

AGUA MANSA

The Old Spanish Trail Celebration at the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art



By Jim Wood, California Director and Nancy Melendez, Vice President

The Agua Mansa Chapter of the OSTA celebrated the 20th Anniversary of trail acceptance as a “National Historic Trail” on December 4th, 2022. The event, organized by OSTA Vice President Nancy Melendez, was attended by OSTA members and guests at the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art and Culture in Riverside, California. The center’s focus is on the presentation and study of Chicano art from across the United States.

Nancy Melendez and Donna Oldenkamp, OSTA member, greeted guests and gave the

Henry James Vasquez giving lecture at the 20th anniversary celebration at Cheech Marin Center.

introduction to the event. A video entitled, “Land Acknowledgment,” honoring Native inhabitants and culture was shown. Steve Lech, a prominent Riverside historian, spoke on the significance of having a national historic trail “in your own backyard.” Lech is an author and co-author of many books on related topics, including *Along the Old Roads: A History of the Portion of Southern California That Became Riverside County, 1772–1893* (2004), which is considered to be

the definitive history of the county. He leads the Riverside Historical Society.

A bi-lingual (Spanish/English) talk was given by OSTA members Henry Vasquez and Jim Wood that included interesting facts about Spanish settlements along the trail, and the Trujillo adobe cared for by the Spanish Town Heritage Foundation. There was a discussion about other local historic sites, such as the Agua Mansa Cemetery and San Bernardino de Sena Estancia, which are recognized as “sites of high potential” along the OST.

Philip Falcone, assistant to Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson, presented the mayor’s Riverside proclamation designating December 4, 2022 as “Old Spanish National Historic Trail Day.” The event received support from the OST national association and National Park Service.



Members and guests of OSTA Agua Mansa Chapter.



Nancy Melendez and Philip Falcone with Riverside Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson’s proclamation designating December 4, 2022 as “Old Spanish National Historic Trail Day.”