

## TRANSPORTATION HUBS AND REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENTS

In the 1990's and 2000's I worked as a community activist for redevelopment of Downtown Santa Ana utilizing the fine arts as well as the Santa Ana Train Depot District. Based upon many visits to the Venice Beach Art Walk I founded the Santa Ana Artists Walk in the mid 1990's. Through consistency, this regular monthly event brought a new generation of people into the city and highlighted a forgotten historic area of Santa Ana. I opened one of the very first art galleries in downtown Santa Ana and ran it for the next 20 years showcasing a multicultural assortment of visual, performance and fashion artists enhancing the city through diversity and unique community engagement opportunities. The downtown, once dead in the evenings suddenly came alive with new art, galleries, restaurants. New residential loft spaces began to be constructed or were incorporated into the cities master plan.

I communicated consistently with the LA Times, OC Weekly and KCRW for regular news stories and artist interviews generating new interest in the city of Santa Ana. I helped open a building across the street from the Santa Ana Train Station, invited artist and initiated the first affordable income artist residency of sorts for Orange County artists. I and my co-artistic conspirators initiated many art happenings and cultural events and invited city council members, city manager and heads of the planning department to the space regularly. There, I hosted dinner and martini parties for them and new artist. Once city officials visited my loft space and became comfortable with the foreign environment it was easier to convince them about the possibilities of redevelopment for several of the city's derelict districts. I and my friends taught city officials that utilizing the arts can be a major catalyst and accelerate real estate redevelopment zones within a city and a vital tool for increasing a city's wealth and prosperity and tax base.

I took advantage of the transportation hub to bring new people into Santa Ana from San Diego and Los Angeles. The move tapped into a lucrative investor bases for the city. I have studied transportation centers extensively my whole life like the Savannah, GA Train Station Roundhouse. I am from Savannah, GA and understood these benefits at an early age of my life. To me these hubs are special objects to bring about radical transformations for a city's redevelopment if utilized correctly.



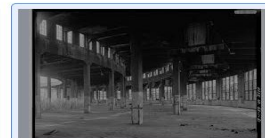
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