

Critique

A New Look for Silver Lake A Positive Expression of Life



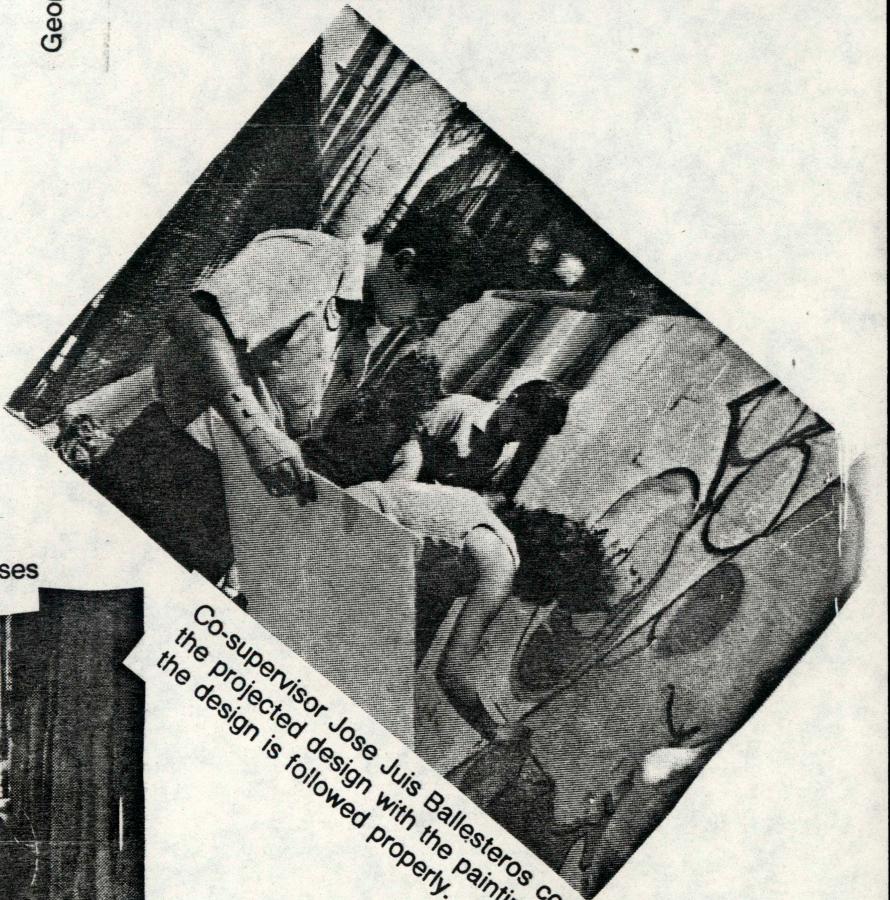
Mural artists Edward Salinas, Steven Hernandez and Alfonso Guevara display the final rendering of the mural section they are currently painting.



Community artist Yreina Cervantez, who conceived the overall design and co-supervises the painting, blocks in part of the mural.



Georgina Raygoza and Steven Hernandez enjoy working on the mu



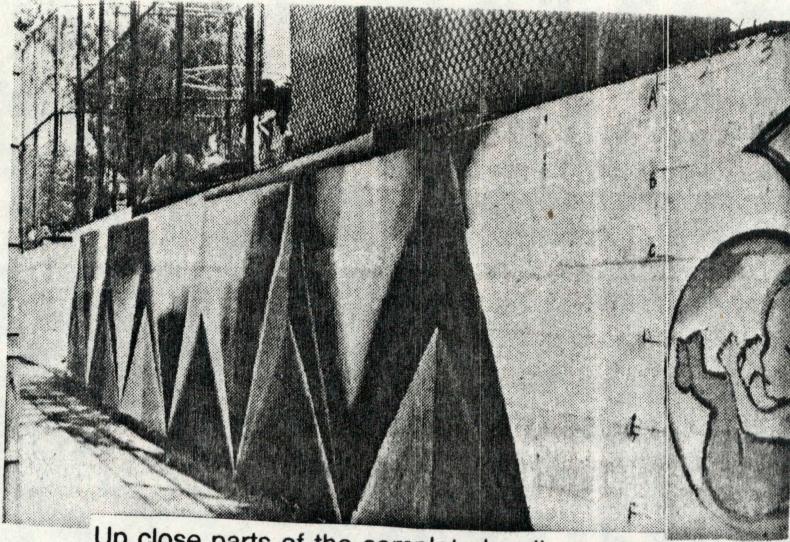
Co-supervisor Jose Luis Ballesteros compares the projected design with the painting to insure the design is followed properly.

The Michelmorena School wall along Sunset Boulevard in Silver Lake is going through some welcome changes. The ordinary bland wall with its spray paint graffiti is being transformed into a significant work of art.

The mural is part of a special program of El Centro del Pueblo and is being sponsored by a variety of local organizations and businesses, including AIDS Project Los Angeles, whose Necessities of Life Food Bank is located nearby; Hollywood Sunset Community Clinic; Cara a Cara, a Hispanic AIDS project, and The Central City Action Committee.

Community artist Yreina Cervantez, in consultation with school officials, designed the mural. "The theme, because it is a school wall, is to show the development of children, physically, spiritually and emotionally," Cervantez told *The News*. Cervantez has been a community artist for over 11 years and has just returned from Nicaragua where she completed a commissioned mural.

There are several people involved with the actual painting of the mural. Cervantez and Jose Luis Ballesteros jointly supervise the work, which also involves teaching some of the painters the basics of color mixing and technique.



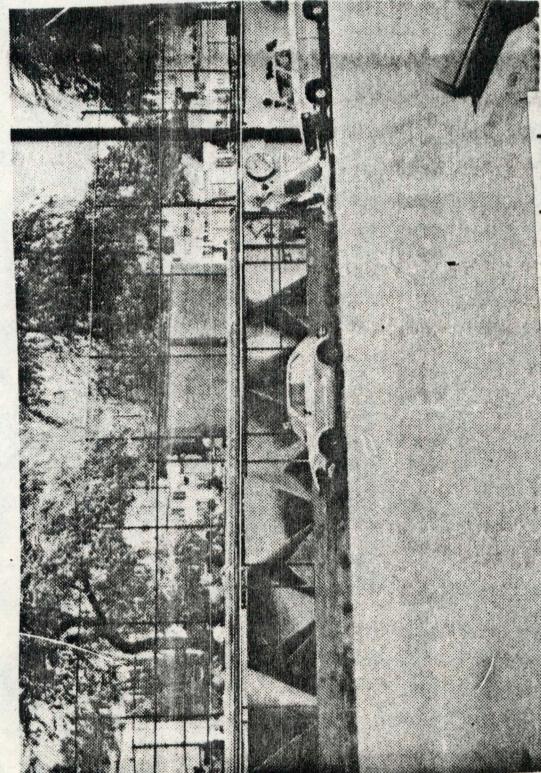
Up close parts of the completed wall reveal the intricate pattern which progresses from dark to light.

Edward Salinas has been with the mural project for five years and has painted numerous murals in Los Angeles, including the one in Elysian Park. Salinas said he knew nothing about art when he began in 1982. Now with the years of experience, he is well versed in the basics and is refining his technique. Salinas enjoys being a mural artist and continues to develop his skills, hoping to eventually become an independent commissioned artist.

In contrast, Alfano Guevara, although he enjoys the work, does not see it as a career but more of a hobby. He has been involved with the mural project on and off for the last three years.

A newcomer to the project, Steven Hernandez began because he needed a part-time job. This is his first year, and although he does like to draw, he had no formal art training prior to joining the project. Now he is learning how to mix the colors and the special techniques of mural painting.

They, and the others involved in the painting of the mural, whether they go on to become professional artists or into some other field, are providing the residents and visitors to Silver Lake with a fine piece of art. It is refreshing to see the brightly colored mural, a positive expression of life, in the midst of a busy and hectic city.



From a distance the partially completed mural stands out, offering a visual relief in an often hectic city.