Rap Heads strives to deepen the Los Angeles State Historic Park visitor’s relationships to Los Angeles communities through familiar hip hop figures, rap lyrics, and landscape video content. Visitors will interact with a collection of rap heads. Each rap head is geotagged by locations mentioned by hip hop artist. By triggering rap heads, visitors get a peek into numerous communities that make up Los Angeles.

Through conversations, I have found that many people hold a particular view of Los Angeles constructed from the lyrics that they have heard from hip hop songs. Compared to a native Angeleno, some outsiders often interpret song lyrics differently because they have not visited or seen the area. Based off these inconsistencies, I’ve decided to create an exhibition to give LASHP visitors views of the city based on important and relevant song lyrics so that visitors may form their own personal narrative of the city. I hope this experience inspires park visitors to open their ears and eyes to the cultural wealth of Los Angeles.
As the least minority group in Los Angeles, Latin@s have become a vital part of the city’s mechanism and culture, complementing the city’s ancestral Latino roots.

First features Latin American migrants sharing their stories, memories, ideas about identity & first impressions of the city of Los Angeles.

Premiering at the Los Angeles State Historic Park, First employs interactive technology, motion sensors, and large touch screens to serve as a bridge between Latin@s’ complex histories and the city of Los Angeles.

First is currently being produced by Emmanuel Ramos-Barajas as his senior thesis at UCLA TFT.

If you’re interested sharing in your story, email me: RAMOSBARAJAS@GMAIL.COM