

PUBLIC ART STAFF REPORT

Selected activities organized by goals in *Cultural Connection: San José's Cultural Plan*

Cultural Connection Goal: Integrate High Impact Public Art & Urban Design throughout the Community

Adobe Bridge – Three dragonfly sculptures, which are part of the Wildlife of the Guadalupe River public artwork, are scheduled to be re-installed the first week of October. The pedestrian bridge connecting the Adobe buildings is near complete, with the public art component currently being installed.

Airport Art:

- **Art Window** – Staff is doing background research for a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a new commission to be sited in the Art Window platform at the Airport, located adjacent to the TSA Pre-Check lanes.
- **Ecloud** – Staff working to restore operating system on a new solid state hard drive. Once computer is reinstalled at the airport, staff will assess kiosk operation and integrity of the sculpture's LCD panels.

Backesto Park – mural by Katrina Loera - (not in Public Art Collection). The mural was defaced in July 2023, and City Staff contacted the artist who was unable to restore the mural, however, she recommended local artist Paul J. Gonzalez to complete the repairs. Restoration was completed in September 2023.

Bassett Park (AHSC Grant) – Parks department has reactivated the Bassett Park project. Included in the park design is artist Vicki Scuri's illuminated streetscape pedestrian light elements. The base construction project schedule has been reset which impacts the completion date for the public art; its completion goal is now planned for 2026. Staff is working with the artist and a fabricator to finalize the fabrication plan for these lantern artworks.

County of Santa Clara – City recently completed negotiations with County to assist with the management of their percent for art program on Capital Improvement Projects as well as one gallery space at the County of Santa Clara Civic Center. Approval of agreement between City and County occurred at the City Council meeting on June 20, 2023, and at the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors meeting on June 27, 2023. Staff has been assigned County projects and the transfer of project management duties to City staff is ongoing.

District 7 Murals – Two sites were selected for mural projects: Fair Swim Center and Tully Branch Library. The Public Art Core Team met on Thursday, August 31, 2023, and recommended two San José artists for the commission: Lacey Bryant and Elba Raquel Martinez. Contracting is in process with the artists.

District 10 Murals – Three sites were selected for mural projects: Almaden Branch Library & Community Center, Santa Teresa Branch Library, and Vineland Branch Library. The Public Art Core Team met on Tuesday, July 18, and recommended three Bay Area artists for the commission: Nigel Sussman, Jolene Russell, and Morgan Bricca. Contracting is in process with the artists.

Environmental Services Department (ESD) Projects:

- **Don Edwards (DENWR) National Wildlife Refuge and Guadalupe River Park/Children's Discovery Museum (GRP/CDM)** – The DENWR project by artist Mark Brest Van Kempen is substantially completed and GRP/CDM project is anticipated for completion by Summer 2024.

- **One Day One Action** – *One Day/One Action* is a social media-based public art project designed to reframe how we can all contribute to climate action, one day at a time, both now and in the future. It encourages us to think about the small, everyday actions we can take to positively impact the environment. Please consider joining *One Day/One Action* to share your ideas, perspectives, and experiences: Instagram: [@1day1actionsj](#) and Facebook: [@OneDayOneActionSJ](#). An in-person event for the project partners is planned for October 18, 2023 at Veggilution.
- **River Oaks Pump Station** – In consultation with the base project design team, the public art element will be integrated into the site perimeter fence. Artist Michael Amescua's artwork design development proposal was approved by the PAC in August 2023 and with approval of his construction documents, fabrication will commence. The project is scheduled for completion in Summer 2024.
- **Water Resources Administration & Operations Facility** – Revisions to the base building engineering are complete. Artist's fabricator is working on shop drawings for the art panels.

End of Watch Police Memorial – Artist Gordon Huether's memorial artwork element has been installed at the Police Administration memorial site but will remain covered until the formal dedication event to be held by SJPD. The landscaping and site development project is complete, with some other site improvements in process. A dedication event is planned for Fall, 2023.

Fire Station 8 – Project planning has continued in consultation with the base team. Bay Area artist Jesse Hernandez's design for a metal mural on an exterior location was approved by the PAC at its June 2023 meeting. His design development proposal is underway and expected to come before the PAC at its December meeting. Completion of the fire station is estimated for early 2025.

Fire Station 14 – San José artist Bill Vujevich's trompe oeil mural on the exterior wall of the station, in which the artist has used actual firefighters, local children, and pets in the artwork design, is complete.

Fire Station 23 – Project in early planning stages.

Fire Station 36 – Project in early planning stages.

Fourth and San Fernando Parking Garage Mural – The Community Visioning Meeting with Bay Area artist Robin Gibson was held on Thursday, August 24, 2023 at City Hall. The artist presented her Concept & Design Proposal to the Public Art Core Team and the Department of Transportation on Tuesday, September 26 for feedback.

Great Oaks Park mural by Stephany Sanchez - (not in Public Art Collection) – Stephany Sanchez painted a mural on the restroom building during the 2019 POWWOW! Festival. The mural surface was tagged, and the surface had some missing paint. Artist Stephany Sanchez was able to complete restoration in September 2023.

Japantown Heinlerville Park/Plaza Art - San José artist Roger Stoller's sculpture for the park was installed on July 21, 2023. The park estimated completion date, which is determined by Shea Properties (the site developer) is expected in August, 2023. A dedication event for the park and public art is planned for Tuesday, October 10.

Market/San Pedro Parking Garage – The façade project with artist Brian Brush is in construction documentation development. Structural design has been submitted with the base project for a preliminary permit review. The integration of the electrical engineering is in process as is the integration of a future electronic billboard, which is separate from the Public Art project.

Marijane Hamman Park mural – (not in Public Art Collection). Artist is no longer communicating and has not agreed to restore mural. Mural wall may need to be returned to original color as tagging proliferates.

MLK Library Maintenance and Conservation – Public Art staff working with joint library staff on conservation and maintenance of the collection. A substantial number of the works are being addressed before the October 4, 2023 Coda Summit tour, including English Lit, Vessel, Steinbeck's Fissure, Round Up, and Migration. Rosetta is also being investigated but will not be on for the October 4th tour.

Office of Emergency Management & Fire Department Training Facility Relocation (EOC/FDTF) – Installation of the exterior artwork by artist Johanna Poethig is complete. The process for procuring artwork for the facility interior (Phase 2) is underway; it is focusing primarily on engaging local artists, with up to 30 two-dimensional artworks by San José artists to be commissioned for permanent display in select locations inside the facility. Facility completion is forecasted for late in 2023.

Olinder Community Center Time Mural – Artist Juan Raul's contract has been finalized, and the artist will begin restoration of his *Time* mural in the next month. Estimated timeline is 6-8 months until completion.

Plata Arroyo Park Mural – The Community Visioning Meeting with San José artist Carlos Rodriguez was held on Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at Mayfair Community Center – Chavez Hall. The artist presented his Concept & Design Proposal to the Public Art Core Team and the Community for feedback on Friday, September 22, 2023.

Pellier Park – Construction is complete. Fences should be removed first week of October.

Public Art Map (Online) – Staff is working with the City's GIS Enterprise Team on the development of an online map for the City's website that will have many desirable features including links to detailed info in the Public Art Collection webpages on the City's website, the ability to filter by Council Districts, type of location, type of artwork and more, and it can be used as a navigation tool on a mobile device or printed out. Completion is estimated for late Fall.

Pune, India Sister City Statue – (not part of Public Art collection). The Shivaji Maharaj statue was a gift to the City from sister city Pune, India in the late 1990s. The statue has meaning to people from India and many people (residents and visitors from India) visit the Guadalupe River Park trail to see the statue. In recent years the statue has been subject to severe vandalism including removal of the sword, horse tail, and most recently the entire statue was stolen, and then recovered at a melt facility. The artist who created the statue is deceased, and staff is working with the sister city organization to make a restoration assessment. As this is not part of the public art collection, and there is no fund source from public art to restore, funding for restoration remains an open question.

Sensing You – Staff are working with the city Department of Public Works and KiboWorks on the maintenance of *Sensing You* located on the 87 underpass and Santa Clara Street. It is expected to be complete late 2023.

Sonic Runway – The OEDCA Events Team is working on a schedule of curated events at the site and on-going programming can be found here: <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/cultural-affairs/public-art/sonic-runway>.

St. James Park – Artist Mark Reigelman Concept was approved by the Public Art Committee in April 2023. He is currently working with the landscape architects to detail the sculpture plinth, with the intention of presenting Design Development to the Public Art Committee in December 2023.

Thank You America – Engineering phase complete and artist has begun fabrication of the statues.

VTA-EBRC – Public Art staff is working with VTA on two large-scale projects associated with the Eastridge to BART Regional Connector. Eastridge concept was presented to the community on August 31, 2023. The Story Station concept was presented to community on September 13, 2023. Both projects will be presented to the Public Art Committee on October 3, 2023.

VTA BART Phase II – VTA staff have yet to identify funding for public art on this project.

Washington Community Center – The Community Visioning Meeting with Bay Area artist Desi Mundo was held on Thursday, June 16, 6:30pm - 8:00pm at Biblioteca Latinoamerica. The artist is conducting independent research and working on his concept design to be presented to the Public Art Core Team at the end of October 2023. His design is expected to come before the PAC at its December meeting.

Watershed at San Jose Environmental Innovation Center (SJEIC) – Artist Peter Richards is currently working on restoration of his *Watershed* artwork at SJEIC.

Weavers' Gifts – The 13-ton sculpture to replace the destroyed limestone basket was installed on Tuesday, September 26, 2023.