



COUNCILMEMBER VIVIAN MORENO
City of San Diego
Council District Eight
MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 10, 2022
TO: Mayor Todd Gloria
FROM: Councilmember Vivian Moreno
SUBJECT: Nomination of Dr. Alberto López Pulido to the Arts and Culture Commission

I am pleased to nominate Dr. Alberto López Pulido to the City of San Diego's Arts and Culture Commission

Dr. Pulido grew up in south San Diego and began his postsecondary education at Southwestern College in Chula Vista and then transferred to the University of California, San Diego, where he received degrees in Sociology and Chicano Studies. He pursued his postbaccalaureate studies in Ethnic and Chicano Studies at the University of Notre Dame and represented one of fifty-seven students who would graduate from the Mexican American Graduate Studies Program at Notre Dame.

Dr. Pulido examined the relationship between the Chicano Community and the Catholic Church that led to his dissertation research on the history of the San Diego Roman Catholic Diocese. The most important scholarly work to come out of this research was his award-winning essay on Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in the community of Logan Heights in San Diego.

In 2003, Dr. Pulido was hired by the University of San Diego to establish the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of San Diego. From the outset, Dr. Pulido's vision was to honor the legacy and history of our local communities in learning and experiencing the strength and value of ethnic studies. This led him to align himself with the Chicano Park Steering Committee, who serve as the stewards of Chicano Park. This would guide and inspire him to direct and co-produce an award-winning documentary on the history and value of lowriding as a cultural expression in the border region of San Diego and Tijuana. Soon after, he would be approached by the acquisition editor for History Press to write a book that would augment the history of lowrider culture in San Diego. In conjunction with the San Diego lowrider community and Copley Library, the University of San Diego is now home to the only Digital Lowrider Archive in the world.

Dr. Pulido, better known as El Profe to his students, continues his scholarly commitment to relevant education rooted in a community epistemology that guides his work as Director of The Turning Wheel Mobile Classroom Project, which provides a mobile space for supporting the urgent needs and challenges of our local communities. The Turning Wheel Project represents a partnership between the University of San Diego and the Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center. Dr. Pulido also serves as Vice-Chair of the Chicano Park Museum's Advisory Board. He continues his pedagogical work in linking contemplative studies with ethnic studies teaching and scholarship. In addition, he is currently working on a history of the Logan Heights community from an ethnic studies perspective that honors the knowledge and voices of its past and current residents.

The Arts and Culture Commission would greatly benefit by having someone of Dr. Pulido's caliber, experience, and qualifications along with being the first representative of the Chicano Park arts community to serve on the Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to nominate him.