

Casos de

**URBAN
HUMANITIES**

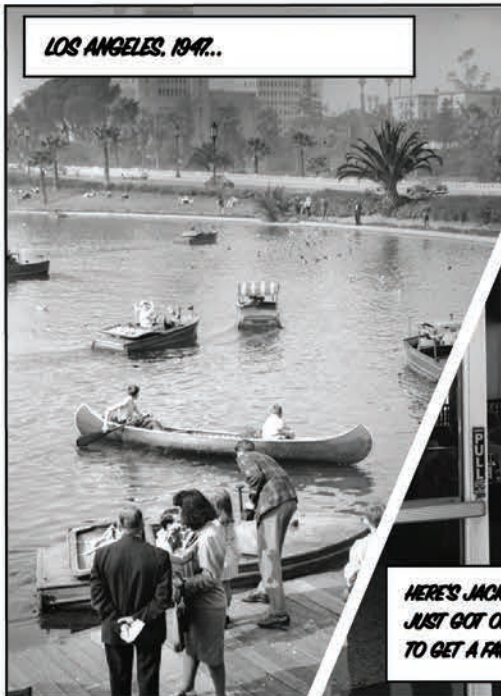
WESTLAKE/MACARTHUR PARK SUMMER 2019

**JACK ENTERS HIS
FAVORITE DELI IN 1947
ONLY TO WALK OUT INTO
A DIFFERENT WORLD:
WESTLAKE IN 2019**

**A MAN
LOST
IN TIME**



LOS ANGELES, 1947...



HERE'S JACK, A HARD WORKING ANGELENO WHO JUST GOT OFF HIS SHIFT. HE'S OFF TO LANGER'S TO GET A FAVORITE MEAL.



AND SUDDENLY THINGS AREN'T AS THEY WERE.



WHAT THE...



LADY, WHAT
HAPPENED TO
WESTLAKE?!

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?

WHAT IS
TODAY'S DATE??

SEPTEMBER 23, 2019.

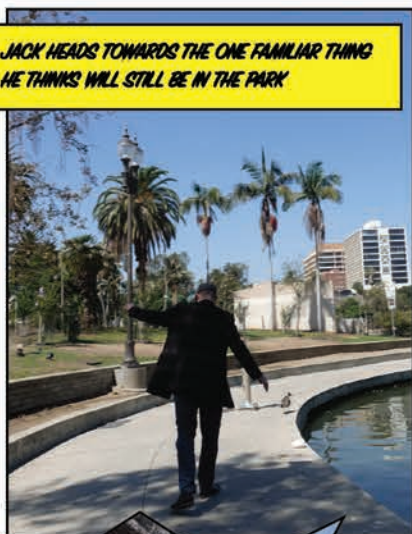
YOU SEEM PRETTY
FREAKED OUT LET'S
WALK IT OFF.

JACK HEADS TOWARDS THE ONE FAMILIAR THING
HE THINKS WILL STILL BE IN THE PARK



**WHAT'S ALL
THIS RUBBISH?**

**JACK HEADS TOWARDS THE ONE FAMILIAR THING
HE THINKS WILL STILL BE IN THE PARK**



**THIS STATUE WAS JUST
ERECTED YESTERDAY! WHAT
HAPPENED TO IT?**



**WHAT THE HECK
IS GRAFFITI?**



**NO! IT'S BEEN HERE FOR YEARS.
I'M NOT EVEN SURE HOW MUCH THE
COMMUNITY LIKES IT.
LOOK HOW MANY TIMES THEY'VE
PAINTED OVER THE GRAFFITI!**



**VENGO AQUI PARA
NO ESTAR SOLO...**

**BEWILDERED, JACK STARTS TO WANDER AROUND
AND FINDS A NEW MEMORIAL HE'S NEVER SEEN BEFORE.**

WHO IS THIS?



**ARCHBISHOP ROMERO! HE'S AN EL SALVADORIAN LEADER
WHO SPOKE OUT AGAINST POVERTY, SOCIAL INJUSTICE,
ASSASSINATIONS, AND TORTURE. HE WAS ASSASSINATED
DURING MASS IN 1980. THE COMMUNITY HERE WORKED VERY
HARD TO GET THIS INSTALLED HERE.**

**LOOK AROUND YOU! THE EL
SALVADORIAN COMMUNITY
HAS BEEN HERE FOR YEARS.**





ZOE TAKES JACK THROUGH THE PARK AND HELPS HIM UNDERSTAND JUST HOW MANY MEMORIES MACARTHUR PARK HOLDS.

NOT EVERY MEMORY IN THIS COMMUNITY LIVES ON AS A MONUMENT IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT THE NEIGHBORHOOD IS LIKE, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE IT.

HERE IS WHERE PEOPLE HAVE PROTESTED FOR THE LAST 30 YEARS.

WHAT DO THEY PROTEST?

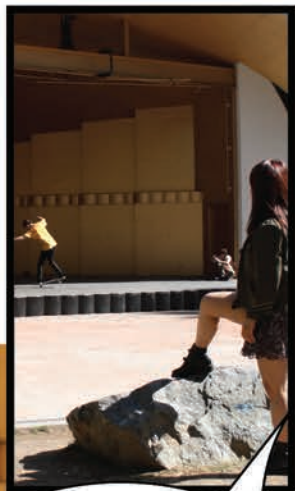
THEIR RIGHTS! THERE ARE MANY IMMIGRANTS HERE, AND OUR GOVERNMENT DOESN'T ALWAYS PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS TO EXIST HERE IN LOS ANGELES. TRY TO IMAGINE IT



THIS SOCCER FIELD IS BELOVED BY GENERATIONS OF CHILDREN. IT USED TO BE ONLY DIRT! SOME MEMORIES HAVE TO BE IMAGINED. NOT EVERYTHING GETS A MONUMENT.



ZOE THEN TAKES JACK TO THE AMPHITHEATER, A PLACE THAT HOLDS THOUSANDS OF MEMORIES...



...IT IS A MONUMENT TO MANY THINGS. THIS IS AN AMPHITHEATER. SO PEOPLE PERFORM HERE. BUT PEOPLE ALSO SKATEBOARD HERE... GO ON DATES HERE... SOMETIMES PEOPLE THAT ARE UNHOUSED SLEEP HERE.

SO, WANT TO SEE WHAT THE PARK LOOKS LIKE IN ANOTHER 75 YEARS?

SURE!

WHAT, WHO ARE YOU?

FOLLOW ME!

AND OFF INTO THE FUTURE THEY WENT.



SUMMER INSTITUTE TEAM

Team Members (L. to R.) Cassie, Juan, Adam, Zoe, Christina

PROXIMITY OF MEMORY: MACARTHUR PARK

MacArthur Park and the adjacent neighborhood is site to numerous cultural institutions—from memorials to art centers, to individuals and events.

For our Thick Base Base Map project, we will be looking at both fixed and ephemeral demarcations of memory and assessing the proximity monuments, events, and other cultural signifiers have to the Westlake community at the Alvarado and 7th Street intersection.

In our visual we will extract significant points of memory and graph where the signifiers fall on an axis of binaries: permanent and ephemeral, reflective and distant.

Through historical research and demographic analysis, we will be able to articulate the spatial significance (i.e. importance or lack of importance to the community) of certain, more formal cultural points, such as monuments and well-documented events (e.g. protests and cultural festivals). To supplement this research, we will conduct on-site interviews with community members about their impressions of the park, what certain places (e.g. formal sites, benches, trees, by the water) hold, and/or trigger memories—or lack thereof.

We anticipate that the memories we will document will have different proximities to the physical or abstract spaces in the vicinity of MacArthur Park and to the values and identities of the community at large. The memories themselves, and the signifiers we uncover, will hold visceral importance to some and may be faded—or entirely irrelevant—to others.