

[Photo: A logo reads, "Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum."]

Narrator: Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum presents the following audio interview with Antonio Gonzalez, "Parks not Warehouses," He worked as President of the William C. Velasquez Institute and mother organization Southwest Voter Registration Education Project. The narrative is overlaid with photos illustrating the landscape and events described.

[Photo: Antonio Gonzalez smiles in front of a mural.]

Antonio Gonzalez:
Environmental justice is really
the wrong word.

[Photo: Los Angeles cornfields in a park.]

Antonio Gonzalez: Most ways
we're like taking the reins of
power and re-envisioning the
natural and built

Antonio Gonzalez:
environments where we have
power.

[Photo: A sign reads, "Why is there a park here".]

Antonio Gonzalez: And we know
the environmental
constituencies are important just
from a politics

Antonio Gonzalez: point of view
in the nineties

Antonio Gonzalez: and were
interacting with them.

Antonio Gonzalez: But it's really
not until the end of the 1990s,

Antonio Gonzalez: when there
are really

Antonio Gonzalez: pretty spontaneous urban
rebellions in Los Angeles

[Photo Skyrise buildings are shown in the distance of cornfields.]

Antonio Gonzalez: against the
redevelopment of two gigantic
brownfields

Antonio Gonzalez: in the heart
of the urban community.

[Photo: Los Angeles cornfields in a park.]

Antonio Gonzalez: Now, the
Parque del Rio de Los Angeles
in the Los Angeles state historic
park.

[Photo: A sign reads, "Zanja Madre" near railroad tracks.]

Antonio Gonzalez: They were
rail yards, one 50 acres, one 30
acres.

[Photo: A park with buildings in the distance.]

Antonio Gonzalez: It's pretty
intense resistance to developers
supported by

Antonio Gonzalez: Latino elected
officials who are sort of in the old
school,

Antonio Gonzalez: which is
environment is not our issue.

[Photo: A bridge is constructed in a park.]

Antonio Gonzalez: And there is
a community resistance to plans
to develop both of those sites.

Antonio Gonzalez: And we get
involved with that.

[Photo: A group of boys play soccer on a dirt road.]



Antonio Gonzalez: We're in these communities, they should be parks, not warehouses

[Photo: A park sign reads, "A Park is Made For By People.]

Antonio Gonzalez: And after a couple of years by about 2002

Antonio Gonzalez: big voter

Antonio Gonzalez: mobilizations around water bonds,

Antonio Gonzalez: and we sort of connect the dots.

[Photo: A bridge near water.]

Antonio Gonzalez: And by 2004,

Antonio Gonzalez: the whole LA river movement has begun to crystallize.

Antonio Gonzalez: In 2004, in the middle of the presidential mobilization,

[Photo: Irma Munoz sits in front of a microphone wearing a black shirt and sweater.]

Antonio Gonzalez: very busy and a delegation.

[Photo: Robert Garcia speaks in front of a microphone.]

[Photo: Raul Macias looks down while speaking on a panel.]

Antonio Gonzalez: of Irma Munoz, Robert Garcia from the City Project, and Raul Macias from

Antonio Gonzalez: Anahuak show up in my office

Antonio Gonzalez: and they say, you know,

Antonio Gonzalez: we're getting rolled on the LA River.

[Photo: A cliff of homes sit in the distance over a body of water.]

Antonio Gonzalez: We're going to excluded.

Antonio Gonzalez: City's running over us. Our voices aren't being heard.

Antonio Gonzalez: They're having meetings without us in attendance.

Antonio Gonzalez: They're not in the community.

Antonio Gonzalez: The white boys are doing it again.

[Photo: A sign reads, "Los Angeles River Marsh Park".]

Antonio Gonzalez: to put it bluntly, right.

Antonio Gonzalez: And they've got some Latino allies and we need to stop it.

Antonio Gonzalez: It was a river revitalization plan is being developed and not taking our

Antonio Gonzalez: interests into account.

[Photo: People was in a park on a sunny day.]

Antonio Gonzalez: By coincidence, we've just crystallized a partnership with the Earth Day Network

Antonio Gonzalez: to run a national partnership between the Earth Day Network,



Antonio Gonzalez: the NAACP National Voter Fund,

Antonio Gonzalez: to do the first ever sort of

Antonio Gonzalez: people of color

Antonio Gonzalez: green vote campaign.

Antonio Gonzalez: It was called campaign for communities.

[Photo: A bilingual sign reads, "Let's Go Fishing! ¡Vamos A Pescar!"]

Antonio Gonzalez: So, it all sort of bubbles up together.

Antonio Gonzalez: We are also carrying out an accountability effort.

[Photo: A map of Los Angeles and its park.]

Antonio Gonzalez: The City Fathers in Los Angeles for running this

Antonio Gonzalez: traditional elitist,

Antonio Gonzalez: techno green revitalization planning process

Antonio Gonzalez: that excludes Asians and Latinos and it's monolingual.

[Photo: Antonio Gonzalez smiles in front of a mural.]

Antonio Gonzalez: And the meetings are at 11 o'clock in the morning and not in the evening and

Antonio Gonzalez: excludes active recreation. It's a nasty fight.

Antonio Gonzalez: We are sitting in at meetings and protesting, you know,

[Photo: Los Angeles State Historic Park, Los Angeles, California.]

Antonio Gonzalez: so that was, that was it. There was a particular target at that time.

Antonio Gonzalez: It was the Annenberg.

[Photo: A cornfield at Los Angeles on a sunny day.]

Antonio Gonzalez: One of the Annenberg Foundation heirs had in essence, you know,

Antonio Gonzalez: privately expropriated the cornfield for an art project without community input.

[Photo: A bridge overlooking the city and a park.]

Antonio Gonzalez: Took over the whole project plan, a corn field within six months,

Antonio Gonzalez: we'd got them to recalibrate and be more

Antonio Gonzalez: expansive and open with the planning process.

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