



# Memorandum

**TO:** PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

**FROM:** MICHAEL OGILVIE

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** January 30, 2024

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**Council District: 7**

**SUBJECT:** Report on artist and artwork selection for reproduction and display of artworks in the City's Office of Emergency Management and Fire Department Training Center.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive the report on the selection for artwork images to be reproduced by City for display at City's Office of Emergency Management and Fire Department Training Center.

**DATE OF ARTIST/ARTWORK SELECTION:** January 19, 2024

**ARTWORK BUDGET:** \$200,000

**LOCATION:** Office of Emergency Management and Fire Department Training Center, 1591 Senter Road, San Jose.

**PROJECT BACKGROUND:**

As part of the City's response to the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic shut down in 2020, the City considered data from the California Arts Council (CAC) that confirmed significant income loss to artists (averaging \$23,857 loss per artist per the data collected by the CAC) and that 85% of individual artists had commissions/ projects cancelled. This data was impetus to the City to create projects to help address these economic needs. The "Holding the Moment" temporary exhibit of 96 artworks at the San José Mineta International Airport in 2021 was the first iteration of this economic stimulus for San José visual artists which provided commissions for 77 artists. In the years that followed, momentum in the economic recovery from the pandemic grew while at the same time project development for public art for the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and Fire Department Training Center (FDTC) took shape. These two efforts aligned well with the result that it was determined that a permanent exhibit of reproductions of artworks by San Jose-based artists was a good direction for interior public art, something with which the OEM and FDTC agreed.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

On September 22, 2023 a Call for Artwork Submissions was issued, inviting artists who currently live or have a studio in San José to submit new or previously created 2-dimensional work reflecting concepts, themes, ideas that reference the vision, goals, work, or purpose of the OEM and Fire Department. Artists were given the opportunity to digitally submit an image of one (1) of their artworks. The award for those selected is \$5,000. Per the Call for Artwork Submissions, it was expected that up to 30 artworks would be selected. When the call closed on October 18, 2023, 105 artists had submitted artworks for this call. A selection panel comprised of key stakeholders and visual arts professionals was convened for this project. After each Panelist's initial online review and rating of the artwork submittals, on January 19,

2024, the Panel met online to review and finalize a recommendation of artworks. Selection criteria included the aesthetic integrity of the work and how well the artwork aligned to the OEM/FDTC facility. In its thoughtful review of the ratings and artworks, the Panel recommended 31 artworks to be included in the curatorial process for display at the OEM/FDTC facility (See Attachment A).

The artworks selected for the exhibition will be professionally reproduced for permanent display in interior areas of the OEM/FDTC. Placement of the artwork throughout the facility will be shaped by public art staff with exhibit design experience, taking facility use into consideration. The artworks, artists' backgrounds and brief descriptions of the artworks will have a collection page on OCA's website and will also be shared on the City's social media platforms for further visibility and promotion of these local artists. All copyrights are to remain with the artists.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

To ensure comprehensive outreach to local artists, staff reached out to local artists directly via phone, email, and also through effective use of social media. Additionally, staff enlisted support from local organizations including but not limited to: Anno Domini, Citadel, Empire Seven, ICA, Local Color, MACLA, School of Visual Philosophy, School of Arts and Culture, SV Creates, and Works.

The Artwork Selection Panel was a diverse group that included key stakeholders representing the facility with local artists/arts professionals, as follows:

Andrew Espino	1 Culture Gallery - curator
Kathleen McDonald	Artist, SJSU Lecturer
Ray Riordan	Director, Office of Emergency Management
Jay McAmis	Assistant Director, Office of Emergency Management
Aaron Freyler	Deputy Chief, San Jose Fire Department

/s/

MICHAEL OGILVIE  
Public Art Director

Attachment: List of selected artists and artworks

## PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

February 6, 2024

Subject: OEM/FDTC Artist/Artwork Selection Report

Artist 1 <sup>st</sup> Name/Last Name		Artwork Title	Year	Medium
Alicia	Aldama	<i>Heart</i>	2023	Photography
Sean	Boyles	<i>Clouds Over King Road</i>	2020	Acrylic painting
Ryan	Carrington	<i>Flag #25</i>	2022	Lab Coats
Lorena	Cortez	<i>Harmony in Crisis</i>	2023	Graphic art
Julie	Hill	<i>A Park and Its People</i>	2023	Acrylic on Canvas
Melinda	James	<i>a little space in which to grow.</i>	2017	Photography
Nicholas	Jimenez	<i>Hold Me</i>	2023	Graphic art illustration
Pantea	Karimi	<i>Rising Sprouts</i>	2018	Hand-printed Silkscreen and watercolor on paper
Deborah	Kennedy	<i>The Spark of Life</i>	2023	Enviromental/land art: Ink, earth pigment, medium, ecopaper
Dave	Lepori	<i>"Team Work"</i>	2006	Photography
Valentino	Loyola	<i>The Person Rose</i>	2013	Photography
Julie	Meridian	<i>Elevate</i>	2017	Acrylic paint on canvas
James	Mertke	<i>Plant Propagation</i>	2023	Acrylic paint on canvas
Sara	Mordecai	<i>Phoenix Rising</i>	2020	Oil paint on Canvas
Elena	Mukhina Rumyantseva	<i>Guardian of Crisis: Ready to Respond</i>	2023	Acrylic paint on paper
Darren	Naylor	<i>Think Outside</i>	2023	Oil paint on Canvas
S	Newman	<i>We Are One Heart</i>	2016	Oil paint on Canvas
Sarah J.L.	Nguyen	<i>24/7, 365</i>	2023	Watercolor
Felicita	Norris	<i>igotchu</i>	2021	Acrylic and oil paint on canvas
Carlos	Ortiz	<i>SJ heroes</i>	2023	Markers on bristol paper
Magos	Rayos	<i>Águila Volador</i>	2023	Linocut block print
Tijuana	Rick	<i>Hi Neighbor!</i>	2023	2-D print and pvc cutout
Alvin	Rodriguez	<i>Fire Squad</i>	2021	Photography
Samuel	Rodriguez	<i>Old SJ</i>	2022	Digital illustration
Stevie	Salcido	<i>Ethereal</i>	2022	Photography
Patrick	Samuels	<i>The Kitchen Sink</i>	2022	Photography
Christopher	Sicat	<i>The Height of Resilience</i>	2023	Photography

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<b>Artist 1<sup>st</sup> Name/Last Name</b>		<b>Artwork Title</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Omari</b>	<b>Stephens</b>	<i>The Awful Beauty of Fire and Water</i>	2001	Photography
<b>Bill</b>	<b>Vujevich</b>	<i>The Brave</i>	2023	Acrylic paint
<b>Chris</b>	<b>Weyant</b>	<i>Fire in the Homestead</i>	2022	Oil paint on Canvas
<b>Alyssa</b>	<b>Wigant</b>	<i>We Rise by Lifting Others</i>	2023	Digital artwork