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Timeless Images of Chicano Life at Los Angeles Public Library
Luis C. Garza's Photography Chronicles Activism Across Coasts

LOS ANGELES (May 1, 2025)— The Los Angeles Public Library presents **The Other Side of Memory: Photographs by Luis C. Garza**, a compelling photography exhibition capturing pivotal moments of activism and community in the 1960s and 1970s. Drawing from Garza's largely unpublished archive, the exhibition offers a powerful visual narrative of resistance, resilience, and history. It will be on view May 3-July 13, 2025, in the First Floor Galleries of the Central Library, 630 W. Fifth Street, Los Angeles.

Born in New York, Garza relocated to Los Angeles in 1965, where he became a key visual chronicler of the Chicano civil rights movement. His black-and-white silver gelatin fiber prints document historic moments on both coasts, from Young Lords Party protests and women's rights demonstrations in New York to the dynamic activism of Los Angeles communities.

"Luis Garza's photographs give voice to a vital part of our city's history that's often overlooked," said City Librarian John F. Szabo. "This exhibition aligns with our mission to preserve and share the stories that define Los Angeles, especially those rooted in justice and civic engagement."

Unlike traditional exhibitions, **The Other Side of Memory** is not organized chronologically or geographically. Instead, his photographs are presented in evocative pairings curated by Armando Durón that invite viewers to explore the layered nature of memory and untold stories within each image.

"Garza's work is both timely and timeless—reminding us how community and culture shape the fabric of Los Angeles," said Valerie Lynne Shaw, President of the Board of Library Commissioners.

To celebrate the opening, the Library will host a free public program on Saturday, May 3, 2–4:30 PM in the Mark Taper Auditorium. The afternoon begins with a screening of the award-winning short documentary *Razón de Ser: Luis C. Garza* followed by a

post-film discussion moderated by Tony Diaz of Nuestra Palabra with Garza, curator and collector Armando Durón, filmmaker Alessandro Gentile of Radium 88 Productions, and exhibit organizer Melissa Richardson Banks of CauseConnect.

After the conversation, Garza will sign copies of his photography book in the lobby, and an exhibition reception will take place in the Flora M. Thornton Courtyard.

“The Other Side of Memory offers a remarkable opportunity for Angelenos of all ages to engage with Chicano history through the lens of one of its most powerful witnesses,” said Kren Malone, Director of Central Library.

A recipient of the nation’s highest honor for library service—the National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest and most diverse urban population of any library in the nation. Its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, collection of more than eight million books, state-of-the-art technology accessible at lapl.org and thousands of public programs provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for lifelong learning.

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