Describe your community

Give your community a name*
Boyle Heights Through Daniela Zepeda's Eyes

Tell us about your community. What are your shared interests? What brings you together? What is important to your community?*

I have lived in Boyle Heights for 15 years or my whole life. Boyle Heights to me is Caesar Chavez and the western boundary is Olympic Blvd., Indiana St and The LA River. Growing up, Hollenbeck Park was where I spent most of my time either doing the activities that were provided by Hollenbeck Park Recreation Center or just spending time with my family. When I was 12 my family was kicked out of the house we had lived in for 20 years, the reason we were being kicked out was because our home was going to be turned into apartments. I was devastated, where I had all my birthdays and Christmases, was being taken away from me and it felt like all my memories were taken away from me. We only had a month to find a new place, of course the price of the place was more expensive and smaller but it was still in Boyle Heights. As I spent more time there I was glad to realize that it still felt like my community, because it was the people who made it my community. In Boyle Heights I can still see friends from preschool while going to the grocery store or going for a walk in Hollenbeck Park. I also see the many murals people from Boyle Heights have created. It makes me glad to see this beautiful art and people having pride to be from Boyle Heights. I think something that is very important to my community is resources and activities for kids. A strong belief in the Hispanic community is that children are the future, and we can see that through the importance put on kids' lives and well being. Another very important thing to Boyle Heights is immigrant rights, since there are many people who have moved here they need those first few steps to get them going as they arrive in a new city.

Are there nearby areas you want to be in a district with? Nearby areas you don't want to be in a district with? Why or why not?

A nearby area that I don't want to be in a District with is East LA, although both Boyle Heights and East LA have very similar demographics I feel that there is a difference between both places. A few examples would be where we shop and the events that the community holds. I believe having both in the same district would lump both places together and not show the differences they have.

Is there eanything else you can tell us about your community?

My community is very bold in it’s call for equal rights and activism in general, I have also notices that Boyle Heights has begun to be gentrified by new people coming in and raising the cost of rent forcing people to move, a few examples would be Weird Wave Cafe and art galleries that have displaced many people. I have lived through this because when my home was turned into apartments for new people who could afford those apartments, I had to leave but was lucky to still stay in my community.