

Manuel Flores
Ramon A
March 12

And are my glasses reflecting are getting on the way. not at .so, I'm recording so anytime you ready.and again yeah you will b. let me make up an adjustment to that mic walter special can we have you move a little closer to the camera, I'm all good trains

I think people stop hearing it after a while, I don't you know

I trying to listen to the tv and ahhh

that funny and I like I think everybody is different and somebody left a note on my gate said “ My name is and I lived by the railroads tracks so if you ever interested in selling your property where you go? 200k

just for the record can you tell me your name full name?

ramón Agustín betas Olivas

and do you give us permission to record for the purposes of the project of Barrio Anita? yes

can you tell if your date of birth?

11/25/1964

have you lived in Barrio Anita all your life?

no, my nana live in Barrio Anita. I was born in Barrio Hollywood but I would go back and front all the time I inherited my nana house

When did you move in?

about 10 years. I heard a lot of stories about barrio Anita and Barrio Hollywood. crossover actually I was the professor before they raise the i-10 to get to Davis and get hit by cars it was on the ground and people die maybe this is a general question but what in your opinion makes barrio Anita great in your opinion?

for me the people my family my grandma have sister I think 7 sisters I think 4 or 5 live in there when I was young and they learn a lot of being respectful spiritual religious values being good to your neighbor I mean it was like a big family and they would help each other and there were a lot of people. I think now barrio Anita is not the same it doesn't have the cnet of a family when I was going up

why do you think it makes that shift?

I think there is a lot of reason it is a different time people have different values the family was involved there was nothing on the way now, there are computers when tv came out people would watch tv people would engage , I just think family structure is different are nowadays, so that has to do something to do with that the other thing I have to be careful

we were part of the association when we first become president it was fun we had this core group of 8 maybe 10 people that would do most of the work and I know the neighbor will pop out and help they could we saw the effort the back to basic we will speak on some issues, back then we did enjoy each other company another that are something that help to the accomplishment another thing that happen the oral history help with regina kelly and barrio anita the part of voice on how they connect with the young and the elder and the different

things they did when they were kids and that help because we did like 2 or 3 of those. what was fun about that the celebration the youth the families that they interview and we will gather all in the same house and we can feel all the love that everybody has all and how proud they are and how the picture made into a book and their stories were on a book. The feeling of community and how they came to life in a positive way and because of that we as the association demonstrated to the city and the federal people that we can work together but we were for the people and so money keeps coming in to the neighborhood so I think that time it all good and everybody was getting along and I'm not going to get in a lot but the barrio Anita project it polarize the active group and that is a different discussion for another talk and I don't think it has been the same and since and then I saw your flyers in conjunction from you all I dint know we have a working association I don't know if that is true or not but I'm glad that you ate here and I'm glad that you are working here.

it would be nice that our project could bring people together.

but the grizzly zoo is having to eat at oracle center

Well ...

Totally fail, whoops.

Yeah and so what is it? I think it's been because doing this flyering to everybody's house. I think Grace is pretty busy, and she didn't have time to do that, but we do have staff and interns and stuff to kind of like help with that. So if we can maybe help, just let the people aware that this meeting's happening, and we'll feel organized. I'd like to just go back to you mentioned this Back to Basics program. Can you just talk a little bit more about maybe what that program was, but more specifically what are some of the ... you said you guys got a lot of improvements and things to the neighborhood and you really feel proud about what you guys were able to achieve ... can you talk more specific about that?

Well once there was four of us on a board, and we were an active board. It's like the city, the state, all these different agencies swooped down on us. Like they wanted to do business with the neighborhood, but they really didn't have a meaningful vehicle to do it. And so when the neighborhood had elections, and when we actually elected a full board, then all of a sudden the city said, "Hey we've got this Back to Basics program, Barrio Anita, is eligible for it. And this is what you're going to have to do." And so we surveyed the neighborhood. Once we knew what we had to do and what the criteria, what our boundaries were ... because our neighborhood is so small and back then the city had more money in terms of notification where they would actually mailed things. But when they couldn't do it, we had connections between all of us, and we would make 150 copies. I mean there's not that many people in the neighborhood, so we would pass out the flyers.

If you need a house repaired, because it was for house repair, streets, some improvement on some streets, some lights. And so people knew the application process, we collected their information, and with somebody elderly that maybe weren't able to get the information to us, we went and got them because we knew who they were. So we made every effort to make sure that everybody that were entitled to something back in those days, that they got it. We did such a good job that we got recognized for having the best Back to Basics program in the city of Tucson at that time.

Great, great.

And that lead to bigger and better things too.

Yeah. And around what year, or how long ago do you know, was it like 10 years ago maybe or a little more or?

Yeah, it's got to be 10 plus years ago.

Okay.

I do have documents of all of that stuff if you need them for your project. I would be glad to share some of that stuff with you. I don't know if I have the actual certificate where we got certified, and in terms of the oral history books, the Arizona Historical Society, they recognized the neighborhood for our efforts and preserving the Barrio's history and all that stuff. So we got awards for some of the different things that we did. And we were also part of the West Side coalition, the Weed and Seed program that brought money for prevention services, gang prevention, a lot of community enhancement stuff. I went to New York, actually Washington for workshops on the government's dime, went to Sacramento, went to Florida, went to New Mexico. And there it was about teaching us community enhancement and community organization. So I was very fortunate that we were able to do that, but that again we brought all that knowledge back and we applied it to the neighborhood and the West Side neighborhoods as well.

How long of a period of time during this sort of very fruitful period, how long did that -

I think it was about 10 years, because I was the chair for like three rotations.

Oh okay.

And I think one of them I didn't even go because I let the neighborhood decide and they decided that they wanted me back. What I did I wasn't at the meeting, so I went ahead and did it. But yeah, it was a good ten years and got to meet a lot of good people from the county. Our council Ward One, [Syd Ybarra 00:04:58], we would clash on occasion, but he was very helpful for the most part in terms of helping us do what we needed to do. And then ... I'm going blank on our county representative ... Mr. Elias, he was very helpful and got to meet a lot of the different city personnel, the city departments, even the federal government the Weed and Seed program was a federal program. So we worked with the federal attorney general's office. Jesse Figueroa and so we did a lot of good things. And so yeah, I think it was like 10 years, maybe a little bit more where back then there was money in the government for community enhancement activities, and so we took advantage of it.

That's great. That's awesome. What do you think currently are the needs of the neighborhood?

My own personal feeling, and again it's the Barrio Anita mural project polarized the active group, because it takes, it's 24/7 in terms of being involved. And for being such a small neighborhood, I mean sometimes it got pretty intense in terms of some of the conflicts and stuff, and so, but we were pretty open. We made it a point, the association made it a point to

be open and transparent. We had our meetings every Wednesday. They started at Davis School. And then we changed them to Oury Park. The minutes of the meetings were always available for people to see them. And when things got down and dirty sometimes, we would videotape.

We videotaped some of our government officials, 'cause we wanted to make sure that if they said something we could play the video back instead of just taking notes, cause that's kind of, we could forget or didn't take accurate notes, so that way we videotaped it. And we had to be careful we'd give people the option of being videotaped or not. So if you didn't want to be videotaped, then we would pan the camera away from you but we would still hear your voice. And if you didn't mind then we would just capture what you were saying and stuff. So we found that useful in terms of keeping accurate documentation about the neighborhood. So I think that had something to do with it, because people stopped trusting each other. People that were friends weren't friends anymore. We became more suspicious of one another. It wasn't a good feeling at all, and so that happened.

Now I have not been to anything like that in a while in terms of an organized neighborhood association meeting. So that's why when I got your flyer I was kind of like, "Whoa." And I don't know, I think I want to go tomorrow if I can, even if it's for part of it just to kind of see. So I'm thinking we almost have to start from scratch and just let bygones be bygones, but my thing with that is did we learn everything, anything from those bygones? So we don't repeat those mistakes we made in the past, and even then what I consider a mistake might not be considered a mistake by somebody else. So but in some way we need to agree to disagree and move on for the good of the neighborhood kind of stuff. And it just takes a lot of time and effort and energy, so I'm not sure who's going to be up to that. 'Cause even near the end there, it was hard to have the four working board members.

Yeah.

So there was three of us there near the end, and then it just stopped.

Yep.

So there hasn't been anything organized, I think in years. So maybe there's new people in the neighborhood that want to get involved, and I don't know. I don't know that I would get too involved. I think I'd rather be like a consultant in some way, but I don't know that I'd want to do the day to day or ...

The stuff that I used go cause it took a lot of time. I think we need a lot of build in community, built in report with another again and see what happens I don't know there may be some new blood that could do that but I don't know. I don't know my neighbors as well like I used to.

What street do you live on?

I live on 901 north on Alsatian Ave. parallel to the railroad tracks. Like I said my grandma lived there a long time and she had a really nice Adobe house and I wish that they would have fixed that house instead of marking it down and building a house that I live in now cause it had so much character in the old

Can you describe the house?

It kinda had a really nice porch area where my nana had flowers everywhere and the walls were thick. She had one bedroom, a living room, I think it was like one big bedroom one little bedroom one bathroom the kitchen and the living room and that was it but my tata, he used to work with his hands but they had a cuartito (a little room in the back) with my Nana's wooden stove. So my nana would make tortillas back there and beans and all of that stuff. So as little kids and even as we were growing up John spring junior high on the way home we would stop by and have those beans and she would always make soups I mean

So is that totally separate little (cuartitos)?

Yeah they were separate. They were little cuartitos he had them to keep tools and they had one like it was an outside kitchen basically

So do you remember ever watching them ?

yes and right now in my house part of the deal right now they wanted a place to make tortillas so the there is my wash room and there is a little tiny area where the wooden stool is they used to make tortilla there. they had to make it becscue she wont want the house. Maybe it might bother for ever

can you describe step by step how they make the tortillas ?

they need the woods to make the fire we never mess with the fire

where did you get the wood from ?

I think my tata and ms lee grow everywhere my tata would do that, but when i grow older i just pick up some. But we where the benefaceriary of taking wood and they would make soups she would make the balls ai have a picture there where not little tortilla they were big tortillas and it was a hold rhythm to it. she would just make it and would put it on the stove. you know the bubble it pop out film it over till the color is right she will have a bunch at the time, she would have beans something cooking with the tortillas and them we would just eat. everybody would go to eat my dad, uncle , aunt, my bother and my cousin there was always something there to eat there was always food in my nana house . and them during in Christmas because it was so many of her sister and they would go to my nana house it was kinda funny they would see this elderly woman they are pretty together and i think they would fit 4 of them in a bed because i have pictures.

They'd have a whole assembly line, and then my Tia Josefa, who's featured on the mural making tortillas. That's my Tia, my great aunt, not my Nana.

Oh, okay.

She lived in Cava so she would get here a few days before Christmas and so my Nana would be out. When she would get there she would call my dad. Sure enough, for the holidays they'd make all these tamales and they were big tamales. Then they played cards. I should have brought, I had more stuff, visuals. They did a story on them, The Arizona Daily Star did a story on them where they showed my Nana at church and my Tia Josefa at church and I was going like this to my Tia.

Then they have my Tia making tortillas and they're playing cards and just being who they were. My Nana lived to be like 103, I think. My Tia was a little hard of hearing but she lived to be maybe 101, if I'm not mistaken.

Healthy.

The thing about them, all my tias, they were great role models. They didn't have to tell you anything about what to do or say. You just looked at them. They were positive role models just by being who they were. If you caught it, if you were smart you were watching them, going damn. Very good people, people of light, people of love. I don't remember with my tias ever hearing them say a bad word. I mean, and if I did it was the exception. You would kind of go like, "Oh my God, did you hear that? My Nana said a bad word," but I don't think we ever did.

One time, one of the worst experiences of my life was, my Nana would always want us to go to church and we would, bah.

Can I ask which church you guys went to?

Holy Family. My Tio and my Tia, my Tia used to live down the street and they still live there, my cousin does. We were all over there and she went over there on a Sunday looking for us and we ran from her and I remember seeing her and that hurt in her face about why we ran from her. Felt okay, if I got a knife, okay, I'll do it. I don't care because it felt so bad, never did that again. We apologized profusely.

She got over it but we never did that again, we never ran from her or were disrespectful to her in any way, shape or form because they didn't deserve it, because they were always so positive with us there. Cooking was always a good thing and the family gatherings, again, very little drama, if there was any little drama and people would drink. My TATA would drink, one of the stories is that my Tata made moonshine. There was an antique buggy and we have photos of it and apparently he would put my uncle in the buggy and he would put bottles of moonshine in the buggy, too.

He would go to his neighbor's house, "Hey, how's it going? Oh, look at the kid," and they'd get the bottle. "Okay, that'll be five bucks," or whatever it was, whatever deal they made, because it was prohibition at that time. They couldn't do it out in the open, so he'd cruise, that was one of the stories I heard, that he cruised the neighborhood with my Tio as a baby and he made his deliveries that way.

That's great, that's a great little scene right there. What did your Tata do for a living?

I don't remember where he worked, but he worked with his hands.

Actually, I'm going to pause here for this plane.

And the train. Maybe an automobile too.

Marc David Pinate: "Speaking about your grandfather"

Ramon: " My tata, I don't know for sure, I think he was a carpenter. That's a good question um I just know that he worked with his hands and all these tools and he did work with wood because he had saws back there and he had a drill and one of those little drills, um and I think he had some kind of store but I think he was a carpenter, he worked with his hands but I don't know specifically what he did. That's a good question."

Marc: "Do you know if it was him or someone in your family that build that original adobe house?"

Ramon: " That's another good question, I don't know. I'll have to ask. You know what my dad passed away like three or four years ago and I never thought to ask him that. Maybe my older brother knows because that is a good question. I know that they probably, if they didn't build it they maintained it and made additions like if they needed to like I don't know. That's a good question."

Marc: " ok, um you spoke a little about Christmas and these family gatherings. Are there any other events or celebrations where folks either family or just people from the neighborhood came together? Do you recall things like that?"

Ramon: "Well, I'm sure you are going to hear if you talk to some of the older people about secia that used to run right in the back of where my grandmother lived right there and they all used to go swimming and the pool the repark pool I guess when it was built there was still some racism. And so I guess people of certain colors would go on certain days or wouldn't go at all um, and but the secia everybody was welcome. So everybody just used that um so that was a nice thing for when my dad was growing up um and when I was kid it was just all the different holidays,

thanksgiving, um birthdays and again we had a big family I mean all these sisters and my great great aunts and we just got together and then as it got older we got recognized by the city and that, so we had a few celebrations and brought my friends to that too.”

Marc: “ What do you recognized by the city?”

Ramon: “WELL we were santarians so they would get a letter from the governor and it would say congratulations Margarita you are 100 years old and they would get a little certificate and stuff like that and I know that old Del Rio we um we had some, I think it was either my nana or my tias birthday and we celebrated over there. And then everybody came, people from kaborka and we filled up that place with just family members. Um and they it was really nice, so we used to go the Del Rio a lot um, for some of the um weddings or birthdays or celebrations like that. And I am sure people will talk to you about Del Rio too because that was rocking and people used to go dance there and there was that story about um where one of the, a girl didn't listen to her mom and said don't go to the dance tonight and she snuck out of her house and went anyway. And so then she looked at the people dancing and she was dancing with this guy and this guy was like John Travolta dancing with somebody from their time but you dancing was cool and they had all this rhyme and stuff and I guess near the end of the dance, i don't know if she said hey your a good dancer, this and that and the other thing and she kinda looked down at his feet and there were like um like cawls and stuff and then there was all this proof so apparently it was the devil or something or some kind of evil person. And she didn't listen to her mom so there was that story that went around too.”

Marc: “ Any other kind of folks tales kinda that you recall?”

Ramon: “ Well, um (Laughing) Liarona was big. And then they like really used it as like behavioral like it was going to come get you, it more between us. But one day, in my tia Cocia’s house um we were all there mostly, I don’t know if any adults were if it was just kids, us , me and my cousins and so were just ya know hearing music or whatever and then my cousin Manico was in the bathroom um and we kind hear this like “ Oooohhhhhhh” (laughing) and it made the bathroom window shake and (laughing) and cousin who was using the bathroom just kinda ran out of there with toilet paper hanging out of the butt (laughing) and he was RUN and we go “WOAH” and we all started running and he goes like “damn what was that?” and he goes like ahh (heavy breathing) and he kinda told us what happened. But that was our own personal experience with Laironia and stuff but um I never really saw anything like that but we did hear something that day but um we used to talk about the monopelula but again there was nothing (laughing) or whatever you know. Um but um, no um I think the focus was on Jesus and the lord and if we did that we didn’t have to worry about any of the other kind of stuff.”

Marc: “ Folks are pretty religious back in the day?”

Ramon: “Yes, absolutely, absolutely.”

Marc: “Catholic?”

Ramon: “ Yes, absolutely they were too church religiously, no pun intended. Um once Nuncario I don’t know if you know who he is but um he just passed away recently. Um, and he worked at um Holy Family Church for awhile and then later and then suddenly and he’s from our neighborhood and he’s a great great man. Um.”

Marc: “ Why do you say that?”

Ramon: “ He um, I remember when we would go to church and its usually somebody’s wake or something and um, I don’t ever remember going to a wedding that he presided over but um I remember when I was a teen he would always make you feel welcome like this is the lord's house but this is also your house and then he would say something like “ and don’t know worry if the babies start to cry as long as adults don’t cry I am okay. You dont have to stop or take them outside just let them cry, let them be kids and we are okay, we are okay with it because this is their house too.” Um so he always made you feel welcome at church. And then he got to, he got a little politically involved i don’t know it was one of the bush presidents when he went to I guess his brothers house on the east side and got to talk to him away from everything and he was just such a kind man, giving man. Very smart. My dad Ramon Legos Senior or the Second because my tata was Ramon Legos the first. Um he was friends with his older brother and sister, they were twins, Tilo and Lio Carlo.”

Marc: “oh yeah”

Ramon: “ And when they would get together I mean it was again the canino they had for each other was just , you could feel the love they had for each other. They would call each other names, they all had nicknames for each other and so it was, it was good to be exposed to all of that. So in terms of other things, I mean i don’t know. I just know that elderly people and the people that I grew up with that were my dads age, um from the neighborhood were outstanding people, I mean outstanding realms and when Moncea Carilo died and I was talking to his sister and not his sister his niece and tily we kinda commented that the neighbors arnt’ like other and that I also said something that the people who lived there before and are still there that there will always be that connection. It is like we are all family in some ways. So it was kinda like a rough

May because we lost Muche Carlia we lost Riecastro and um he might be somebody his family might be somebody you want to interview too. Um and he was another nice man. And then just another thing too, the park. We changed the name of the park and I kind of initiated it because it was Ore Park and Ore Park has a lot of historic things to it and people still call it Ore Park.

Ramon Ceorez and David Eta Park and David Eta might be somebody else you might want to interview and Ramon Ceorez.”

Marc: “ I did talk to cheno.”

Ramon: “ Yes, yes.”

Marc: “ Yes I did interview him a couple of weeks ago.”

Ramon: “ Because the older folks were all for David Eta and the younger folks didn’t know Dav but they knew Chino, so we did a compromise. And we included both of them in the change of the park. But David Eta was another person who at the park there, he encouraged the girls to go and play softball. Where before back then girls weren’t, they weren’t supposed to be doing that. They were supposed to be at home. So Dav would, he said would go in the homes and talk to the parents and would say we really need the girls to play and we are going to have this league or and he would go and ask permission and sure enough he started the women to play. And so then that whole piece of women doing other things other than just staying home, getting more involved and stuff.”

Marc: “ Can you just take me through what, what the process of getting that park name changed, as you recall it?”

Ramon: “Again, it was based on, what triggered it was the old history books. And you have to show me the ones that you have so I can give you the ones that you dont have.”

Marc: “okay.”

Ramon: “ Um, where I go to, I knew David had it when I lived in barrio hollywood. He was involved with the area council, he was involved in a lot of empowerment of the barrio empowerment of a lot of minority groups, empowerment of women um and so and he as also an artist he worked for Walt disney he kinda did and he is an actor and he’s, you could do a whole documentary on him if you wanted to and he does the cross good friday every easter and stuff and I think this last year the 50th anniversary. So, what happened what during the history part, I got to talk to Dav a little bit more um about his lifetime and then I read the little interview he had in the book and then we kinda became friends after. Well we were never really friends friends but after I changed the name of the park I became friends with his daughters and then I would take pictures of them, a lot pictures of good friday of them going up there. So, we had to survey the neighborhood and we had to have so many signatures and if you meet that criteria then it would go through the city council and then the city council would approve it. So, we got all that, we made that compromise with the younger people and so Ramon Chino and Dav, have an article where the city of tucson came and all the politicians, had a little of that recognizing them that we are changing the name of the park um but again, people still call it Ore Park the Rec center is still Ore Rec Center but the park is officially Ramon cetoz and David Eta Park.”

Marc: “ And who, do you know who was the first person who actually said hey lets change the name of the park? “

Ramon: “ I did”

Marc: “ That was you, ok.”

Ramon: “ I went into, I wanted um. He had just done so much and again Ore the guy who the Park is named after and I could be totally wrong (laughing) but I don’t know that he did it enough or the stuff that Dav did. So I would have to go back and check that but because of everything that Dav did for the community um I thought that it would be a nice way to honor him. And then you know chino as well. Chino did a lot for I guess the next generation. I don’t know if Chino was a politically involved as David was but that didnt matter. I mean he made an impact to the kids.”

Marc: “ Uh, just a second. Practical question so Is Dav eta still alive?”

Ramon: “ Yes”

Marc: “ Okay.”

Ramon: “ Yes he is still alive, he’s still um, you can still talk to him.”

Marc: “Yeah”

Ramon: “ Um, he is 94. Something like that. So if your going to talk to him you better talk to him soon.”

Marc: “Right, yes yes.

Ramon: “ His daughter Gina and Son Pat. They live here too, he lives in phoenix.

Marc: “oh ok.”

Ramon: “ But, he would come down here , if you needed him to and stuff.”

Marc: “ Yeah, okay.”

Ramon: “ He’s uh, he just did a lot for the neighborhood. A Lot for all the neighborhoods.

Marc: “ Okay, let me uh see. One last question. Did, the research that I have done it seems like there were, there was uh maybe i don’t know maybe in the 80s it seems like maybe there were

some gangs or drug problems in the neighborhood, is that your recollection? IF so how did
(laughing)

Ramon: “ (Laughing) I don’t recall them the drugs. (laughing) No pun intended. Um absolutely.
Um remember sniffing glue.

Marc: “ It comes up in the articles around that time, they would talk about that a lot.”

Ramon: “ People would walk around with rags in their mouth. Um and then there was horien.
There was a few over doses of some of the youth that I grew up with. Maybe they were older
than me. Um cocaine was rampant, um marijuana. Yeah it was, we weren’t I mean there was
something that was happening but it absolutely happened. Alcohol um I mean my family would
always have alcohol at the parties and stuff but like I said it was very rare that anybody would
get out of hand. My nana or whoever would just come out and give them that look or the uncles
would just say time for us to go or time for you to go or whatever, there was no drama. But yeah
there was a lot of alcohol too and yeah there was drugs, absolutely. Um, when I was growing up
there weren’t really if you wanna call them formal gangs. I know there was a neighborhood
made hollywood anita but it was nothing like it is or were or used to be. west side kind of stuff. I
know that when I first became chair that um that there were some gang issues. Which is another
story. There was a whole fire station in our neighborhood and our dream was to make that into a
cultural setting but we knew we couldn’t do that alone and the project would help us do that but
even before the art project the fire station was there and it was empty and the tucson indian
center approached us and said hey we would like to, can you lease us this? We could be partners,
we will provide the services we provide to our people. We can share the facilities, computer or
whatever they were gonna have there, they would share it with us. We were excited about that

possibility and were going yeah that would be cool cause then ya know we dont mind sharing if you guys dont mind sharing either. So we were all cyed about then , well then TBD cheif of police um he approached them and he wanted to a swat sub-station to have swat there. So we thought ya know because of some of the gang issues and criminal activity in our neighborhood we were going like woah, well do we want our own profit or more security? Because cops would be coming in and out of the neighborhood. It got to the point where on um one of the streets by Ore Park um people weren't even able to use that street because they kind of took it over. So people were complaining. So that was kind of the first conflict because ward one was kinda leaning towards the resident center and residents on the east were like with all the stuff that is going on maybe we need the police instead of them. We could survey the neighborhood we are small enough where we could do that. So would go to door to door, 901 fire station. 909 the indian center and so at the end we collected all the numbers, we had a meeting and we videotaped it too because we didn't want any misunderstanding and so overwhelmingly the residents want TBD to make it safer. So we told the Indian Center hey we are really sorry and they got mad they thought we were being racist and there is another article in the paper about that too. So what happened was we voted TBD in and TBD went into the fire station and made an assessment and turned the ends of the building in terms of physic-ability to use and after their assessment they said well ya know it's going to require too much money to fix it so we withdraw our proposal. We were like really (laughing). So they pulled out and the Tucson indian center was like its okay we are moving on so nothing happened to that fire station. It just stayed empty until the artist came and they used it. Until they joined the art project and they wanted to start a nonprofit with the association but by then we were so polarized that the board members resigned

and then we thought about maybe with the tucson women's center, we talked to them about maybe moving in but nothing happened and the city recommended that we knock it down because of the vestest and all the things wrong with it. So we just said eh lets knock it down and we did."

Marc: " Was there gentrification or folks who ya know or families who were selling their houses or new folks trying to come in. Do you think that's an issue that needs to be talked about or how do you feel about that. Do you think that's destroying its character or heritage or maybe or maybe not. Just curious as to what your thoughts were on that."

Ramon: " Yeah we did have some new folks but my experience was that these new folks wanted to be apart of the neighborhood. They wanted to help and maintain any character we had during my time as a chair i don't recall anybody that were just we just said re it kind of became a racial thing. I don't think that was, for me it wasn't an issue and it wasn't like they tried to take over or tried to, what i saw they wanted to be part of not something else. There is a lot of new neighbors but since I'm not involved now. For me it wasn't much of an issue back then Im not sure to be honest with you. Some of the people that did move in were really cool and they contributed to our activities to our thought process to make things better, they werent and some of them were very smart and they brought different experiences so we were like ok that makes sense and for us and the board , the initial board . We had two angular markets and two hispanics and um we all got along pretty well. It wasn't, I didn't see it as a problem I knew people talked about it but when I was doing all the organization process it wasn't an issue at all."

Marc: " I anything you want to say that you didn't get to say?"

Ramon: “Um, I am glad that you are kind of doing this because one of the goals of the moral project was to continue the history project to continue the oral history project books to continue summer youth employment and it was all about the same ability um voices did it downtown, advice people walking i forget exactly what they did but the advice poeple walking downtown and everybody has those photos. I have one of my mom and dad walking downtown with my older sister. And so if you can continue to gather historical photos or interviews and be created into a public history would be great in addition to what we have already. Um that was our whole goal cause that was we, we only interviewed not that many people, so the whole purpose of the art project was to continue to gather these stories these photos um to enhance our knowledge of ourselves and for the city of tucson to have in archives and it got lost in that whole process. So anything that you can do to enhance that or bring it back to some degree. After you do all of this and if people come with photos and I can share photos with you too. Anything I can do in that respect please let me know, there are alot of families you didn’t get to talk to, we kinda wanted to do it in a systematic way because people moved out and people that were still there, well who moved out and cause people all knew each to her and it would have been really great to continue that legacy that education of ourselves, its not. So thank you for doing what you are doing and if I can be of any service to you.”

Marc: “ Thank you for your opennness and your willingness to help.”

Ramon: “ Yeah I got a ton of historic photos,”

Marc: “ We will have to make a trip to your house to capture some of that.”

Ramon: “ Just let me, I need to know exactly what you want, what you are looking for because I got a bunch regarding different things. I have newspaper articles about some of the things the

association did but there is also articles or old newspapers and it would nice for cause I know that I was trying to clean and get organized and I found a picture of a lady and I forget what they called her but she's somebody's great grandmother I mean i don't know who the lady is but if you could publicize it somehow and someone goes " Hey! that's my tata" or hey that's my nana thats what happened to it. With the books I would get phone calls saying hey do you know who the catcher is of the ore Park tigers , that was my dad or that was my grandfather. And I was going woah, cool. So that piece is really cool, if you are tell me specifically what you are looking for i'll do my best to find it.

Marc: "okay"

Ramon: " But I do have a lot of photos and different things."

Marc: " Great, great yeah I think were the is another video media person and then we have um a scenic designer, visual artist kind of like 3D art type person and a woman that works with spoken futures which is like youth poetry writing organization so we are going to meet with folks tomorrow at the meeting and then I think our next step is to try to start thinking about what kind of photos do we want to get and things like that so once we have sense and once we have meet with enough folks and started to get a sense of direction for sure to contact you and see about getting some images ya know."

Ramon: " And I didnt categorize them either I mean I just have them all over the place but um maybe if there is categories of things because I know when Regena carrie another person to talk to she organized the original history center and Ore Park and looking into the west side I don't know something about her talking um she kinda has an idea of how to structure all of that stuff in

terms of all our history and that might give you some structure ideas or how to move forward with that. See if i can help others with the campaign, cause time is the issue.”

Marc: “ Are you retired right now?”

Ramon: “ No, actually it’s funny that you say that did I give it away was it my beard (laughing).

Its funny you said that because um if I wanted to retire I would have to turn everything in like yesterday cause I wanted to retire in July which is like next week but I don’t know if I’m going to make it.”

Marc: “ Where do you work at?”

Ramon: “ I work at Santa clanta elementary school, I am there school counselor. I’ve been in education for like 20 -25 years, human services all my life and then I was the chair for like 10 years, I was a chair for the west side coalition too. We did a lot of work with TBD, some people in the neighborhood didn’t like me cause I was working with law enforcement but most of the neighbors liked me it was just that few that didn’t. I’m not retired yet but Im thinking im not going to retire and that I’ll wait until next year. I just kind of decided that last week so.”

Marc: “ Well I appreciate you talking to us and thank you.”

I found minutes 7 - 9 the most interesting, the stories about ghosts and religion.