

# Our Community, Almaden at Once

Artist: Nigel Sussman

2024

6445 Camden Ave, San Jose, CA 95120 / Council District 10

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## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Almaden Community Center is a welcoming, safe place with the promise of fun and growth. They provide quality programs and activities for people of all ages and abilities to help them grow in their artistic skills, ignite a passion for health and sports, and build lasting friendships.

The state-of-the-art facilities host a number of programs and events, such as: computer classes, San José Recreation Preschool, arts and crafts, youth summer camps, leisure, sports, and fitness activities. In addition, they offer a weekday lunch program and classes for older adults over the age of 60 and those who are disabled. They also host a number of special events through the year such as Neighbor Nights, and cultural and holiday celebrations.

Artists considered for this project are in the Public Art Program's Mural Artists Roster which features Bay Area artists. The Public Art Program released a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) on September 19, 2022 on Café, the online platform that is widely used for artist calls, and staff actively promoted and



*Nigel Sussman, "Our Community, Almaden at Once", 2024, at Almaden Community Center*

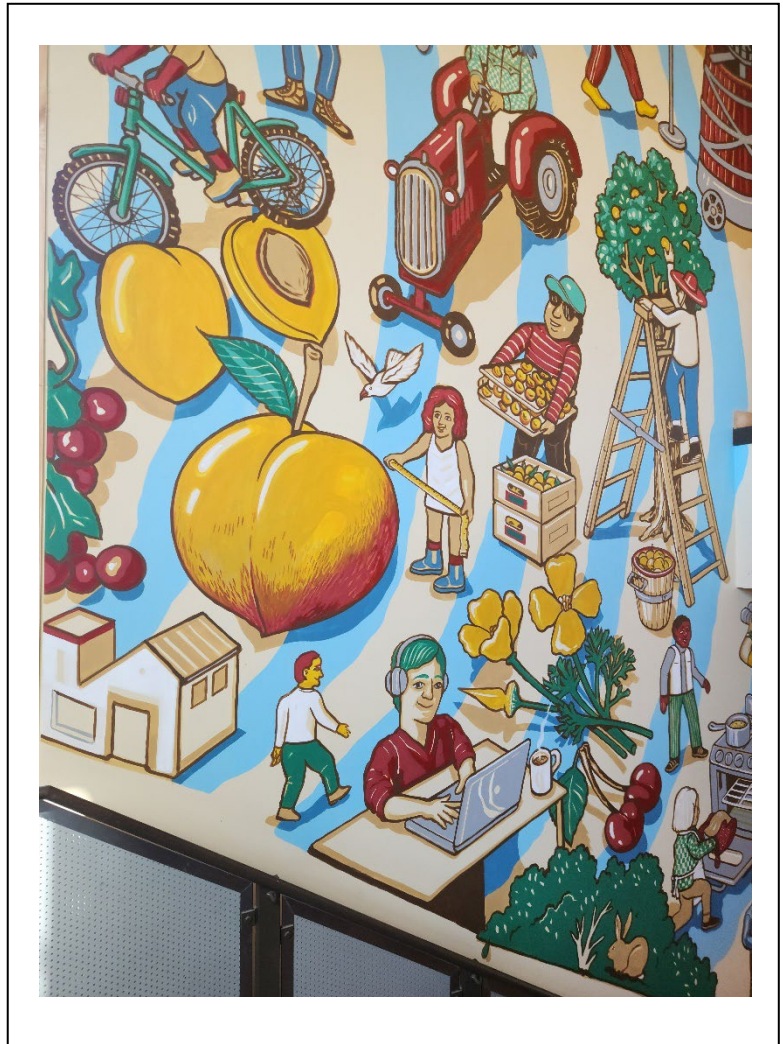
recruited Bay Area artists. From this roster artist Nigel Sussman was selected for the Almaden Community Center commission by the Public Art Core Team.

Nigel Sussman's mural design concept is inspired by the past and present of the Almaden community in San José. He painted active figures, San José landmarks, and native flora and fauna in a free-flowing composition that spirals outward from a visual center. Small vignettes include: the historic Almaden wine press next to farmers working in the apricot orchards; musicians playing alongside native flowers and animals; figures engaged in sports activities next to the community members planting trees; and many other activities inspired by stories shared by local residents at public community outreach meetings. Nigel's clever design takes advantage of the challenging architectural space of the stairwell by uniting all the elements together with a gentle blue swirl, resulting in a dazzling visual experience.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Nigel creates complex isometric murals 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 you looking, and smiling. Nigel has created art for a wide range of businesses and organizations, from large, innovative brands like Google, eBay and Adidas, and completed projects that include large scale murals to more traditional print projects for well-known publications. Bold, bright and complex, Nigel's signature style uses isometric line-art and a striking but simple color palette, creating seek-and-find type illustrations that feature complex fantasy architecture and/or imaginary machines. There's all kinds of activity going on in Nigel's work and it's no surprise to find that his influences include Martin Handford (creator of Where's Waldo?), MC Escher, and the original SimCity computer games.

More information on the artist can be found at [www.nigelsussman.com](http://www.nigelsussman.com).



*Nigel Sussman, Our Community, Almaden at Once (detail), 2024, at Almaden Community Center*

## **ABOUT THE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM**

The City of San José Public Art Program seeks to build community identity by initiating artworks and exhibitions that enhance the civic landscape. Through active community engagement, public art strives to reflect the City's diversity, historic richness, and envision its present and future.

The Public Art Program is part of the City's Office of Cultural Affairs, a division of the Office of Economic Development. The Public Art Program was established by a 1984 municipal ordinance that provides public art through funding from City capital improvement projects and eligible private development. For further information and photos, please contact the San José Public Art Program.



Office of Cultural Affairs **Public Art Program**

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