



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

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Supervisor Serna, Royal Chicano Air Force and Sacramento Kings to dedicate new mural “Flight” at Golden 1 Center

Sacramento, CA – This Thursday, March 1 at the Golden 1 Center, Sacramento County Supervisor Phil Serna, The Sacramento Kings, and founding members of the local art collective The Royal Chicano Air Force (RCAF), will dedicate a new panel mural public art installation titled “Flight.”

According to the artwork’s project manager, RCAF co-founder Juan Carrillo, “The 27x11-foot, three-paneled mural tells the story of humankind’s multi-generational evolution from Quetzalcoatl to El Sexto Sol, The Sixth Sun.” Carrillo adds, “The art work is an RCAF legacy piece for our home community reflecting who we are and what we value.”

The project idea came from Sacramento County Supervisor Phil Serna who wanted to acknowledge the RCAF’s profound legacy. Serna, the son of the late Joe Serna, Jr. – an RCAF co-founder and Sacramento’s first Latino Mayor – also assembled the funding to make the project possible. Serna’s office commissioned the work in coordination with the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission and City of Sacramento, owner of the Golden 1 Center arena.

“The Royal Chicano Air Force significantly shaped who I am today especially the intersection of expression and activism, and the obligation to pursue social justice, which I think more and more elected people should hone these days,” says Serna.

Created by RCAF co-founders Esteban Villa, Stan Padilla and Juanishi Orosco, “Flight” is the latest large-scale public artwork to grace Sacramento’s world-renowned arena. Each of the three artists worked with their sons, daughters, and grandchildren to complete the mural, and together they continue the legacy of the local art collective established in 1969.

As artists, activists, and educators, Villa, Padilla and Orosco have worked in support of their community, their heritage, and for the underrepresented Chicano population in the Sacramento region and across California for more than five decades. The RCAF has contributed greatly to the California Chicano experience through visual art, poetry, music and social activism, and served as an influential platform to advance the cause of the late labor leader Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers. The artists’ work on “Flight” came by way of a rare direct commission, and it occurred more than 40 years after completing a similarly themed mural titled “Metamorphosis” in Downtown Sacramento.

Dedication of the completed mural will take place at 4:30 PM at the arena’s Northeast entrance/exit before the Sacramento Kings play the Brooklyn Nets during the Kings’ annual Latino Heritage Night.

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