

Ruby Naranjo



Montgomery Waller Park is a park in my community. This airplane wing is to honor John J. Montgomery and his glider flights in the 1880s in this land. The funny thing is everyone knows this park as “el parque de la ala” (the park with the wing) and not really the actual name. It gets funnier, there is another park called Silver Wing Park that does not have a wing, so many people naturally get confused by the parks. This park is known mostly because many kids participate in recreational sports here. This is where I played soccer and did gymnastics. It surely is a part of many kids’ childhood.



I had to take a picture while in the car, every time I pass by this, I think of my childhood. Every Friday we would go down to Tijuana with our family. My aunt would always have delicious food ready for everyone. After eating we would play soccer, hide and seek, tag, marbles, or loteria.



My favorite high school tradition, giving and receiving senior pictures. It was nice to see everyone dressed up and hair done. The cool thing about it was that it wasn't all looks, in the back of each picture, there is a note. Everyone took the time to write a unique note for each person they would give a picture to. 8 years have passed, and I still have mine, and I can still read those notes and hear my friends' voices even if we are not close anymore.



I grew up practicing the Catholic faith and although I don't practice it anymore, I do have to say that they have some beautiful traditions. This day is the day of the virgin Mary, celebrated in December. Women and men dress in cultural clothing displaying the Mexican culture and colors of the flag. Hair gets braided and makeup is colorful. This day to me is also another day to get together with the family and enjoy being together while enjoying traditional food.



When thinking about culture, it starts con mi Pa Juan and mi Ma Elisa, my grandparents. They taught us the importance of family and taught us through tradition. In this photo they are sitting on a bench that my grandpa built while enjoying a paleta, one of my favorite desserts.



Another big tradition that represents me is the quinceañera. Not going to lie, this was such a weird day for me because I had to do a lot of things that made me uncomfortable, like dancing in front of people and taking photos in a cheesy pose. Random fact, I didn't want to have it but being the oldest daughter and granddaughter, my family did not accept no for an answer.



I played soccer for about 13 years. This picture really represents how a long weekend looks for a soccer player. Long weekends usually meant tournaments. Tournaments were usually two or three days long and each team played two games each day. This is my team in between games, just trying to rest and have a little fun at the same time.



May 2017, the year I graduated with my BSW. This is such an important date for my unique culture. I became the first in my family to graduate with a bachelor's degree. My dad and mom did not receive an education and yet help me throughout mine, it is mind blowing to me.



Meet Josue. This is a special photo for me. You can see fear and happiness. The only thing I have ever asked my older brothers for is to have kids so I can have nephews and nieces. This is my first nephew and only, my begging hasn't really worked. The reason I like this photo though is because it's finally me hugging my nephew, but I am so scared of hugging him and dropping him. Although, I enjoy being around kids, babies are a whole different story. I have made a rule for myself that I will only carry them until I know for sure that they can keep their heads up on their own.



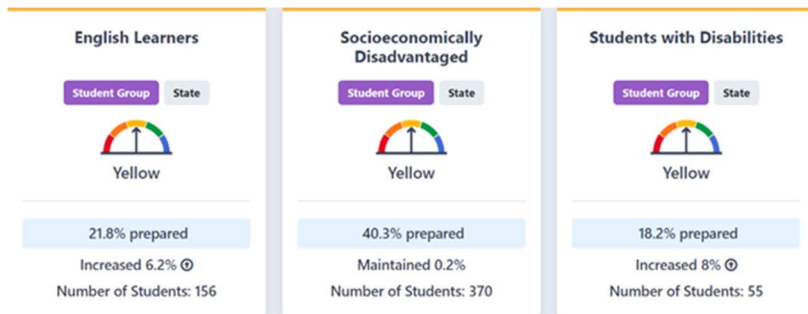
Family. He we are in my dad's tiny apartment during Christmas. My dad lives in Tijuana, he got deported when I was in middle school. That caused my family to shift in roles, my mom went from being a stay at home mom to working two jobs. My two oldest brothers took on the role of being providers. Although there were so many negative effects, a positive one is that we became



My community does have a few parks though I think you can never have enough parks. A need that I have thought about for a while now is the need of recreation activities. This is such a small building in our community park, they do have a few activities but something I would like to see is for recreation buildings to be expanded to have more activities.



Last year, the lights in this street were out for the whole wintertime. I always went into the city page to send in a notice and emailed my councilmembers regarding the streetlights. I have noticed that streetlights take a while to fix, but I kept being that annoying person because this street is long and narrow near many apartments. People leave their cars parked on the street because of the lack of parking in their apartment complex. Without the lights this street was very dark and did not feel safe.



When thinking about community needs, school came into mind. These charts show that the percentage of students that are ready for college, which is pretty low number considering that 70% of the population is socioeconomically disadvantaged and 27% are English learners.



This is the street where I live. I purposely wanted all the cars to show because they represent the number of adults or families living in one house. Affordable housing is hard to find so families are starting to rent rooms or live together to afford to pay their mortgages and keep their homes.



Around my house, we have a couple of different plazas, something I will for sure find are fast food restaurant. We are currently having one of our plazas remodeled and they have been adding more buildings to it, those buildings will have yet more fast-food restaurants. In these same plazas, only one has a Vons that offers vegetables and fruits. I have noticed that