

January 3, 2020

TO: All Press

TO: Dept. of Cultural Affairs, City of Santa Fe, H-Board and the Vladam family

RE: Halpin Building Mural, Montezuma St., Santa Fe, NM 87505

“If you forget your history, you forget your future”

It is evident that the Dept. of Cultural Affairs has not honorably disclosed the recent communications or the financial and community support to keep the mural. They have not honorably disclosed the numerous state historians, local historians and groups and Santa Fe residents who have stepped up to keep the mural. Most importantly, they have not disclosed that the muralist has an existing state contract to redo the mural, has raised money for completion and has proposed to work with the architects on a smaller version of the existing mural.

My name is Gilberto Guzman, internationally known contemporary muralist, whose mural is currently painted on the NM State Halpin Bldg. at 404 Montezuma St., in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

On May 12, 1980 the NM State DFA/Property Control Division and I signed and agreed to a mural contract on this building. The contract states and is understood that “we” both parties have ongoing and continued responsibilities for the mural on this building. As stated in the Mural Agreement, and most importantly, “The design shall include representations of all ethnic groups participating in New Mexico history”. I believe this mural is part of New Mexico History and should remain as it has always represented the visual representations of the history of the “gateway to Santa Fe”. It is not the new Vladem art museum that represents the “gateway to Santa Fe”!

This mural has also been published nationally which gives Santa Fe the honor of having a mural of high quality incorporating the historic and cultural history of the region.

The Dept. of Cultural Affairs has also not disclosed that funds have been earmarked by the 2019 NM State Legislature allocated towards material and labor for the renovation of this mural. In 2016, the current President and CEO of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation had also initially tried to secure funding for the mural renovation without success at that time.

Furthermore, this Mural Agreement has not expired. The building has not changed ownership and I have not rescinded my right to redo the current mural. Therefore, it is my understanding that this Mural Agreement, acknowledged by contract, supersedes any proposal of a change for the removal of the mural that the State is currently proposing. As I have completely re-done the mural in the past, it is evident that the mural, at this time, needs a complete renovation since a new architectural design is being presented to the State. Again, I have proposed to work with the architects on a smaller version of the existing mural.

I am a recognized International Muralist representing the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico and the United States in various projects. My artworks on panels in the NM Bataan Building, the NM State Library and the Roundhouse have been recognized as “masterpieces”. In addition, I have received the 2017 Santa Fe Living Treasure Award.

Currently, the NM Dept. of Cultural Affairs, whose responsibility is to maintain the historical and cultural aspects of New Mexico and NOW, here for Santa Fe’s fragile history, it seems has turned its eyes toward some new technical projection onto a blank wall...a blank wall with no history, no future!

Again, “If you forget your history, you forget your future”

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Gilberto Guzman