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Travel Stipend Recipient – 2023

I am grateful to have been awarded the travel stipend for the 2023 conference, as it was a rewarding experience to meet professionals whom are considerate, kind, and helpful to one another. The session I have chosen to review is the Moving Diego Rivera's *Pan American Unity* mural. It was extremely important for me to attend this session as the collection I am a registrar primarily collects for Chicana/o/x and Mexican art. In Chicana/o/x art, murals are part of the heavy art historical community for Mexican/Chicana populations. As the organization I work for builds its extensive collection that is considering large historical murals (not as large as this Rivera but still considerable), this session put it into perspective the precautions steps we will need to take to acquire a mural.

What was exceptionally fascinating was that the team who assessed the murals before removing them from the walls of the university used infrared vision to see each panel's stress points. Using infrared vision was something that I had not considered in regards to moving large panels for murals and will be extremely helpful in the future as our organization considers large murals for acquisition such as the *Chicano History* mural by Chicano artists Ramses Noriega, Eduardo Carrillo, Sergio Hernandez and Dr. Saul Solache in 1970. The mural measures to 16 x 22 feet and is comprised of three panels – of course, it does not compare to the massive size of *Pan American Unity* but the consideration for preventative conservation in regards to deinstallation and installation is just the same.

As I prepare further into my role as Registrar for the AltaMed Art Collection, I will be sure to use this session as a loose guideline in handling murals for acquisition and in our gallery for installation. For example, ensuring that the murals, even if they are considered to remain in one place “permanently”, to prepare a system where it *can* be removed for conservation or emergency situations – unlike the Rivera's mural, where it was thought to permanently live at the university.