



Author's Note

The smell of street tacos, the vivid rainbow colors of vendor umbrellas, and the sounds of children choosing their favorite flavor from the paletero cart on a Saturday afternoon. These are some of the sights and sounds of Eighth Street in Los Angeles. My neighborhood, my home, and my inspiration for *Paletero Man*—the book and song.

Spanning the neighborhoods from Koreatown to Boyle Heights, Eighth Street has endless numbers of taquerias, K-town BBQs, colorful murals, and vendor-lined streets. This historic stretch is also the birthplace of the immigrant street food vending culture in Los Angeles. Snack trips to the elotero cart (Mexican street corn), visits to our friend selling tamales out of her cooler on the corner, and, of course, weekend paletas in the park really shape our lives and fill our stomachs.

As a Mexican American and an Angeleno, I've taken great pride and joy in writing and sharing this picture book with you. And as a Chicax parent, being able to celebrate our vibrant culture and read this book with my daughter is really the most special experience of all.

I hope you taste and imagine the fun of choosing your own refreshing paleta when reading *Paletero Man*.

Buen provecho,

Lucky Diaz