



Memorandum

TO: PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

FROM: MICHAEL OGILVIE

SUBJECT: See below

DATE: August 1, 2023

Council District: 10

SUBJECT: Selection of artists Nigel Sussman, Morgan Bricca, and Jolene Russell for design and creation of three murals in District 10.

DATE OF ARTIST SELECTION: July 18, 2023

ARTWORK BUDGET: \$42,500

LOCATION: Almaden Branch Library & Community Center, interior stairwell
6445 Camden Ave, San Jose, CA 95120 - Interior stairwell

Vineland Branch Library, interior wall – children’s area,
1450 Blossom Hill Rd, San Jose, CA 95118

Santa Teresa Branch Library, exterior wall
290 International Cir, San Jose, CA 95119

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project is three murals to be painted at three locations in District 10 and is being funded through Budget Document #79 from fiscal year 2021-2022. After a site evaluation process that took into consideration thirty locations in District 10, three locations were ultimately selected as the most ideal sites and approved by the District 10 Council Office, and site location stakeholders. Those locations are: the interior stairwell at Almaden Branch Library & Community Center; an interior wall – children’s area at Vineland Branch Library; and an exterior wall at Santa Teresa Branch Library. The murals are intended to inspire, dazzle, and enhance the experiences of library members and residents.

Artists considered for this project are in the Public Art Program’s Mural Artists Roster which features Bay Area artists. Twenty artists were identified as possible candidates for this commission.

Artists Nigel Sussman, Morgan Bricca, and Jolene Russell were the Public Art Core Team’s recommendation for this project. These artists were chosen for their unique artistic styles, skillful representations of a broad range of subjects, and their ability to produce fun, dynamic, and colorful compositions that actively engage the viewer.

Nigel Sussman creates complex murals in isometric perspective and illustrations. He can often be found painting pictures of giant cats or flying food. The detail is all done by hand and with a lighthearted sense of humor that keeps one looking and smiling. Sussman has created art for a wide range of businesses and organizations, from large, innovative corporations like Google, eBay and Adidas, to more traditional print projects for well-known publications. Bold, bright and complex, Sussman’s signature style uses isometric perspective, with bold line-art

and a striking but simple color palette, to create seek-and-find type illustrations that feature complex fantasy architecture and/or imaginary machines. There is much activity going on in Sussman’s work and it is no surprise to find that his influences include Martin Handford (creator of *Where’s Waldo?*), MC Escher and the original SimCity computer games.

Morgan Bricca is a well-known Bay Area muralist specializing in large-scale, custom murals. She has painted over 500 murals in her career, with 75 murals in the Bay Area, including previous commissions for the City of San José, City of Palo Alto, City of Morgan Hill, City of Redwood City, Google.org, lululemon, Stanford University, San Francisco 49ers, and several others. Her previous City of San José murals are *El Sueño de la Mariposa*, located at Havana Drive-Midfield Avenue; and two murals as part of the *Beautility* at TJ Martin and Fontana Park.

Jolene Russell is an artist specializing in large-scale artworks for corporate, retail, and residential spaces. Born and raised in Northern California, Russell was introduced to large-scale art through street painting in high school, where artists use chalk to create works of art on the pavement. Russell received her BFA in Painting and Drawing from University of California-Santa Cruz. She was voted “Best Artist” in East Bay Express (2013), and in 2021, she was part of an artist team that launched the Sacramento Office of Arts and Culture’s public art initiative *Community Murals Sacramento*.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

A Public Art Core Team comprised of community members, artists, and arts professionals. The Team includes:

Joan Bowlby	Branch Manager, Santa Teresa Branch Library
Emilio Banuelos	Studio Arts Educator, San Jose Museum of Art
Eric DeBold	Library Clerk, Vineland Branch Library
Ruben Magos	D10 resident
Ruth Perez	Parks, Rec, Facilities Supervisor, Almaden Community Center
Suhita Shirodkar	Artist
Donna Smith	Almaden Senior Association; D10 resident

Staff from the District 10 Council Office have been engaged in the project development since its inception. These include Michele Dexter, Chief of Staff, and Tiffany Dang, Communications Director.

Meetings held in conjunction with this project:

<u>Date</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Convener</u>
07/28/23	Public Art Core Team meeting	Selection of an artist for the project.	Online via Zoom	SJPA

/s/
MICHAEL OGILVIE
Public Art Director