



Patria, Será Porque Quisiera Que Vuelas, Que Sigue Siendo Tuyo Mi Vuelo (Homeland, Perhaps It Is Because I Wish to See You Fly, That My Flight Continues to Be Yours), 2017

Betsy Casañas

American, born 1974

 PublicArt

 Rich Family Foundation

 HISPANIC HERITAGE COUNCIL

 M&T Bank

This mural was designed by Philadelphia-based artist, community activist, and educator Betsy Casañas. Casañas was invited by the Albright-Knox's Public Art Initiative, the Hispanic Heritage Council, and the Rich Family Foundation to create a mural celebrating the significance of the contributions made by the region's Hispanic and Latinx communities to the cultural and economic vitality of Buffalo's Niagara Street corridor and the city at large.

In the beginning stages of the project, Casañas met with community representatives and stakeholders to discuss their desired content for the mural. From these conversations, Casañas developed a design that responds to the shared wish to celebrate cultural heritage, to honor those immigrants and families who form the bedrock of the community, and to encourage participation in the resurgent future of this region. Casañas's composition was inspired by the mixed and integrated Latinx community she encountered in Buffalo. The figures of a Puerto Rican woman, an Indigenous woman planting food, and a traditional Spanish dancer are interwoven with motifs based in agricultural production, industrial work, and Central American textile designs.

The artist also encouraged members of the community to participate in the production of the work through a series of public paint days. Through the many hands that have touched this artwork, it will serve as a vibrant community touchstone of Avenida San Juan.

Work on the mural is planned to be completed by August 25.

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 Albright-Knox Art Gallery

This mural was created in partnership with the Rich Family Foundation and the Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York. Funding for this project was provided by the Rich Family Foundation and M&T Bank.

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