



Artist's Statement
for the
Lincoln Heights Library

Prepared by: Ricardo Rodriguez Duffy

The public art piece for the Lincoln Heights Library will be handcrafted, low-relief glazed ceramic that will be placed on the archways in the lobby. The three arches are supported by four columns. Each column will represent a different environment found in the Los Angeles area. The first column will depict a scene of mountain and river wildlife. The second column will be have a cityscape. The third column will portray arid lands and modes of transportation and communication. The fourth column will have an ocean scene.

The top area supported by the columns will present a design of a Plumed Serpent/Dragon flying through the clouds. The Dragon in Asian cultures represents prosperity, power, and wisdom. The Plumed Serpent in mesoamerica, known as Quetzalcoatl or Kukulcan, symbolizes the legendary man of knowledge, arts and sciences.

I chose this symbol because it demonstrates how two seemingly different cultures can have similar icons. It is amazing to see how the Dragon and the Plumed Serpent both were symbols of power. The Dragon icon was used by Asian Emperors, while the Plumed Serpent stood for the high priest in both the Aztec and Maya empires. Los Angeles is a vast metropolis made up of many cultures, but if we take the time to learn about those different than us, we will find many similarities which bind us as human beings. A library is a place of learning, and reading can take us to places we may never travel to, and can give us experiences we might not otherwise have. By reading we will learn about others, and hopefully, make us more open to other cultures.

I also chose this symbol because the Lincoln Heights demographics is primarily a Mestizo culture with a rapidly growing Asian community. I wanted a cultural icon that the community could relate to.