

Save Our Barrios Coalition At The 40th Anniversary Of Chicano Park Day

STOP THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR BARRIOS: RAZA POWER IS THE ANSWER!

Raza Press and Media Association
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500 years ago, when the first Europeans landed in the Americas.

WORKING TO INFORM AND RAISE CONSCIOUSNESS

The SOBC, founded in November of 2010 by the coming together of the Chicano Park Steering Committee, Brown Berets de Aztlán, and Unión del Barrio, saw its presence at the park celebration as an important opportunity to reach the masses of the community. The celebration enabled the SOBC to reach out to thousands of people and show that it cares about the community. It was an opportunity to raise the understanding of the community to realities of gentrification, specially when we see some phony “community planning groups” which are controlled by the city government and representatives of

On April 24, 2010, over 4, 000 Raza from throughout Aztlán came together to commemorate the 40th Anniversary or the “take over” of Chicano Park Day. It was a day to commemorate and pay tribute to those activists and community members who, in 1970, sacrificed tremendously to establish a park and “liberated space” for the Mexican community of San Diego. Today, Chicano Park is recognized as the site of the largest concentration of Murals in the world and a cultural-political center for all liberation-minded Raza.

GREEDY GABACHO CAPITALISTS WANT TO DESTROY OUR BARRIOS

Organized by the Chicano Park Steering Committee, this year's celebration consisted of cultural entertainment, speakers, children's activity area, low rider car show, and food booths. Several organizations, such as Unión del Barrio and the Brown Berets de Aztlán, as well as the Save Our Barrios Coalition, had a table of information. The SOBC, along with its literature table, had a representative of the coalition, Cathy Espitia, on the event's program.

SOBC's objective for being at the park, besides honoring its historical importance to our people's struggle for the survival of our culture, was to inform people to the “gentrification” that is taking place in Barrio Logan, where Chicano Park itself is located.

“Gentrification”, as the SOBC explained at past community meetings, “is a capitalist-rooted (greed and profit based) process in which rich corporations/companies (usually gringos) work in a ‘mafia-like partnership’ with city/government officials to force poor and working people out of a particular community. Once people are moved out, ‘redevelopment’, subsidized by public funds, takes place in the form of the construction of new roads, schools, condominiums, apartments, and houses. Then the new apartments and homes are sold to wealthy (mostly white) people who get a “deal” (profit) out of the expense and suffering of Mexicans, African, and other poor-working class communities.” This process of displacing and stealing the land from Mexicans and other indigenous people began more than

was brought to their attention. Overall, the attitude was positive and people took time to listen and read the flyers and other information being disseminated by the SOBC.

RAZA POWER IS THE ANSWER

The SOBC table itself was impressive. A large SOBC banner with the logos of all the groups of the SOBC banner got the attention of people passing by. Also the table were militant and “pro-community power” buttons, flyers, newsletters, and pictures, on display or handed out to the people. The information contained in the literature specifically called for creating power through action and for the participation of all Raza in the up coming actions being organized by the SOBC; these included the March Through

The Barrio of May 8 and a “Congreso de Barrios” slated for this coming Summer (2010).

Like all activism, members of SOBC also found areas of improvement in the outreach work that took place that particular day. These will be discussed at future meetings as a way of making the SOBC work more effective.

RAZA WAKE UP!

Finally, while most people the SOBC came into contact with, were supportive, the reality was that some people just walked by like they just came to celebrate and have a good time, and cared little of the social-political problems facing our communities. To “wake these people up” is the purpose for the SOBC outreach. Therefore it will continue with efforts until a significant number of people are conscious to what needs to be done to save our communities and defend our rights as a people.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SOBC, CONTACT: organizateraza@hotmail.com



Cathy Espitia, Blue Ramos, and Jacqueline Figueroa, working at the SOBC booth. 40th Chicano Park Celebration. 4/4/10

the rich-white owned corporations, and whose main objective is to lie and confuse community residents.

Generally speaking, people who the SOBC came into contact with appreciated its work and message. Many said that they themselves see gentrification occurring in the barrios in which they or their families live. Some expressed to SOBC members that they never really paid attention to the issue of gentrification and were glad that it

March Through The Barrio

The “Save Our Barrios Coalition”:

**Union del Barrio, Brown Berets de Aztlán,
Chicano Park Steering Committee, and SDSU MEChA**

MAY 8TH, 2010

12 Noon Chicano Park, San Diego Califaztlán