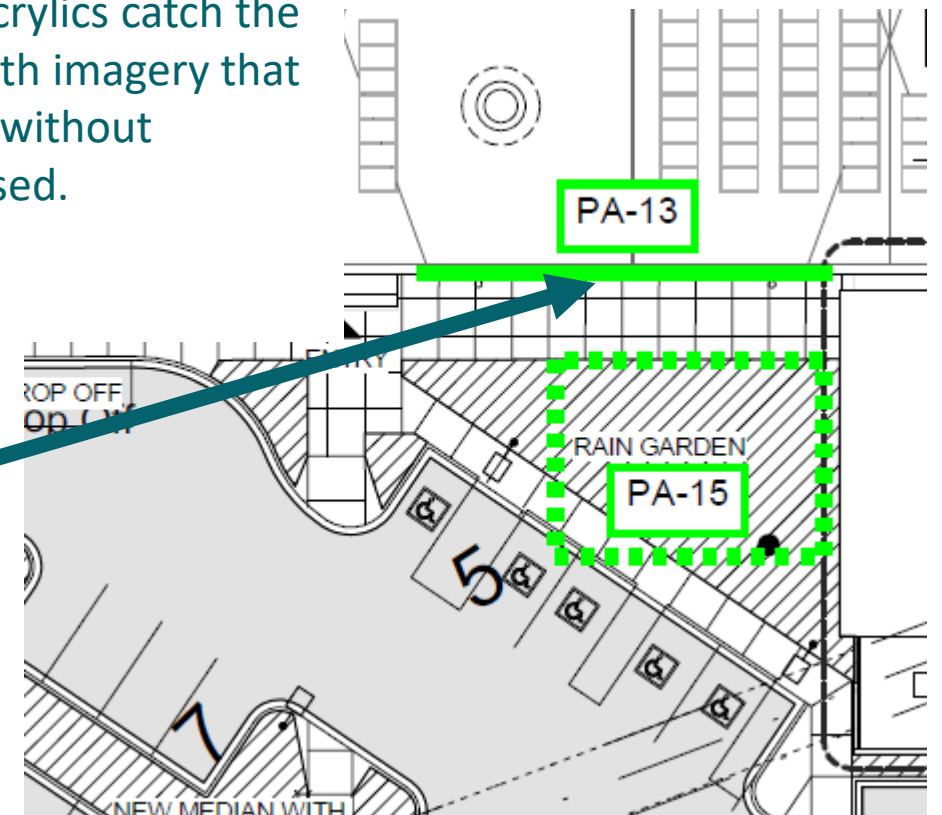
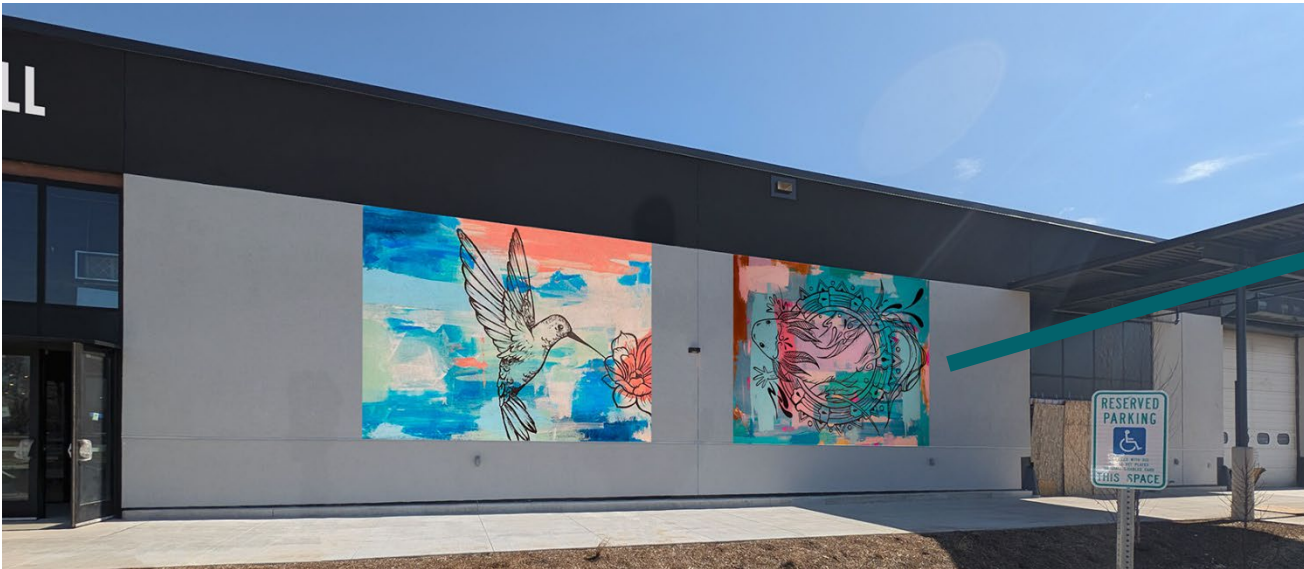


Axolotl & Alma by Issis Macias & Rodrigo Carapia

Place & Inclusivity



Issis Macias and Rodrigo Carapia began collaborating in May 2022 to showcase how a shared Mexican heritage unifies their distinct styles. Macias' abstract works speak both to and from the emotions with bold, contrasting hues. Highly textured acrylics catch the light, sparking the imagination. Carapia creates equally colorful works with imagery that celebrates the rich culture of Mexico. Each person works separately and without consultation with the other; Issis first, then Rodrigo's work is superimposed.



Recreate artworks in vinyl on Alumapanel, image is a rough mockup only

About Issis Macias

www.issismacias.com



Macias, a self-taught artist and daughter of Mexican immigrants, was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. Her creative journey is deeply rooted in the community and the diverse array of artists she has encountered throughout her life. In 2020, amid the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, Macias navigated a major career shift and the transformative experience of becoming a new mother. During this time, she turned to painting with renewed purpose—using creativity as a way to process change, find healing, and reinvent herself.

Working primarily with acrylic and oil pastels, Macias depicts life experiences, both beautiful and complex, in dynamic, colorful forms and unexpected markings transforming deeply personal themes into universal expressions. Through intuitive abstraction, she invites viewers into a sanctuary of introspection and emotional connection. Macias maintains strong creative ties to Los Angeles through artistic collaborations.

Macias was named the 2025 Latina Artist of the Year and, in 2024, received the Micaela Salinas Artist Fellowship, sponsored by Latinos Organizing for Understanding and Development. She is also a 2023–2025 Bridge Work artist at Arts + Literature Laboratory, a 2023 Forward Art Prize finalist through the Women Artists Forward Fund, and a member of the Madison Art Guild. Her work is held in private collections across the United States, Mexico, and Europe.

About Rodrigo Carapia

<https://www.instagram.com/rodri.art>



Rodrigo Carapia is a self-taught artist who originates from Mexico City, Mexico. Carapia has lived and worked in Madison for 15 years. He first began with street art, which allowed him to experiment with his art on bigger scales. When he moved to Wisconsin in 2008, he started to perfect his craft on canvas and paper. Once his brush touches the canvas, the work he portrays becomes an epitome of his rich Mexa culture. As an artist and activist, Carapia uses his work as a form of self-expression and resistance by offering art workshops in schools, juvenile shelters and juvenile correctional centers, giving the youth a form of expression and a sense of freedom. His work has been donated to grassroots organizations that help the undocumented community as well as workers' unions. His public art can be spotted around the state in murals, restaurants and shows.

In 2020, Carapia created this mural for the Downtown Street Art & Mural project funded by the Madison Arts Commission to honor the historic cultural movement occurring in downtown Madison.

Carapia's work has also been recognized by several publications and news channels including The Capital Times, Madison 365, Isthmus, Telemundo Wisconsin, La Comunidad News and the Wisconsin State Journal. In 2021, Tone Madison highlighted Carapia in the documentary short Jaguar. (Source: Rachel Werner, The Little Book Project WI)

Mural by LaFollette & Middleton Students

Place & Inclusivity



This mural was created by LaFollette & Middleton High School students under the guidance of Monique Karlen for the 2020 Downtown Street Art & Mural Project.



Approved by MAC 1/16/2025, proposing new location

