



CASA BLANCA MURAL PROJECT NEIGHBORHOOD SUCCESS STORY



First...The Story of Popo and Itza

This is the story of the brave warrior Popocatepetl and a beautiful princess, Iztaccihuatl. Her father was a mighty ruler, who decided that if Popocatepetl wanted to marry his daughter, he must engage in battle against the strongest enemy of the tribe and return home victorious.

The young warrior loved the beautiful princess very much and he decided to accept the challenge.

Before Popocatepetl had reached the enemy, one of his love rivals told the princess a tragic lie. He said that Popocatepetl died during the battle.

When the woman heard the news, she couldn't imagine her life without her beloved, and she fell into the deepest sorrow. As a result, she died of a broken heart.





When Popocatepetl returned to the settlement, he was informed that she died. He carried his love in his arms and took her to the top of a great mountain.

He kissed her lips for the last time, and in the light of the smoking torch, he fell on his knees in front of her.

He looked at her and imagined all of the lost years and events which could have occurred for them. He sat like this until the snow covered their bodies. The gods took notice of their sacrifice and turned them into volcanoes. These volcanoes overlook the Valley of Mexico plateau & Mexico City.



In 1978 local muralists, Jimbo Gutierrez and Roy Duarte painted a series of murals in Casa Blanca:

at a County maintenance yard,
at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, and
on the Villegas Park handball court.



Mural on St. Anthony School wall by Jim Gutierrez and Roy Duarte.

Staff photos by Fred Bauman



Gutierrez and Duarte collaborated on this mural on a wall at the county maintenance yard.



40 years later, the Casa Blanca CAG (Community Action Group) took on the project to restore the handball murals at Villegas Park.

Headed by Red Navarro, the committee's first job was to recruit Jimbo Gutierrez to restore his original mural of Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl



The design for the second mural at the handball court was to incorporate the historic Casa Blanca Citrus Orange Brand logo.

With a "little" encouragement from the Casa Blanca CAG members, Jimbo agreed to take on the second mural.





The City PRCS team assisted with the processing of the permits and site preparation for the mural restoration with volunteer support from Casa Blanca neighbors.

The project was awarded a CDBG Small Sparks Grant by the City's Neighborhood Engagement Division.



The mural project was completed over a two month period with 200+ hours of community support to plan, prepare and paint the handball courts for this project.



***"Look for the helpers.
You will always find people who are helping"***

Fred Rogers



Casa Blanca CAG President Anthony Rivera and Red Navarro at the mural dedication ceremony.



Mayor Bailey presenting mural artist Jimbo Gutierrez with a City Proclamation.

CASA BLANCA – RIVERSIDE PRIDE



RNP MISSION

To connect & unite community members with neighbors, groups, and resources to facilitate community engagement, improve our quality of life, and build a sense of place through outreach, information & involvement.

www.RNPinfo.com

"Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else."

Fred Rogers