



## **MADISON/TEPATITLÁN SISTER CITY COLLABORATION PROJECT**

### **GUEST MURALIST PROPOSAL**



The newest Madison Sister City, Tepatlán de Morelos, in the State of Jalisco, Mexico, was approved by the Madison Coming Council last year. This new Sister City relationship was long overdue since Madison, and Tepatlán, through our great State Universities, The University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Centro Universitario de los Altos (CUALTOS) and the Centro Universitario del Sur (CUCSUR) of the University of Guadalajara have had a long history of collaboration. It first emerged in the 1970's when botanists and students from the University of Guadalajara discovered a long lost genetic link to ancestors of Midwestern corn. Professor and researcher from the UW-Madison Nelson Institute immediately established a partnership with the University of Guadalajara to continue research in the area on this unique finding. Eventually, a Biosphere and Research Reserve was established in Jalisco to advance environmental sound policies in the area to preserve not only this ancestral plant, but many other unique animal and plant species in the area. As a result of this collaboration a State to State relationship emerged between Wisconsin and the State of Jalisco, and a collaboration agreement was signed in 1977.

In 2005, in conjunction with a trade mission to Mexico with Governor Jim Doyle, the State to State agreement was ratified and in addition a new University of Wisconsin System and University of Guadalajara System agreement was signed. As a result of this agreement many students from Guadalajara have come to study in Wisconsin and many of our students, faculty and staff have continued collaborative projects with U de G and Tepatlán. Finally, to complete this long standing friendship, the Madison/Tepatlán Sister City collaboration was officially finalized and approved in 2012.

Last year one of our best known artists, Sharon Kilfoy, travelled to Guadalajara to paint a mural at a local elementary school. This was a very successful project that brought our two countries closer and exemplified the kinds of good will and cultural initiatives that we should support to strengthen our Sister Cities. So the Madison/Tepatlán Sister City Collaboration Committee suggested that an artistic exchange project be initiated between the two municipalities by which a renowned artist from Tepatlán would come to Madison to create a mural depicting our common history and bonds, and Sharon Kilfoy would go to Tepatlán and paint a mural celebrating and commemorating our friendship in a Tepatlán Elementary school. Renowned Jalisco and Tepatlán Muralist José Guadalupe Ríos Córdoba was chosen by the Tepatlán Mayor to come to Madison to complete the mural. José Guadalupe Ríos Córdoba is a well known artist that has completed many murals in Mexico. Last year he was chosen to paint the Mural commemorating the Bicentennial of Tepatlán, a very important task that is a historical tradition in cities and municipalities throughout Mexico. His art is reminiscent and follows the artistic traditions of the great Mexican Muralists Diego Rivera and José Clemente Orozco, both native sons of Jalisco.

It is thus a great honor to recommend Prof. Jose Guadalupe Ríos Córdoba to bring his art to Madison and leave with us this incredible legacy of friendship for posterity.

