

Recognizing 2022 as the Year of the Alebrijes in West Chicago

WHEREAS, the tradition of creating sculptures of imaginary creatures, defined as alebrijes, became a symbol of popular Mexican folk art in 1936 inspired by the work of Mexico City artist, Pedro Linares; and

WHEREAS, the vision of the Mexican Cultural Center DuPage coordinated the art installation featuring numerous alebrijes sculptures as part of the “Alebrijes: Creatures of a Dream World” Exhibit at Cantigny Park in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the “Alebrijes: Creatures of a Dream World” Exhibit was made possible through the partnership of the Mexican Cultural Center DuPage, Cantigny Park, the DuPage County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the National Museum of Mexican Art; and

WHEREAS, the “Alebrijes: Creatures of a Dream World” Exhibit was supported through the sponsorship of the exhibit by the College of DuPage, Republic Bank of West Chicago and the City of West Chicago; and

WHEREAS, the artwork that serves as focus of the Exhibit was created by six unique Mexican artists, who include:

- Perla Miriam Salgado Zamorano who finds inspiration for her work through the patterns and forms of nature;
- Alejandro Camacho Barrera who is a toy maker and artisan inspired by magic realism;
- Alberto Moreno Fernandez who draws inspiration from his imagination and other illustrators;
- Roberto Carlos Martinez Tesillo who is inspired by new people, places, and his dreams;
- Edgar Israel Camargo Reyes who is inspired by mythological gods and nature; and
- Emanuel Arturo Zarate Ortiz who is inspired by geometry and utilizes recycled materials in his work; and

WHEREAS, the Exhibit, “Alebrijes: Creatures of a Dream World”, now serves as the heart of Mexican cultural art in the Midwestern United States that showcases the inspiration and creativity of Mexican cultural folk artists; and

WHEREAS, the Exhibit, “Alebrijes: Creatures of a Dream World”, now serves as a symbol of cultural diversity in DuPage County, which inspires all people to discover and explore new cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Chicago is a diverse community that supports and embraces all cultures, and is especially proud of its own rich Mexican culture.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ruben Pineda, Mayor of the City of West Chicago do hereby proclaim this year, 2022, as the “Year of the Alebrijes” in West Chicago, and extend the City’s gratitude to the partners, sponsors, and especially the artists who all made this tremendous event possible.

Proclaimed this 20th day of June 2022.



Mayor Ruben Pineda

