

DENVER CITY COUNCIL

LUCKY DISTRICT 7

Councilman Jolon Clark

WWW.LUCKYDISTRICT7.ORG



25 South Bryant Street Pocket Park

Updating & Naming Process
July 13, 2022

City & County of Denver's
Official Land Acknowledgement Statement



Introduced by City Councilwoman, District 3, Jamie Torres and ratified on October 12, 2020, the land acknowledgement states:

“The Denver City Council honors and acknowledges that the land on which we reside is the traditional territory of the Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapaho Peoples.

We also recognize the 48 contemporary tribal nations that are historically tied to the lands that make up the state of Colorado. We honor Elders past, present, and future, and those who have stewarded this land throughout generations.

We also recognize that government, academic and cultural institutions were founded upon and continue to enact exclusions and erasures of Indigenous Peoples.

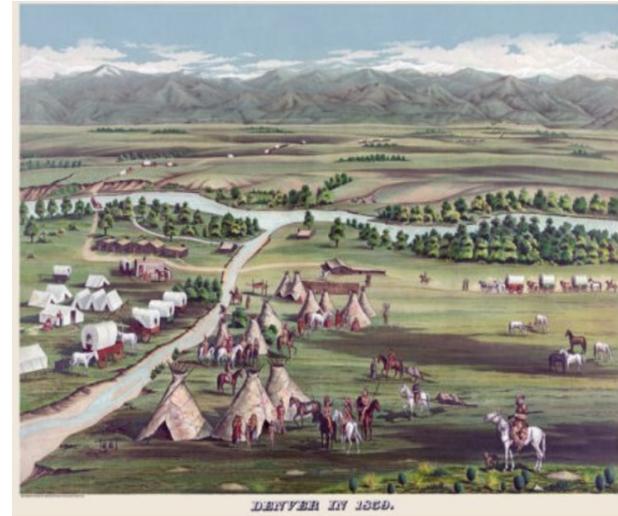
May this acknowledgement demonstrate a commitment to working to dismantle ongoing legacies of oppression and inequities and recognize the current and future contributions of Indigenous communities in Denver.”

Where is the 25 South Bryant Street Pocket Park Located?



In the Valverde neighborhood at
Bryant and Ellsworth

What the park looks like today



(Photo: Denver in 1859 near the Platte River)
On formerly Indigenous land

History

- **Cultural Vitality & Diversity:** Although highway development and industrial expansion took a toll on the neighborhoods' health and wealth, Valverde's Latinx population expanded from 11% in 1960 to 62% in 1990, part of a trend of larger trend in west and Southwest Denver.
- **Chicano + Chicana Civil Rights Movement:** By the late 60s and 70s, Denver became central to the growing Chicano/Chicana Rights Movement during this time to disrupt oppressive policies and to create infrastructure supporting health and well-being.
- **1978 Vietnamese Cultural Vitality:** In 1978, Henry Tuoc V. Pham, a noted Vietnamese educator and author, joined Denver Public Schools in 1978 as a tutor at Rishel. Not only did he support students in learning English, he also supported his students and their communities by organizing the Hmong New Year and Vietnamese New Year celebrations.
- **1991 Valverde Neighborhood Plan:** Neighborhood residents worked with city planners to develop the 1991 Valverde Neighborhood Plan, establishing a general vision and key land use and policy recommendations. The plan emphasized improving connections to the Platte River through greenways supporting hike and bike routes.
- **2016 Valverde Neighborhood Association reestablished as 501(c)3:** We're an organization for and by neighbors who are leading passion projects, which includes the naming of the park at 100 South Bryant Street.
- **2019 - in progress - West Area Neighborhood Plan:** The plan for neighborhoods of West Colfax, Villa Park, Sun Valley, Barnum, Barnum West and Valverde provides a vision and policy guidance for the next 20 years. The naming of 100 South Bryant Street Park is a transformational project.

Context: Background/Situational Analysis



Only 2% significant spaces and parks have a cultural name in Denver right now



The park hasn't been named in 31 years

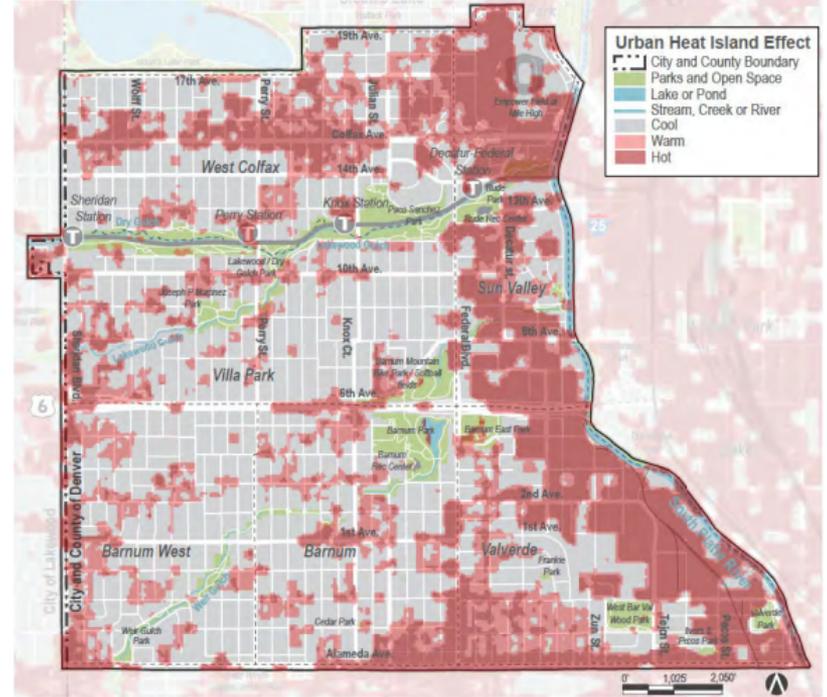


Naming the park creates belonging and pride in the community and encourages others to tell their stories



Naming the park is a spoke on the wheel and sets a precedent in an ecosystem of projects bringing needed updates to the Valverde neighborhood

URBAN HEAT ISLAND



Community Building Spurred the Renaming Effort for the Pocket Park



Park Renaming Outreach

- Story Circles activities held at Valverde Fest
- 27 people who participated in story circles
- + 40 of story cards completed
- 7 people said they would be willing to share their story via the recent survey

Pop Up Events



- Summer Cleanup
- Mobility Event
- Park Naming Outreach
- Fall Tree Planting

Some Results from the Park Naming Survey

RECLAIMING ONE OF VALVERDE'S POCKET PARKS: "ULIBARRI PARK"



WHO?

The Valverde Neighborhood Association in collaboration with the Valverde Movement Project invites you to join our campaign to give the pocket park at 100 S. Bryant Street a new name: Ulibarri Park, which means "New Village"

WHY?

In Denver, 98% of historic landmarks are named after white historic figures. Naming this park with a Latinx family name offers a sense of identity for underrepresented Latinx communities in Valverde



HOW?

Get involved by responding to this brief survey: bit.ly/NameThePark; scanning the QR code; or contacting Evon Lopez directly at #720.695.7784 or evon.lopez@csuglobal.edu

43 neighbors have responded to the survey. Here's a table on responses regarding what neighbors would like to see in the park:

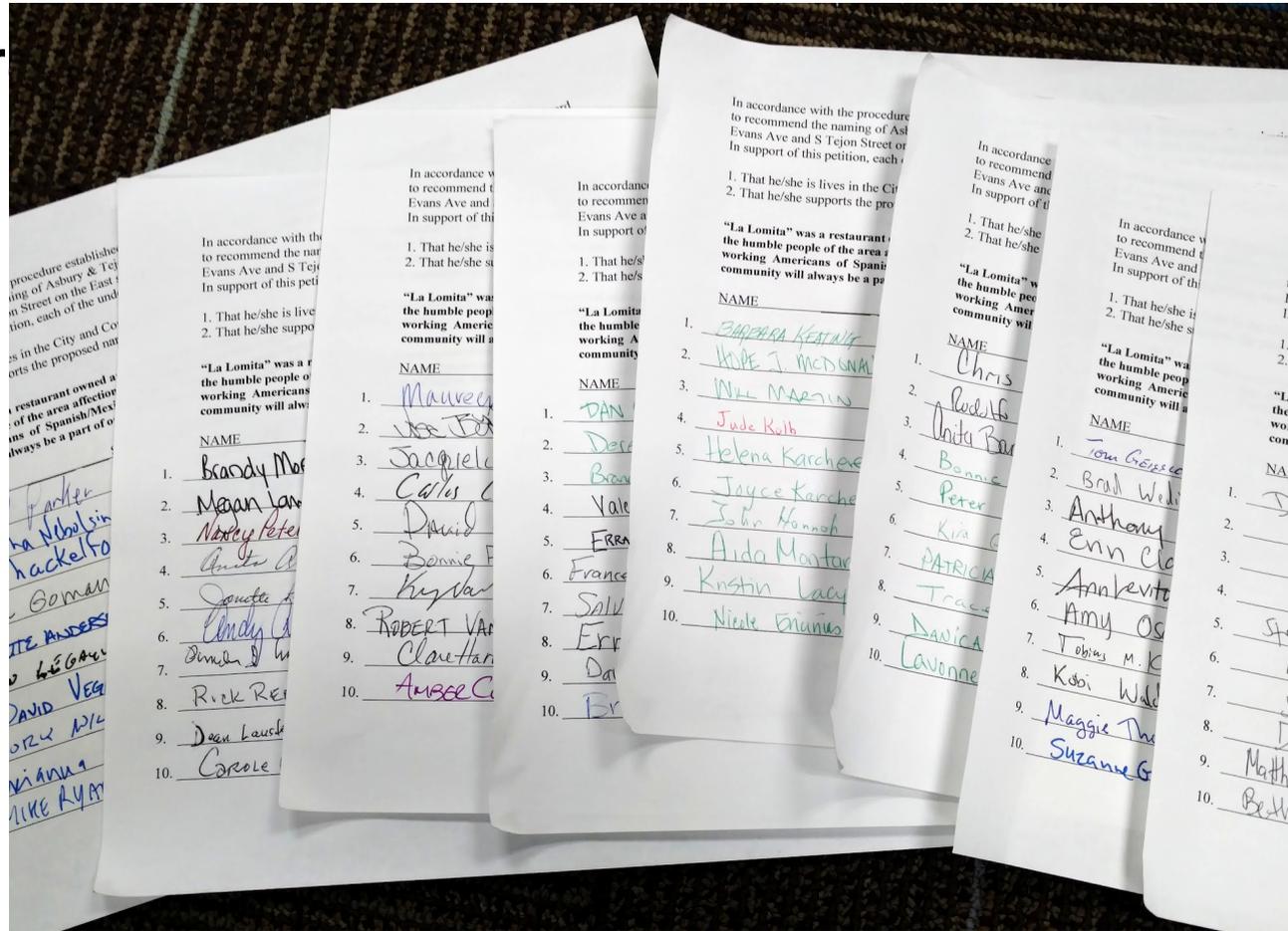
Art	Signs	Pollinator	Garden	Playground	Benches	Tables	Other
28	14	30	30	24	30	29	2

Petition Signatures

Collected more than
365 Signatures

45 letters of support!

From: neighbors,
community members, and
family.



Valverde's Pocket Parks "Ulibarri Park"

Valverde Neighborhood Association (VNA) is excited to continue its community-building and creative place-making efforts through a campaign to give the pocket park at 25 South Bryant Street a new name: Ulibarri Park, which means "new village" in Spanish. VNA trusts that by sharing and documenting stories of the Ulibarri's legacy, other neighbors will also find inspiration to share the stories of additional "unsung heroes" and important, yet overlooked, community-building efforts.

Memorializing and naming this unnamed pocket park as "Ulibarri Park" will ensure that the legacy of this family and the legacy of the people they spent their whole lives serving are never forgotten and remain a part of our great city where everyone matters.

Ulibarri Park: Mission & Vision

- To name the pocket park at Bryant and Ellsworth in Valverde “Ulibarri,”
- In a way that:
 - honors the legacy of unsung neighborhood heroes,
 - inspires neighbors to share their own stories,
 - cultivates a sense of belonging in a diverse neighborhood,
 - fulfills on broken promises in the past, and
 - inspires current and future generations of neighbors to come together to build a “new village.”
- So that one day, Valverde will once again be known as a green valley, where all may enjoy life, liberty, and prosperity for generations to come.

Family Legacy

Elaine Ulibarri

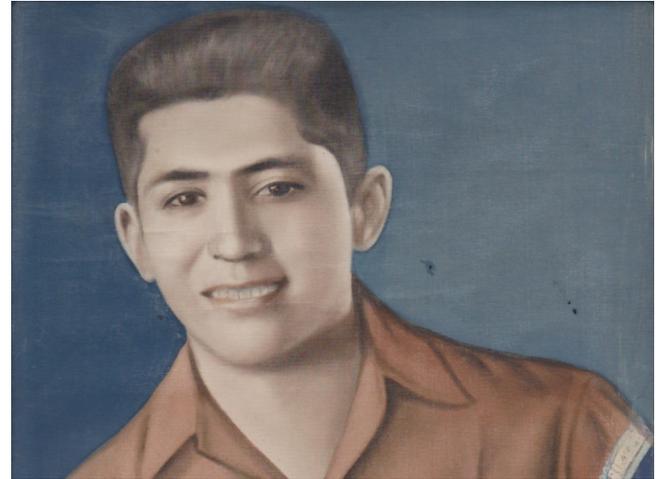
- Elaine Lucille Ulibarri was born January 15, 1932 in Cokedale, CO, a small mining town at the edge of the state.
- She was the youngest daughter of Solomon Sanchez and Beatrice Garcia.
- Moved to Denver at the age of 8 after losing her mother.
- She worked with the nuns at St. Rose of Lima Parish, earning money to contribute to the family. (located in Athmar Park Neighborhood)
- Spanish was moms first language, advocated for multiple SS at risk family's during the English only era
- She finished college at Community College of Denver and Metropolitan State University, where she studied social work.
- Mom advocated thru SW Actions Center, worked for the West Side Health Ctr., meeting Dr. Kluger
- Co-founder of *Servicios de la Raza*
- Campaigned efforts to get out the vote for Latino Leaders

At 16, she met and fell in love with Alfred Ulibarri (Fred).



Family Legacy

- Fred Ulibarri
 - Fred was born on January 21st, 1930. He was the 3rd oldest of 8 children to Edith and Benny Ulibarri, who arrived in Denver, CO in the 1930's.
 - After Fred graduated from West High School, he decided to serve his country in World War-II, army division, PFC US ARMY he was a paratrooper.
 - He became painter and his dear friend Gordon who was a kind which helped tremendously.
 - He also started working with his dad, Benny, fixing bikes for the kids in the Valverde neighborhood who had none. This created a chain reaction, as all his sons learned to wrench on bikes as well.



Family and Service To The Community

- On 3/22/1950, Fred married Elaine. It was love at first sight.
- In Denver Elaine and Fred were able to purchase their first home with one dollar down, a miracle, something to do with the war efforts to help veterans. They immediately took a liking to the Valverde neighborhood.
- Together
 - Civil servants with a deep-seated desire to serve
 - Civil rights activists during the Chicano movement
 - Hosted community gatherings in the park, “geographic burritos”

Growing up in a culture of being poor teaches you more than sharing and relentless giving. It teaches you to love people right where they are. This is the greatest gift my parents gave me.

Ongoing Family Commitment to Community

- Like my Mom who gave relentlessly, VNA is finding new ways to build equity in Valverde
- Actively advocating & contributing to the West Denver Area Plan document
- Working with local law enforcement authorities to fight crime
- Denver Street Partnership donated slow down signs that were distributed, as this was a chief complaint by the community during our outreach
- Contributed to the City Council talks on redistricting in Denver discovering the what this means for Valverde
- Efforts to bring awareness to save the Old Valverde School House built in 1921



Mom at an event
at Servicios de la
Raza



Campaigning for
Mayor Federico Pena

Questions?

