



BuddingArtists

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DISCOVERING HOME

AT LYNWOOD PARK

DESCUBRIENDO NUESTRO HOGAR EN LYNWOOD PARK

Written By/Escrito Por Liz Coursey & Gloria D. Martinez

Illustrated By/ Ilustrado Por Danielle Lawson



A BUDDING ARTISTS PUBLICATION

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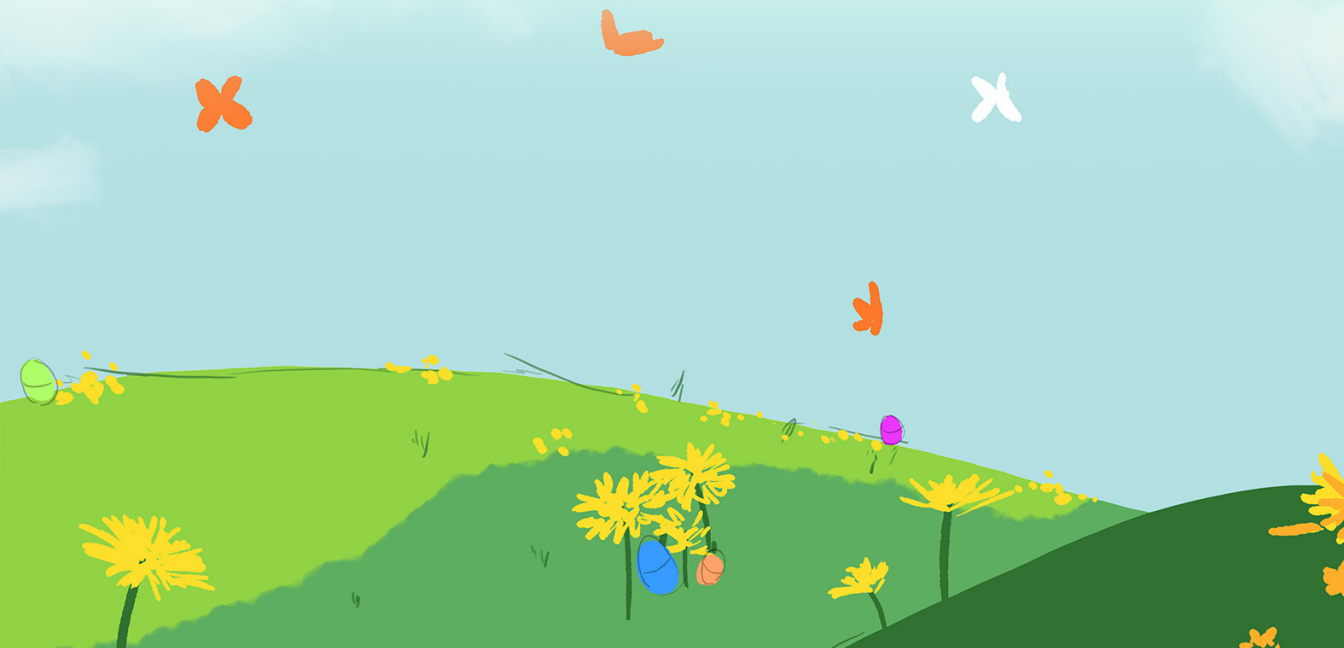
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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to all the past, present, and future children from the City of Lynwood and beyond who are making memories that will turn into history.

Este libro está dedicado a todos los niños y niñas del pasado, presente y futuro de Lynwood y más allá que están creando recuerdos y en turno, formando nuestra historia.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the intergenerational tapestry of community members from the City of Lynwood and beyond, who shared their Lynwood Park stories with us.

Path of Pages was funded in part by the Victor Gabriel Estrada Foundation and the California Arts Council. The Victor Gabriel Estrada Foundation was created to honor the life of Victor Gabriel Estrada who passed away in 2022. Victor dreamed of leaving a legacy for young children to understand and appreciate the interdimensional value of the arts. His legacy will live on through our Path of Pages Initiative. Culture is the strongest signifier of California's identity. As a state agency, the California Arts Council supports local arts infrastructure and programming statewide through grants, programs, and services.

Gracias a los miembros de la comunidad de la ciudad de Lynwood y más allá, que compartieron sus historias de Lynwood Park con nosotros.

Path of Pages fue financiado en parte por la Fundación Víctor Gabriel Estrada y el Consejo de las Artes de California. La Fundación Víctor Gabriel Estrada fue creada para honrar la vida de Víctor Gabriel Estrada, quien falleció en 2022. Víctor soñaba con dejar un legado para que los niños pequeños comprendan y aprecien el valor interdimensional de las artes. Su legado vivirá a través de nuestra iniciativa Path of Pages. La cultura es el signo más fuerte de la identidad de California. Como agencia estatal, el Consejo de las Artes de California apoya la programación y la infraestructura de las artes locales en



The sun is out, a new day for
us to explore and play

Look at that hill! Do you want
to come with me and roll
away?

El sol ha salido, un nuevo día
para jugar y explorar

¡Mira esa loma! Ven conmigo,
vamos a rodar



That was fun, what else can we do?

Let's race down the slide or swing to the sky... uh-oh, I need to tie my shoe!



¡Que divertido! ¿Qué más podemos hacer?

Deslicemos por la resbaladilla o hacia el cielo columpiamos...

¡Uh-oh, necesito amarrar mi zapato para no caer!



Do you want to shoot some hoops or join the tennis match?
Maybe kick the ball around or play some catch?

¿Quieres jugar baloncesto o un partido de tenis disfrutar?
¿Tal vez patear la pelota o un poco de béisbol jugar?




Flowers are in bloom; their
scent is in the air

Birds, butterflies, and bees
flying everywhere

Las flores están floreciendo;
Su aroma en el aire está

Y por el cielo vuelan las
aves, las mariposas y abejas
con gran felicidad





But let's hurry, I hear the egg
hunt starting!

Look closely, spot the pops of
color in the grass, hiding.

¡Pero vamos, que la
búsqueda de huevos
comienza!

Puedes ver los colores
escondidos en el pasto, si
miras cerca

The warm summer air brings even more fun
What do you think we'll get to do with everyone?

El calor del verano nos trae aún más diversiones
¿Qué haremos juntos durante nuestras vacaciones?





It feels like an oven, let's race to
the shade

But first drink your water and
make sure to hydrate

Se siente como un horno, a la
sombra hay que correr

Pero primero toma agua para
hidratar la sed

Our summer camp leaders are friendly and cool
Would they take us to make a big splash in the pool?

Amables y geniales, nuestros líderes de campamento son
¿Crees que a la piscina nos lleven, para darnos un chapuzón?





Whatever we do it's a perfect day
For ice cream, movies, and bouncing away

Sea lo que sea, es un día perfecto
Para helados, películas y brincotear un tiempo



**Sparkling fairy dust bursting and shimmering up in the sky
A magical moment with the people we care by our side**

**En el cielo oscuro, polvo de hadas estallando y brillando
Un momento mágico con nuestros seres queridos disfrutando**

Good morning birds, good
morning trees,

Good morning changing
autumn leaves!

Buenos días pajaritos, buenos
días arbolitos .

¡Buenos días hojitas de varios
colorcitos!





Pack your wheels, we'll zoom down ramps
When we fall, we'll rise like champs!

Agarra tu patineta para deslizarnos por las rampas
¡Y cuando por accidente caigas, como campeón te levantas!

As night comes and daylight fades away
Spooky ghosts and scary bones and witches come to play!

Cuando llega la noche y la luz del día se va
Los fantasmas espantosos, esqueletos temblorosos y las brujas
salen a jugar



At the "ofrenda" the marigolds bloom
We honor our loved ones who left too soon

Las cempasúchil en las ofrendas nos recuerdan
de los que pronto se han ido y quisiéramos que vuelvan



When community gathers, the park fills with love's delight
So let's give thanks for those we have this night

El parque se llena de amor al reunirse la comunidad
¡Por los que con nosotros están, gracias tenemos que dar!



Anyone at any age can venture through the park
A simple walk or playful games, all journeys to embark


Cualquier persona de cualquier edad, el parque puede aventurar
El recorrer de los caminos o juegos divertidos, experiencias para
recordar



We come together when it matter most
In times of celebration, birthday parties, or a holiday toast

Y los momentos que más importan, los compartimos juntos
Sean fiestas, celebraciones, cumpleaños o triunfos





Can you believe it? In our
sunny city we get to play
with snow!

A winter wonderland just
for us, makes my heart glow

¿Puedes creer que en
nuestra ciudad tan soleada
podemos jugar en la nieve?

Una maravilla invernal tan
solo para nosotros, hace que
mi corazón brille

Cheery sounds and dancing crowds fill the streets with delight
Festive floats and joyful bands parading by, what a sight!

Las calles repletas de murmullos alegres y gente bailando
¡Qué espectáculo! Carrozas festivas y bandas jubilosas
desfilando!





At the park we get to grow, play, learn, and explore
Want to come again tomorrow and discover more?

En el parque podemos explorar, jugar, aprender y crecer
¿Nos vemos mañana, para descubrir más y volverlo a hacer?

Nature Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Can you find...

A tree: What is its texture?



Clover flower: How does it smell?



A roly poly: What shape is it?



A cool rock: What color is it?



Monkey bars: How many do you see?



Basketball hoops: How high can you reach?



A water fountain: Don't forget to fill your bottle!



A ramp to skate on: Take a picture in front of the skate park



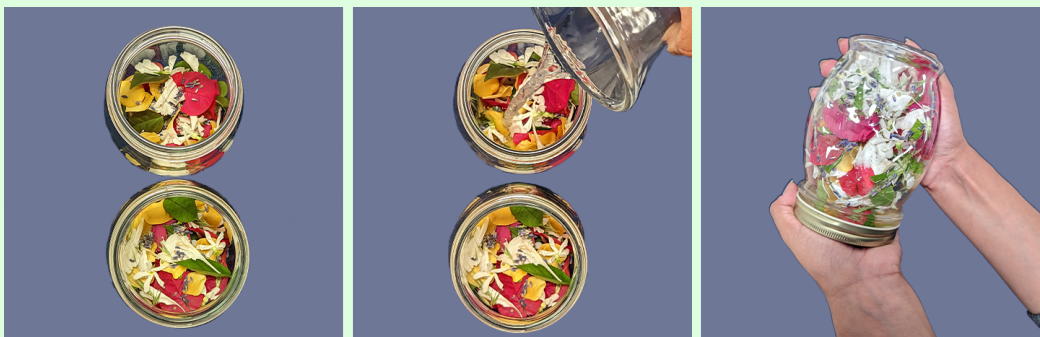
Flower/Herb 'Snowglobes'

supplies

- fresh flowers
- fresh herbs
- glass jar
- water

instructions

- gather fresh flowers and herbs
- fill glass jar with your gatherings
- fill jar with water
- swirl them around and watch your flowers and herbs dance!



Glossary

Bloom (Noun) the state or time of being in blossom; (verb) to produce flowers.

Cempasúchil (noun) is the name given to the marigold flowers native to Mexico. The name of the cempasúchil flower comes from the Nahuatl "cempowalxochitl," "cempowale" which means twenty or many, and "xochitl", which means flower, thus translating its name to flower of twenty/many petals.

Community (noun) a group of people who live close together or have shared interests; all the plants and animals that live together in the same area

Explore (verb) to travel across or through in order to discover or search for something; to look at (something) in a careful way to learn more about it

Hydrate (verb) To hydrate is to add or absorb water. It's hot outside — don't forget to hydrate by drinking plenty of water!

Ofrenda (Noun) An ofrenda (Spanish: "offering") is a collection of objects placed on a display during the annual and traditionally Mexican Día de Muertos celebration. An ofrenda, which can be large is usually created for an individual person who has died and is intended to welcome them. They are filled with the deceased personal objects, picture of the person and food.

Venture (verb) To set forth; To have the courage to go forward.



Founded in 2018, Budding Artists was established by artist and educator Dakota McMahand-Owens, as a grassroots arts education nonprofit in Southeast Los Angeles. Budding Artists is focused on stimulating a more inclusive and creative global society by providing transformative, intergenerational, and process-focused art experiences for pre-kindergarten children and their families in under-resourced communities. Since its establishment, Budding Artists has served over 10,000 children and families with free arts programming, which includes the creation of several community murals. Budding Artists was awarded 2022 California Nonprofit of the Year in Assembly District 63 by State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon and has been featured in various media outlets including PBS-SoCal.

To learn more about Budding Artists, please visit www.budding-artists.org.



Dakota McMahand-Owens is a classically trained pianist who has spent her life merging arts education and activism to create social change on a grassroots level. Having been personally impacted by the transformative power of the arts, she knows it cultivates creative expression, supports relationship building, and nurtures social-emotional healing.

She is a first-generation college graduate with more than ten years of experience working in the community arts space. In 2023, she was named Women of Distinction for Senate District 33 by Senator Lena Gonzalez. Dakota earned her Bachelor of

Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies from California Baptist University, and a Master of Arts in Education Administration from the University of South Dakota. She also holds a Community Teaching Artist certificate from California State University, Los Angeles and is a trained facilitator for Social Emotional Arts on a Shoestring from UCLArts and Healing. Dakota loves spending time with her husband Phoenix and their feisty rescue cat, Anjuna.



Next Chapter Program and Path of Pages Initiative

Budding Artists' Next Chapter program was created in early 2019 as a way to promote literary arts and address Word Gap, which adversely affects communities of color. According to several research studies, children of color have been identified as being exposed to an average of 25 to 30 million less words than their white counterparts. Children learn best from speech directed from their caregiver. Given that language is the currency of education as it directly relates to a variety of trajectories in life including income, healthcare outcomes, and graduation rates, our Next Chapter program is solely focused on providing young children with new STEAM-related books. When caregivers spend time reading with their children, it sparks their imagination, develops early literacy skills, children learn the value of storytelling, and children learn to appreciate cultures. We have discovered that our Next Chapter program not only brings caregivers together by increasing their quality time with their child, it also brings entire families together. Through our program, we have provided over 2,500 families with new books.

One subset of the Next Chapter program is our new initiative called Path of Pages which is focused on creating and sharing stories related to our immediate community's history, to engage families while they explore the local natural environment through storytelling and illustration, effectively curating parks with beautiful prints from these stories creating visual art galleries in nature.



Meeting the Team



Dakota McMahand-Owens, Project Director



Danielle Lawson, Illustrator

Danielle Lawson is a Concept Artist and Designer from South Los Angeles, CA who finds passion in creating exceptional artistry from just a minute idea. Danielle's talents (cultivated from studying at Otis College of Art & Design) have led her to work in the entertainment industry for over 8 years with companies like Cartoon Network, Discovery, Fashion Nova and many more. In addition to that, she is a visionary and now CEO of her own creative art agency, Art Matters Collective.



Gloria D. Martinez, Writer

Gloria is a Lynwood, CA native with a heart for community involvement, poetry and the arts. She is passionate about serving as a board member for Budding Artists, where she gets to enrich the lives of children in her community through process-based arts programming that this grassroots organization offers. Volunteering her time with Budding Artists has brought a deep sense of fulfillment and purpose to both her and her 11 year old son, Camilo. In her free time, she enjoys sharing her original spoken word poetry in which she explores themes of childhood wonders, parenting epiphanies, and self-discovery. Through her work, she seeks to inspire and invite others to share of themselves despite their fears.



Liz Coursey, Writer

Liz is a Lynwood, CA native and is excited to support the mission of Budding Artists as a board member and an advocate for children of all ages to have access to free art education. Her first art history class at Lynwood High School propelled her on the path to pursue a life full of art. She holds a Bachelors of Arts in Art History and has worked with the Downey Arts Coalition, Denver Art Museum and Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, CA. Liz taps into her own creativity by collecting and building Lego sets with her husband, crocheting and occasionally playing trivia/board/RPG games with good friends.



Rowland Becerra, Historical Advisor

Rowland Becerra is an arts activist and community organizer, with a passion for advancing the rich art and history within the community in order to advance civic pride. As a Lynwood native, Becerra has been a Commissioner for over 10 years and is currently on the Public Safety and Traffic Commission and is the founder of the Lynwood Union Gallery which houses a professional historian. As founder and current president of the Lynwood Union Gallery, Becerra is dedicated to increasing civic pride through local history and art through hosting workshops, festivals, live performance, and receptions for artists in our community. He has led a number of public art and History in public spaces projects within the city of Lynwood.



Edlin Lopez and Albert Orozco, Open Walls, Exhibition Curators

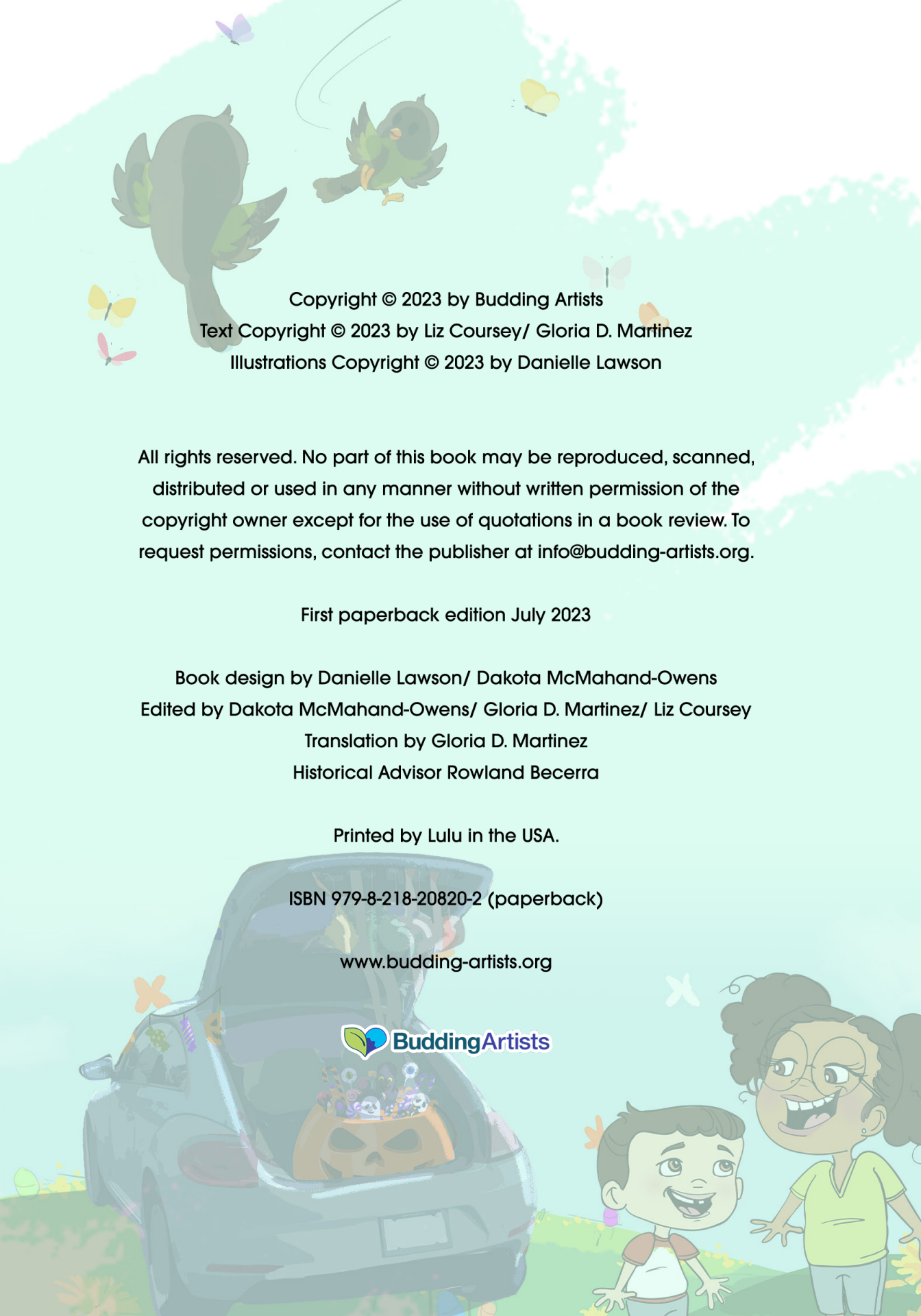
Open Walls is a studio founded on the principle of creating moments of access for creatives in the visual arts and design world. Through an intersectional use of cultural art and environmental design we curate spatial stories that reimagine the narrative of dispossessed communities. Our current practice relies on creating projects that exhibit art in unconventional environments for public audiences that go beyond the museum walls. We envision creating a platform that speaks to underrepresented artists by means of themed topics that challenge current issues in our societies. Open Walls is a grassroots organization. It is a direct response to the inequitable art practices and a vision for showcasing art for the future.



City of
LYNWOOD
California

City of Lynwood, Parks and Community Services Department

The Lynwood Recreation & Community Services Department, under the leadership of director Mark Flores, is responsible for the year-round management and programming of Lynwood's nine-park system and five community centers. The industry-leading Department's programs were an instrumental part of the City of Lynwood's national recognition as an "All America City" by the National Civic League in 2010. Recently, the Department's Ricardo Lara Linear Park has received multiple national and world recognitions for its design and environmental & social benefit elements. The Department successfully hosts over 750,000 visitors and participants each year in its scores of programs, special events and open space opportunities. The Department offers an array of traditional and innovative, on-going and accessible activities and specialty programming for all ages and abilities. The Department aims to create community through diverse and innovative programming and strategic partnerships - leading to a safer, more united and healthier community. It operates by the motto "Parks Make Life Better!"

A vibrant illustration of a green field with several birds and butterflies. A large grey bird is on the left, a smaller green bird is in the center, and a yellow butterfly is on the right. There are also several smaller butterflies in various colors (purple, yellow, pink) scattered throughout the scene.

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