

REVISED

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH

January 13, 2026

AND HILDA L. SOLIS

Proclaiming January 24 as Robert Vargas Day in Los Angeles County

Robert Vargas is an internationally recognized contemporary artist, muralist, and cultural leader who was born and raised in Los Angeles County, and whose body of work has become an integral component of the County's visual and cultural identity. He is widely known for his large-scale murals and mixed-media portraiture that celebrate unity, compassion, resilience, and the lived experiences of everyday Angelenos, transforming public spaces into shared cultural landmarks accessible to all residents.

Robert Vargas is a sixth-generation Mexican-American Angeleno with Indigenous heritage who was raised in Boyle Heights, and whose upbringing and deep community roots continue to inform his artwork and commitment to authentic representation within public spaces. He began painting murals at the early age of ten and completed his first publicly exhibited mural at the Autry Museum of the American West at the age of sixteen. His formal arts education began at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA), and he later attended the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York where he

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majored in fine arts with a concentration in painting. By 2005, Robert had become a leader in the revitalization of the artistic renaissance of Downtown Los Angeles, helping to expand public access to the creative process through his highly attended live drawing sessions. Since then, his canvas has expanded to high story buildings in LA and across the world. Robert has created numerous iconic public artworks from Athens to Tokyo, including murals that reflect the surrounding community members, their cultural heritage, and historic moments, contributing significantly to LA's reputation as a global center for public art and creative expression. As an artist, Robert has a unique ability to communicate emotions and help people feel seen, as well as giving back to communities and inspiring future generations. He works without the use of grids or preliminary sketches, relying instead on reference images viewed periodically to ensure accuracy in proportion and detail, including the precise rendering of facial features.

In 2024, Robert Vargas unveiled the three-story mural "Nourishing the Community" at Project Angel Food's headquarters, a nonprofit organization serving individuals facing critical illness, with the artwork honoring volunteers, clients, and the spirit of service that defines Los Angeles County. Several months after the Eaton fire, Robert dedicated a mural "From the Ashes" to the Altadena community which depicted scenes and faces from Altadena, expressing a longing to return to what was their home before. He is currently painting the largest mural in the world by a single artist in downtown LA and when completed, will set a Guinness World Record.

Robert Vargas has received widespread acclaim and recognition for his artistic and civic contributions, including previous proclamations and honors from local government entities. In 2024, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund honored

him with the distinguished Excellence in the Arts award alongside Latino another trailblazer, the Honorable Grace Napolitano. In 2024, he was also awarded an honorary doctorate degree from ArtCenter College of Design, where he delivered the commencement address, inspiring emerging artists and graduates. Through his public art, mentorship of young artists, and community partnerships, Robert Vargas continues to uplift underrepresented voices and strengthen communities across LA County.

‡ **WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors proclaim January 24 of each year as Robert Vargas Day in Los Angeles County beginning in 2026.

‡ **WE, FURTHER, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors waive parking fees for approximately 60 vehicles, excluding the cost of liability insurance, at Lot 14 (the Music Center Garage) for attendees of the reception for Robert Vargas on January 13, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

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