

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Central American Historical and Ancestral Society Receives Grant to Advance Latinx Historic Preservation** *\$20,000 from Latinos in Heritage Conservation to support phase one of Central American Heritage Markers in Los Angeles*

**Arcadia, CA | May 7, 2025** — The *Central American Historical and Ancestral Society of California* (CAHAAS) has received a \$20,000 grant from Latinos in Heritage Conservation (LHC) as part of the national *Nuestra Herencia Grant Program*. The award will support phase one of laying the foundation for permanent public markers in Los Angeles, a project focused on the contributions of Central Americans, helping preserve and elevate Latinx heritage in Los Angeles.

The *Central American Heritage Markers in Los Angeles* project and its partnership with Cindy Mata of the UCI History Project and CSU Los Angeles' professor Dr. Ester E. Hernandez will bring together community stakeholders to identify historymakers that are representative of the rich history and ongoing contributions of Central Americans in Los Angeles, California.

With an estimated 7 million Central Americans living in the United States and more worldwide, making our underrepresented histories more visible through digital mapping and physical markers is critical in today's polarized political climate, where debates about immigration, erasure, and human rights dominate the national discourse.

"We're honored to receive this grant from LHC," said Claudia Portillo, Co-founder. "This work is personal for our community. It's about preserving and promoting our community's contributions over the years and re-imagining our sense of belonging."

"These projects fill critical gaps in our national preservation story," said Sehila Mota Casper, Executive Director of LHC. "This grant cycle supports the knowledge and leadership that communities have sustained for generations."

#### **About the Nuestra Herencia Grant Program**

Funded by Latinos in Heritage Conservation, *Nuestra Herencia* is the first national grant program solely dedicated to preserving Latinx historic and cultural sites. Over 100 applications were received from 21 states and Puerto Rico. Fourteen projects were selected, spanning capital improvements, planning, consultant services, and interpretation programming.

#### **About Central American Historical and Ancestral Society of California (CAHAAS)**

Founded in 2018, CAHAAS is a community-based digital archive dedicated to preserving the personal and forgotten stories of Central American communities in California. Created by and for the community, CAHAAS documents cultural heritage and contributions of the Central American diaspora and ensures these experiences are preserved, celebrated, and remembered for future generations.

#### **Call to Action**

Visit us at [cahaas.org/heritagemarkersla](https://cahaas.org/heritagemarkersla) to learn more.

#### **Contact**

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