

For Immediate Release

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**Vibrant Mural Showcasing Community Collaboration and Culture Unveiled at
Fullerton School District's Raymond Elementary School**



Raymond Elementary School staff and mural artist Carla Roque joined for a photo in front of the school's bright, new mural.

Photo courtesy Las Dos Creative

(Fullerton, CA) - An inspiring display of creative collaboration between parents, students, and school staff has taken shape at Raymond Elementary School in the Fullerton School District with the unveiling of a vibrant mural painted on the front wall of the school's library, situated at the heart of the campus. Encapsulating the school's spirit of community, a love for learning, and cultural celebration, this special project was spearheaded by a Raymond parent and local artist, [Carla Roque](#), and was transformed into a compelling mini-documentary by fellow Raymond parents, Laura Manchester and Priscilla Santos, owners and operators of a local photography and video production company, [Las Dos Creative](#).

"When we talk about Raymond Elementary School, we really focus on community," Raymond Elementary School Principal Cristina Centeno shares in the opening line of [Las Dos Creative's video](#) about the mural's creation.

“This mural is so important because we want Raymond to be the garden where everyone can really plant their roots, making Raymond Elementary School home,” Principal Centeno continues in the video’s introduction.

Aiming to create a visual representation of the school's ethos and values, Roque drew inspiration from the multifaceted tapestry of all that makes Raymond Elementary the close-knit community it prides itself on being. Ideas for the mural poured in as Centeno collaborated closely with students, teachers, staff, and families to bring the design to life.

“To read is to flourish,” written in both English and Spanish, is the text that adorns the mural.

“The wording that was chosen for the mural is to celebrate growth that comes from reading,” Roque explained.

The words appear at the center of the mural, where there is an open book with vines coming out of it that flourish into flowers on either end of the mural. In the mini-documentary on the mural, Roque shares that the flowers chosen for the design were inspired by embroideries and textiles of Spanish-speaking cultures and communities, which in part pays tribute to Raymond Elementary’s unique [Spanish Dual Language Academy](#).



*Centenor and her son standing in front of the new mural, which is painted on the outside of the school's library.
Photo courtesy Las Dos Creative*

Throughout the process, Roque involved Raymond students by visiting classrooms to discuss art and her work and ensured they were a part of the mural painting process to ensure their ownership and school pride over the project.

“This is my school, and I am painting some of the parts of the mural,” a student artist featured in the mural’s mini-documentary shared proudly.



*Roque explaining paint texture and the painting process to Raymond students.
Photo Courtesy Las Dos Creative*

As word of the mural project spread across campus, the spirit of collaboration continued as fellow Raymond parents, Manchester and Santos, inspired by the project's message and impact, came together to produce a video showcasing the making of the mural. Loaning their creative talents to the cause, the creatives behind Las Dos Creative shot and filmed a mini-documentary of the mural, which offers an engaging behind-the-scenes look at the creative process and highlights the passion and dedication of everyone involved.

The mural and mini-documentary were debuted at Raymond Elementary's recent back-to-school night. With the placement of the mural being a focal point of campus, it operates to serve as a powerful symbol of the school's values and the strength of the Raymond community. Both the mural and mini-documentary showcase the importance of coming together, celebrating diversity, and nurturing a love of learning in every student.



Families gathered in the center of campus for Raymond's Back-to-School Night.

For more information about Raymon Elementary School, visit fullertonsd.org/Raymond. The Fullerton School District is located in northern Orange County, California, and serves over 11,600 students in grades TK – 8th. The Fullerton School District includes 21 schools, 15 elementary schools, two K-8th grade schools, three middle schools, and a distance learning and home school model. The mission of the Fullerton School District is to work collaboratively with the community to provide an innovative, high-quality educational program for all students in a safe learning environment. The District motto, “*Great Schools - Successful Kids*” exemplifies the belief that all students will achieve academic excellence, acquire interpersonal skills, and develop technological expertise to contribute as productive citizens in a democratic society. For more information, call 714/447-7400 or visit www.fullertonsd.org.

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*For more information, please feel free to contact Amber Muñoz/Public Information Officer,
Fullerton School District at 657/706-3774 or amber_munos@myfsd.org*