

Artist for Hermon Dog Park Art Project Named

January 2010 -- The Board of Directors of the support organization, Friends of Hermon Dog Park (FHDP), proudly announce their selection of El Sereno artist Ismael Cazarez and his project "River Dogs," to be funded with FHDP's 2009 award from the City of Los Angeles Community Beautification \$10,000 Matching Grant and placed in Hermon Park in the Arroyo Seco.

The final decision was made January 23 after interviews with two finalists by a Selection Committee. That committee was comprised of the FHDP Board of Directors, local artists, an artist consultant, gallery owner, public arts advocate, local high school art student, community advocates, local art teacher, school principal, and representatives from the City's Office of Community Beautification and the Department of Recreation and Parks.

The selection process began September 27 of last year with a call for artists, graciously distributed by the respected Arroyo Arts Collective. After an afternoon site walk-through, 21 unique projects were submitted for consideration.

Cazarez, who has been creating art for more than 40 years, earned his Master's Degree in studio arts in 1982 at Cal State L.A. He began as a muralist back in the 1970's, but now does mostly sculptural works.

"River Dogs" will portray two slightly larger-than-life dogs sculpted completely from natural river rocks. The artist grinds the rocks to fit together like puzzle pieces so that there are no gaps between them. Each stone is glued into rebar connected to a rebar skeletal infrastructure. Different size stones create the eyes, ears and other body parts, coloring and textures. Each sculpture will have an anti-graffiti coating.

One dog is positioned to play, the other dog's front legs are stretched up onto a boulder with a more regal pose. The artist locates the installation at the top of the grassy knoll above the Hermon Dog Park near the Avenue 60 side, giving definition to the Hermon Dog Park area. The natural river rocks, iconic to the length of the Arroyo Seco area, will be collected by the artist from a variety of locations throughout California symbolizing how our love of dogs is universal and can bring us together.

The committee found Cazarez's work to be unique, innovative, honoring of the community, and low maintenance.

We will be starting through the City approvals process right away.

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