changes in response to administration concerns.

The Latino Arts Committee, composed of administrators, faculty and students, unanimously approved the mural at a meeting in Topping Student Center after reviewing the latest version.

The design by renowned muralist Judith Baca will be realized in a 10-by-30 foot space on a wall in the Norman Topping Student Center. The mural will be completed in two to three months.

"I'm very satisfied and look forward to the university presenting the mural to the community," said Cesar Lopez, chair of academic affairs for Student Senate.

It will take at least two months for Baca to complete the mural, which administrators plan to unveil in a public ceremony.

"It will be a historical moment for the university," said Arturo Fribourg, chair of the Latino Arts Committee. "Although the mural is the university's art piece, it is intended to be shared by the entire Latino community, the students, administrators, faculty and staff. It is a completely permanent mural."

Baca's design for the mural features a landscape encompassing a variety of historical and symbolic images.

Its main features include a central kiva, a traditional oven used by peoples of the Southwest. From the kiva springs a winding river that becomes a freeway leading into the earth.

To the right, in three progressive images, is a sleeping "goddess," which transforms into an awakening man and, finally, an outstretched and fully awake female goddess. From the veins of her arms streams a river of blood containing marching figures of Latino and Chicano artists, scholars and activists.

"The work is very much in the genre of Chicano art," said Michael L. Jackson, vice president for Student Affairs.

Last November senior administration members, including President Steven Sample and Provost Lloyd Armstrong, Jr., presented concerns to Baca about the inclusion of three images in the mural: a man being lynched, the "angry" expression on the goddess' face and the river of blood.

Baca said in December that she had decided to make some of the changes the administration requested.

The current version of the mural no longer has the figure being lynched; the expression on the goddess' face has been slightly altered and the figures of prominent Latinos are larger and more detailed.

"Ms. Baca decided that those images weren't key to the success of the mural," Fribourg said. "They did provoke discussion. But we are very excited that those discussions came to this end result."

Jackson relayed to committee members Sample's assertion that the committee should have final approval of the mural.

In addition, the committee was told by administration members that progress was under way in the completion of contracts for the artists commissioned to construct a memorial for the late workers' rights activist Cesar Chavez.

"The artists had asked us questions about specifics that were unclear to them dealing with size, location and materials. It's all been reviewed and is ready to go right now," Fribourg