

Mural titled “Sonora”

It is located in the “Historic Y” building, at 300 W. University Blvd., Tucson, Arizona. That location was chosen because of the great concentration of Mexicans living in Tucson. Organizations and foundations that support and work for the benefit of the Mexican migrant population were painted in recognition. The work was finished on December 18, 2018. Each icon has a meaning in representation of Mexican culture and the migrant population. The landscape of the mural is representative of the Sonora / Arizona region in terms of the colors of the sunsets and its vegetation, such as the Sahuaros. The young woman at the center of the mural has distinctive facial features of the Mexican phenotype; It has no name, it remains anonymous to promote the identification of young Mexican migrants. The hummingbird represents freedom and was painted in recognition of the “Colibri Center for Human Rights” foundation, an organization that works in defense of the human rights of migrant and missing families. The monarch butterfly represents the migrant, since the butterfly migrates to different places in search of a new home. Karlito Miller Espinosa, better known as Mata Ruda, the artist, an illustration teacher at the art school at the University of Arizona, with the help of his two students, Analaura Villegas and Brisa Tzintzun, finished the mural in a week. Both students, being from Nogales and Rio Rico, Arizona, live in a border community, so they have been exposed to many of the conflicts that occur on the border as do migrants. That opportunity has given them the sensitivity to be part of this important project. “For us it was an honor to be able to paint something so symbolic and representative. Being able to paint and represent my culture is something that is priceless.”- Brisa Tzintzun-