

Scary / Beautiful

This place is scary.

The sidewalks are cracked and the streets are littered.

The paints in the school buildings are stained and peeling.

The sounds of screaming, cursing, crying, or sirens.

The news sharing stories on overdoses and shootings.

But that's not all that place is.

That's not even mostly what it is.

This place is... people that look like me.

Curls, braids, colorful skin, gold hoop earrings, black and brown features.

The sidewalks have chalk and kickballs and jump ropes.

The neighborhoods have Dominican, Puerto Rican, and Mexican flags waving proudly in the wind.

The sounds of laughter, bachata, salsa, beautiful Spanish language sharing and connecting.

The news of natives turned developers, educators, congressmen, entrepreneurs and lawyers.

This place isn't so scary.

This place is beautiful

Diverse, hard-working, determined, proud.

This place is Home.