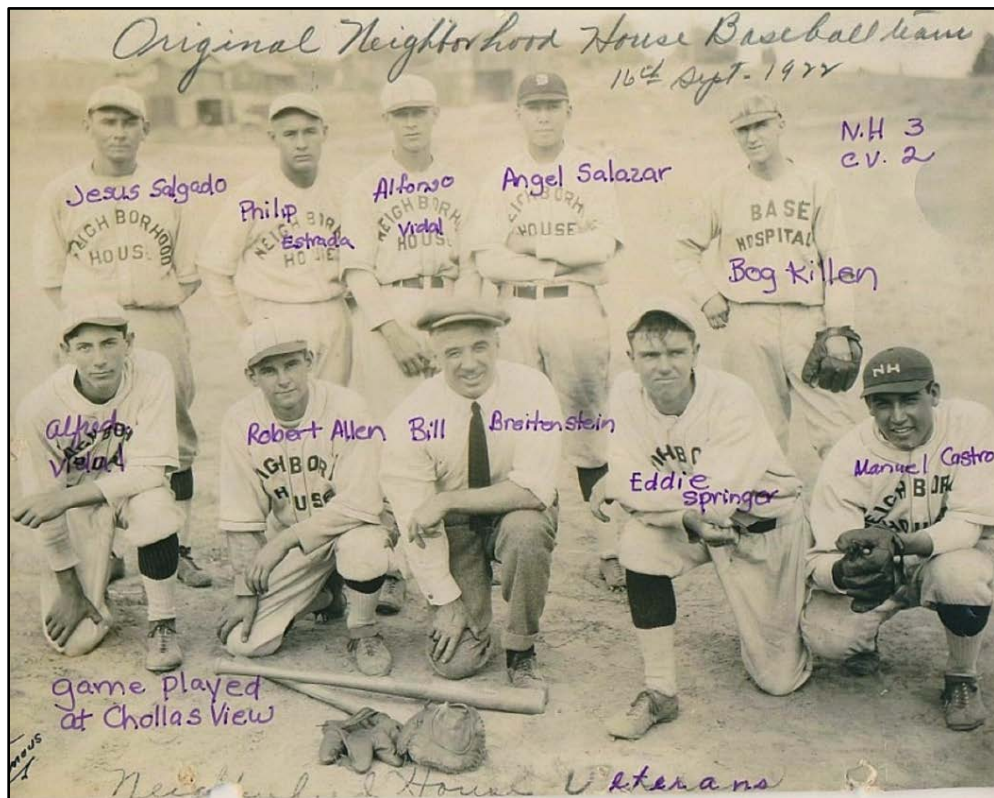


2017 GOVERNOR'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

La Neighbor: A Settlement House in Logan Heights



The book, *La Neighbor: A Settlement House in Logan Heights*, documents and preserves through oral histories, the history and contributions of the Mexican American community of Logan Heights, San Diego. Historically, this community was rarely recognized in publications or discussions about San Diego or California history. Recently, books have focused on a limited basis on the modern history of Logan Heights and Barrio Logan. *La Neighbor* focuses on the earlier period between 1914 and 1970.

Between May 5, 2014, and July 4, 2016, local author and Chicana activist Maria E. Garcia, wrote weekly articles in the San Diego Free Press about the men and women who attended the Logan Heights settlement house known as Neighborhood House between 1914 and 1970. Inspired by the oral histories chronicled in those articles, Ms. Garcia, with community support, determined to publish and preserve this Logan Heights history in book form. Through the personal stories of former and long-time Logan Heights residents, *La Neighbor* recounts the many services and programs provided at Neighborhood House that put it at the heart of the Mexican American community. It was here that people bonded together as a community, through work, play, and family life. Besides shedding light on this lesser known history of San Diego, the book provides children and grandchildren of Logan Heights families access to family histories they may not have known about previously. Mexican Americans faced discrimination in school, work, and in the greater community; *La Neighbor* recounts many of those struggles directly from the people who lived them. The book also highlights how the community of Logan Heights served the United States during World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam War.

Community connection and involvement was key to the book's creation and importance. The people interviewed often referred the author to other individuals to interview, and community organizations also helped to spread the word. One interviewee's granddaughter, a graphic artist, designed the cover of the book at no cost because she believed in the importance of the project. Another resident and member of the Logan Heights Historical Society helped to edit the book, also at no cost. *La Neighbor* became not only a published history of the Logan Heights community, but also a source of community pride. The author was told by many of the families involved with the project that the book started a dialogue within families about their past history.

Information from the book was used on the [Chicano Park Museum](#) website to explain the importance of the Neighborhood House in the Mexican American community, and to introduce Logan Heights to the greater San Diego Community. *La Neighbor: A Settlement House in Logan Heights* has preserved the proud history of one community, and in so doing, enriched the greater heritage of San Diego and California.

Learn more about the book and people of *La Neighbor*:

<https://sandiegofreepress.org/category/columns/history-of-neighborhood-house/>