

Artist: Marla Soto

Despite the situations we go through in our life, we have the ability to grow from them. With this in mind my shoe represents parts of myself that have led me to grow to be the person that I am now.

The bottom of the shoe consists of waves that are darker shades of blue and black and go all around the shoe. Many of the moments I have grown from are events that have affected my family and I, even more an event that happened to us a year ago. Even though this event gave us a grand amount of obstacles, just like the bottom of the shoe, we stomped it away from consuming us.

Building upward from that I decided to separate my shoe by sections that make me who I am. The front of the shoe represents my heritage which consists of a brighter contrast of colors than the bottom. Being Mexican is a big part of who I am and I'm really grateful that I've been able to grow alongside my Hispanic culture. Many of the stories that my mother has told me about life back in Mexico gave me a vision of what a "pueblo" would look like and the addition of red, green, and white flags give the feeling of celebration.

Personality-wise, I am a colorful person. Color is my primary way of showing how I feel and it's a sense of communication for me. On both sides of the shoe there are sections of splattered paint with a variety of colors, though one side is splattered "neatly" and the other a complete mess of colors. While others might see my colors perfectly, there are times where they mix and look like a complete mess but that's just who I am. There's no sense in covering up who I actually am and instead I embrace my creative and complicated mind.

Inside of the shoe there are a bunch of flowers and buds which tie in the whole theme of my shoe. These flowers symbolize the growth that I as a person have gone through from all the points on my shoe and other connections. The buds that haven't bloomed yet also symbolize what I have yet to learn and grow from. The colors of the flowers are also meant to match the shoe and be colors that I represent myself with.