

Mary Rodriguez

Personal Profile

Dedicated to the improvement of my community I have worked with LAUSD school administrators, neighbors, LAPD and public officials to improve our neighborhood.

•Community Activist & Boardmember –

Los Feliz, Franklin Hills, Atwater Village, & Silver Lake areas.

- Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA), 1997-2004
- Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council (GGPNC), 2000-2004
- Silver Lake Gardening Club 1999-2004
- Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB), 1997-2000
- Neighborhood Watch 1994-present
- Museum of Neon Art (MONA), 2002-2005

•Grants

6 – Neighborhood Matching Fund Grants from the City of Los Angeles

LAUSD BB Matching Bond Grant

SOS! Save Outdoor Sculpture! – Heritage Preservation & Smithsonian's American Art Museum Cultural Affairs Department, City of LA

•Experience

Thomas Starr King Middle School 1998-present

1. Helped organize the Thomas Starr King Middle School's Gifted/High Ability Technology/Arts Magnet a successful program that attracted neighborhood families.
2. Relandscaped the entire perimeter of the school with the help of students, parents, teachers, neighbors, and the Silver Lake Gardening Club.
3. Installed a beautiful mural designed by a gifted 7th grader at the back of the school.
4. Restored a 1936 WPA statue of a Native American entitled, *The Vanishing Race*, (See Awards)
5. Selected the exterior colors for the repainting of the school.
6. Redesigned the courtyard with new concrete, landscaping, wrought iron fencing, security lighting.
7. Installed 6 large tile-mosaic murals, designed by local artists throughout the campus
8. Facilitated a donation of surveillance cameras from a local business man
9. Organized the Thomas Starr King Task Force collaboration between school administration, city government, city services, and concerned residents to address improving the quality of life surrounding the school including crime.

Los Feliz Improvement Association 1997-2004

March 1999 – Organized a fundraiser for the new Los Feliz Community Police Center.

May 2000 – 2004 School Committee Chair

Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council 2000-2004

Appointed Education Representative & Education Committee Chair

Organized community meetings at public and private schools throughout our council area.

Received a grant with other community leaders for 2 murals to be painted in the neighborhood currently in the works. Elected President from May – Oct. 2004

Museum of Neon Art (MONA) 2000-2005

Curator "Light Up the Night, Streetlights of Los Angeles." Received a grant from Cultural Affairs to collaborate with the Bureau of Street Lighting for an exhibition of historic vintage Streetlights. MONA's main mission for the past 20 years has been to save and restore Los Angeles' vintage neon signs, exhibit contemporary neon art, and teach neon design.

Awards

2004 Feliz Improvement Association Sincere Appreciation Award

Thomas Starr King Middle School

2004 Certificate of Recognition for "Celebration Of Art", CD4 Tom LaBonge

2002 Sincere Appreciation Award for years of service, care and dedication
2002 LAUSD School Volunteer Program Distinguished Service Award Winner
2001 Los Angeles Conservancy Preservation Award, *The Vanishing Race*
2001 Beautification Award
2001 LAUSD School Volunteer Program Nominee for Distinguished Service Award
2000 Beautification Award

Awards continued

2003 Neighborhood Champion Awards, LA City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo
2002 Certificate of Appreciation by the Board of Public Works
2001 Pioneer Woman of the 4th Council District, LA City Commission on the Status of Women

Employment – For the last 20 years only part-time work as I raised my children.

1990- 2000 Executive Producer, VTCTV Inc.
1997 Produced the documentary, *The Power of Nonviolence*
1996 Producer, ARTE, French-German Television, *In the Metal Mood*
1978 – 1984 Edited film and video for KABC news, Los Angeles
1975 – 1978 Edited film and video for KMGH news in Denver, Colorado.

Community Event Organizer

Public Safety Issues

January 2003 - Our neighborhood has been plagued for over 8 years by a sexual predator, attacking at least 19 young girls, many of them JMHS students. Organized meeting with John Marshall High Principal Tom Abraham, concerned parents, students, community members, and LAPD to gather information, discuss and stop the Hyperion Bridge attacker.

April 2003 - With the Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women (LACAAW) we held a press conference about the Hyperion Bridge attacker. Over 200 hundred students, parents, community members, and LAPD officers marched from JMHS to the bridge where a candlelight vigil was held for all of the victims. In addition, a reward of \$50,000 was raised.

August 2002 -“National Night Out” celebrating Police & Community partnerships. Nearly 200 people From the Northeast area walked through the Los Feliz Business District escorted by LAPD cars and officers. Media covered the event.

March 2002 - ‘Light Up the Night Walk’, through the neighborhood after dark (everyone carried flashlights) escorted by LAPD, and the Bureau of Street Lighting, 65 concerned citizens identified dark areas in need of additional streetlight. As a result wattage upgrades, additional lights, and tree trimming were implemented. Media covered the event.

January 2002 - 350 people attend meeting at Thomas Starr King Middle School regarding the notorious Sunset Pacific Motel, a haven for drugs, prostitution, and gangs. Councilmembers Tom La Bonge & Eric Garcetti, LAPD, the Zoning Administrator, and the City Attorney support the neighborhood and convince City Council to shut the motel down.

Dec. 2002 - The new owners of the Sunset Pacific Motel attempt to reopen the motel. Through Email we convinced the Zoning Administrator to uphold the previous decision and not permit another motel to operate in an area so close to the school. Crime has decreased in the area significantly according to the LAPD.

March 1999 – Organized a fundraiser for the Los Feliz Improvement Association at the American Film Institute. The money furnished and modified the new Los Feliz Community Police Center.

Neighborhood Blight Issues

August 2002 - LAPD, LAHSA, CD4, CD13, AB43 and the Neighborhood Prosecutor meet with concerned community activists and business owners to confront the property manager of a local mini mall plagued with problems. The property owner was cooperative and agreed to make necessary changes. I received an award from the City Attorney for my efforts.

March 2002 - Board of Public Works to permanently seal two stairwells, in the Myra Ave. Underpass with concrete. A common route to and from King Middle School the stairwells were overtaken by drug dealers, thieves, prostitutes, and the homeless. Received award from Board of Public Works.

The Arts

March 1995 - Wrote and produced a play for elementary school children introducing them to the life of Cesar Chavez. Approved by the United Farm Workers Union and members of the Chavez family it has been performed at Franklin Ave. Elementary School, Thomas Starr King Middle School, and Breed Street Elementary School in East LA.

References Available Upon Request