

## ***Brava Breaths Palabra***

Mural by Agana, 2020

The artistic vision for the two-story mural along Brava's front façade is: home, a nurturing hub, a mother to the mission, guiding San Francisco's performing artists, welcoming all generations and walks of life, may these entrances be the doors for known and new artists to explore intersections of identities as a form of liberation.

As lead artist of the crew TDK and the all-female artist collective [Few and Far Women](#), I painted this mural with intentions of continuing to open new doors for activists and artists of la misión hasta el mundo entero.

As a cultural worker, muralist, mother of two children under two years old, creating art that brings life is a part of my greater Bay Area experience as a Venezuelan Chicana Chingona Artista y Activista.

The birth of a mural, dedicated to our brothers, sisters, and non-binary gente, is a growing baby embedded in the rich history and herstory that is el corazon de la mission.

Smash the patriarchy is the theme that inspired me to create the mural's imagery; a call to action intended to shift cultural norms.

Patriarchy is a social system in which power is held in the hands of few, favoring men through cultural norms and customs while withholding opportunity from women.

The strong warriors that you see before you are creating calls to action with their giant Palabra symbols resonating with mother earth as the first artist and creator.

The pair of pillars are guardians of the entrance as spirits living among us, nurturing, giving us life, holding up the dreams of the unique and diverse community that is la mission.

Standing in front to the left one can see Ixel, the Mayan fertility spirit, guarding the entrances between life, death and birth; to the right one can see the Hopi Kachina corn spirit planting seeds of resistance. These are charging stations, serve as portals, pillars of humanity telling stories if you listen from the ancestors and protectors.

The pair of quotes on this mural near the box office window read:

"We have to talk about liberating our minds as well as liberating society" - Angela Davis

"You are assigned to inspire." - Angela Davis

The leaves, flower, plants and seeds are a reminder that we are all symbolic seeds of growth and liberation, the Brava theatre is a creative conduit and Chanel for liberating society as artists performers and activists.

We are assigned to plant our thoughts and ideas as seeds without holding back the magic and power to make the mundane sacred again by using maíz not as gmo, fructose, modified corn starch but as the vía of keeping our recipes and traditions alive through the tortilla, pupusa, arepa, cahapa, y tamal ect. ect.

Appreciations to the special guest artists who creatively contributed to the mural including a heavy hitter line up of Shishi Madriz, Toons One, Sonia G and Josue Rojas Art.

The hope of this mural is to celebrate the mission murals that have come before, to continue to create future murals for the next generations, and to connect new mural artists from Brava to the world.

All the walls built around us are made to separate us, but when we tell our stories – speak our truths – they bring us together and make us sacred and connected.

#### Lead Artist Info & Social Media:

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