

Attachment 1: Significance of Emiliano Zapata and the Connection to Morales Immigrants in Minneapolis.

Plaza Centenario on Lake Street and 12th Avenue will house a bronze sculpture of Emiliano Zapata, which was a gift from the Mexican government to Minneapolis. The statue is an important landmark for the Latino community and will help support and celebrate a relationship between Mexico and Minnesota. Currently the Hispanic population in Minnesota is approximately 250,258. Sixty seven percent of this population is of Mexican origin.¹

Emiliano Zapata Salazar (August 8, 1879 – April 10, 1919) is recognized as a national hero of the Mexican Revolution, 1910 to 1920. Zapata captured the sympathy and support of the general populace to mobilize against the harsh dictator Porfirio Diaz. The Diaz regime was overthrown after more than three decades of repression, severe poverty and social injustices. Afterwards, Zapata fought against Diaz's opponent and eventual President Francisco Madero for not supporting true land reform. And eventually in 1914, Zapata joined forces to defeat the subsequent political dictator General Victoriano Huerta. People who followed his lead were called, "Zapatistas."²

Zapata himself was a farmer and great horseman who fought for social and agrarian land reform until he was assassinated. His legacy continues to be acknowledged and celebrated in Mexico because of his bravery in defending the peasants and indigenous people.

Mexico's fascination with Zapata has made him a symbol of social justice. His iconic image is with a huge black mustache and dressed in traditional *charro* style: a broad sombrero, fitted pants with silver buttons, a scarf around his neck, and cartridge belts across his chest.

Zapata was born in Morelos, fifty miles south of Mexico City. Minneapolis has become home to the descendants of many people from Morelos especially the city of Axochiapan.³ Over the past 50 years, people have arrived from Cuernavaca and its neighboring areas to settle in Minneapolis, with a marked influx just in the last 15 years or so, ...⁴ Cuernavaca, the Capitol of Morelos, became a sister city to Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2008.⁵ Sister Cities is an international program started by President Dwight Eisenhower to foster people-to-people citizen diplomacy. It is important to note that Cuernavaca is host to a large expatriate community from the United States and also attracts many students who arrive to study the Spanish language.⁶ Establishment of a sister city relationship is a collaborative process involving the communities in both cities to organize sustainable and economic development, arts and culture, youth and education and humanitarian assistance.

The connection between these two cities will be reflected in Plaza Centenario, as a place for gathering with a statue symbolizing an intrinsic part of Mexican culture within the Minnesota society. The cultural presence of Zapata on Lake Street in a highly concentrated Latino community in South Minneapolis brings awareness of what the revolution means to Mexicans. The statue will benefit and educate those of Mexican ancestry and the general populace about an important period of Mexican history.

¹ Community Fact Sheet, SRE Mexican Consulate, St Paul, MN

² Mexonline Website. Retrieved on 4/27/12

<http://www.mexonline.com/emilianozapata.htm>

³ As many as one-third of the people born in Axochiapan are thought to have moved to "El Norte" (= USA); it is estimated that 90% of all the families in Axochiapan have representatives currently living in Minneapolis-St.Paul. Website Geo-Mexico <http://geo-mexico.com/?p=4476> Retrieved 4/27/12.

⁴ Pratt, Anna. "Minneapolis Adopts Sister City based on Immigration Trend.

Sunday, September 14, 2008. <http://minnesotaindependent.com/8195/minneapolis-embraces-sister-city-cuernavaca-morelos-based-on-underlying-immigration-trend>

⁵ Sister City partnership of Minneapolis is Cuernavaca, Mexico, which joined in 2008, sponsored by the Minneapolis Cuernavaca Friendship Committee.

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/news_20080827newsistercity

⁶ Morse, Emily. "Cuernavaca, Mexico: The Perfect Place to Study Spanish". Retrieved 4/27/12.

Prepared by Maria Cristina (Tina) Tavera, a visual artist whose work addresses issues of femininity and women's roles in society. She grew up in Minnesota and Mexico City. Tina holds a Masters degree in Public Affairs: Leadership in the Arts from the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota.





Germán Michel Leal

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Place of birth.

Mister Michel Leal was born in Tonaya, Jalisco Mexico in 1957, and graduated in Business Administration in Petit Fressen, The Netherlands in 1982 and attended at the IMSS Arts and Crafts School in Mexico City in 1983. He currently lives in Mexico City.

Individual and collective showings.

- 1986** Casa de la Cultura Cuernavaca, Cuernavaca Morelos, Mexico.
- 1987** Galería de los Talleres, IDAP, Mexico City.
- 1988** Escuela de Artes Manuales, IMSS, Mexico, City.
- 1990** Palacio Legislativo Aguascalientes, Aguascalientes, Mexico.
- 1991** Galería Eclósión, Monte Taxco, Guerrero, Mexico.
- 1992** Museo Spratling, Taxco Guerrero, Mexico.
- 1993** Individual Show, Galería Esculturart Cocoyoc, Morelos, Mexico.
- 1994** 1er Encuentro de Talla en Madera Preitalia94 COMA V, Mexico City.
- 1994** Snow Sculpting Show, international contest, Sarnia, Ontario, Canada.
- 1995** Wood Sculpting Show, Foro Cultural "Efrén Rebolledo", Pachuca Hidalgo, Mexico.
- 1996** International Snow Sculpting Show, Ontario, Canada.
- 1996** London Winter Festival Show, Ontario, Canada.
- 1996** Capilla Británica, Mexico City.
- 1997** Wood Sculpting Show, Fondo para la Vivienda DDF, Mexico City.
- 1997** Collective Show, Variaciones "Xoloitzcuintli", Sistema de Transporte Colectivo Metro, Mexico City.
- 1998** Snowfest 98, International Snow Sculpting Contest, Sarnia, Canada.
- 1999** Tiempo de Creación. Pabellón Altavista, Mexico City.
- 2002** Collective Show, Centro Asturiano de México, AC, Mexico City.
- 2003** Third Biennial Sulpting Show, Industria del Acero, San Juan, Porto Rico.
- 2004** Collective Show, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Santurce, Porto rico.
- 2004** Collective Show, "Artistas de Tlalpan", Casa de la Cultura Tlalpan, Mexico City.
- 2005** Individual Show, Centro Asturiano, Arquímedes, Mexico City.

Permanent Shows.

- 2005** Acquisition for the Celayan Culture and Art Archives. Celaya, Guanajuato, Mexico.
- 2007** Museo Macay, Sisterhood Mexico-Japan, Merida Yucatan, Mexico.

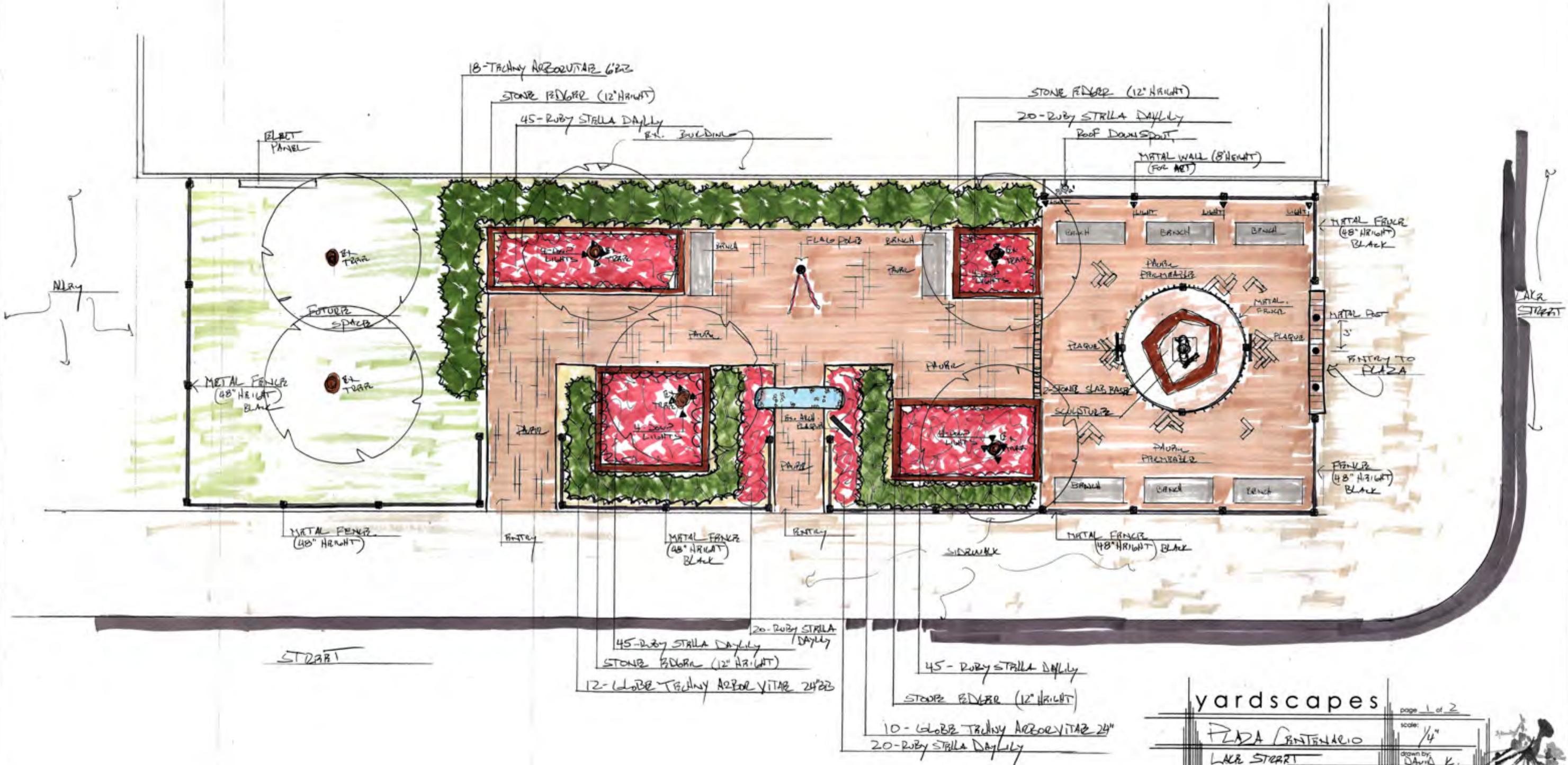
Public Art Work

- 1989** "Armonía" abstract sculpture. Building Nissan Mexicana, Mexico City.
- 1999** "Cristo Resucitado", bronze, "Virgen de Guadalupe", bronze, "San Cristobal", Estaciones de Vía Crucis, Ecatepec Cathedral, Edo. De Mexico, Mexico.
- 2000** "Cristo Crucificado", fiber glass, Chilapa Cathedral, Guerrero, Mexico.
- 2000** María ambrosia Eucaria, bronze, Chilapa Municipality, Guerrero, Mexico.
- 2002** "Monumento al Hombre Común". Collaboration. Lawrenceburg, IN, USA.
- 2002** "Homenaje a Mérida". Abstract sculpture, steel. Palacio de Gobierno del estado de Querétaro, Mexico.
- 2003** "Humanidad". Abstract sculpture, steel. Notaría 115, Prado Sur, Mexico City.
- 2003** "Miguel Hidalgo". Steel. Acatzingo Puebla, Mexico.
- 2004** Bust of the vice-chancellor Francisco Javier Monarrez. University of Sinaloa, Mexico.
- 2005** Bust of Cosío Villegas MD, Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Respiratorias, Tlalpan, Mexico City.
- 2006** Bust of the singer Javier Solís, Delegación Miguel Hidalgo, Mexico City.
- 2006** Bust of Mrs. Montoya MD, Facultad de Medicina, La Salle University, Mexico City.

Mister Germán Michel Leal won first price in 1996 in the "Concurso y Premio del Pueblo" Internacional Snow Sculpting Contest, Ontario, Canada.







yardscapes
 PLAZA CENTENARIO
 LAKE STREET
 MINNEAPOLIS, MN

page 1 of 2
 scale: 1/4"
 drawn by: [signature]
 date: 10/11/2011



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(Allina-Abbott Northwestern Hospital)

March 26, 2010

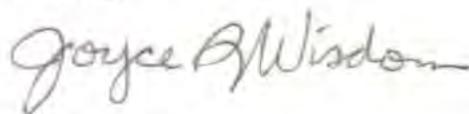
Dear Council Member Schiff:

When the governor of the Mexican State of Morelos donated a statue of Emiliano Zapata to the city of Minneapolis in 2007 during a festive ceremony, we enthusiastically assumed the revolutionary leader would quickly find a prominent home.

The process since then has been depressing until now. We are pleased that Hennepin County is willingly deeding the neighborhood park at 12th and Lake to the City of Minneapolis for the purpose of this significant installation. While the park until now has had little care, it is one of the few public green spaces on Lake Street and will be the perfect home to this tribute to a Mexican leader in a neighborhood that boasts nearly a quarter of our residents are Hispanic.

We are pleased that the City, County, Neighborhood and others have found their way to this solution. We understand that significant fundraising will be necessary for proper installation and improvement of the surrounding area and offer our assistance in that effort, as we know others will come forward to help.

Sincerely,



Joyce Wisdom
Executive Director