EXPRESSIONS IN THE GALLERY: LESS VISIBLE MATERIAL CULTURE IN THE CENTRAL CITY CORRIDOR

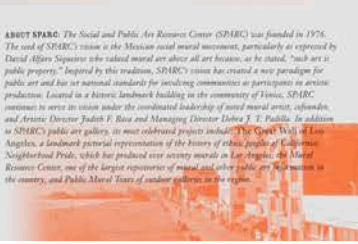
May 22 – June 30, 1999
Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC)
10950 South Central Avenue
Los Angeles, California
Gallery Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 10:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M.; Saturday, 10:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M.

CURATORIAL STATEMENT: Over time the documentation of cultural legacies and historical events provides a view of people's past collective experience and of their potential future. As the historical face of a community is often an external interpretation, an ongoing exercise of community-based cultural introspection through exhibitions and associated programs affirm the representation of our history in the Central City Corridor from personal and collective points of view. The creation of memorable experiences through the gathering of people, documents, and artifacts enlightens and deepens awareness of the self and of self-determination. This exhibition is especially significant because it privileges the "first voice" of represented communities through the archives and collections by displaying these materials within the contexts and environments in which they were created and are preserved.

ABOUT WLCAC: *Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC), a nonprofit community development organization, was established in 1965, several months before what has become known as the "Watts riots," by a committee of concerned UAW union leaders to stimulate community economic and social stability. Over the next twenty-eight years, under the guidance of its founding President, the late Ted Watkins, WLCAC grew to become one of the most successful community-based organizations in the country, with an international reputation for expertise in community self-help, including the establishment of a field office in London, England, in 1980 by the British Government. Under the leadership of its current President, Teryl Watkins, WLCAC has expanded its vision to integrate art and culture as a strategy for social and economic community stabilization. In 1995 WLCAC began development of a five-acre arts and culture complex, which today houses a permanent civil rights exhibition and rotating galleries featuring the work of visiting artists, two performance theaters, computer lab, and three permanent virtual-experience exhibits: Central Avenue's Mud Alley, A Shipship Speaks, and a civil rights-era Mississippi town.*

ILLUMINATING VISUAL CULTURE, ARTIFACTS, AND DOCUMENTS: THE HARBOR AND COASTAL CITIES CORRIDOR

May 22 – July 22, 1999
Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC)
685 Venice Boulevard
Venice, California
Gallery Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M.

CURATORIAL STATEMENT: The items that make up our personal and institutional collections and archives represent a social legacy that adds another layer of meaning and form to the understanding of who we are in relation to each other and to the land. The face of historical or contemporary communities involved in economic, political, or cultural expression comes into sharper relief with the perusal of those things that call to memory the essence of their spirit. A photograph of an unblemished coastline, an ancient adobe home, or the entertainers we commemorate—they all speak of relationships that bind us through the passage of time. Our personal memories fade and so we create small and large treasures to remind us of those times, places, and people—our lived history—that we value or hold dear through our collected samplings. Never a complete narrative, our collections take on a life of their own and provide a breadth of past experiences that we can call on to continually rediscover ourselves, our environment, and our community.

ABOUT SPARC: *The Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC) was founded in 1976. The seed of SPARC's vision is the Mexican social mural movement, particularly as expressed by David Alfaro Siqueiros who valued mural art above all art because, as he stated, "such art is public property." Inspired by this tradition, SPARC's vision has created a new paradigm for public art and has set national standards for involving communities as participants in artistic production. Located in a historic landmark building in the community of Venice, SPARC continues to serve its vision under the coordinated leadership of noted mural artist, cofounder, and Artistic Director Judith F. Baca and Managing Director Debra J. T. Padilla. In addition to SPARC's public art gallery, its most celebrated projects include* The Great Wall of Los Angeles, *a landmark pictorial representation of the history of ethnic people of California; Neighborhood Pride, which has produced over seventy murals in Los Angeles; the Mural Resource Center, one of the largest repositories of mural and other public art documentation in the country; and Public Mural Tours of outdoor galleries in the region.*