

Sunset Storytime

Artist: Jolene Rose Russell

2024

290 International Cir, San Jose, CA 95119 / Council District 10

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Santa Teresa Library is a library located between a residential neighborhood, commercial areas, and a hospital. San José Public Library enriches lives by fostering lifelong learning and by ensuring that every member of the community has access to a vast array of ideas and information.

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 call, and staff actively promoted and recruited Bay Area artists. From this roster artist Jolene Rose Russell was selected for the Santa Teresa Branch Library commission by the Public Art Program.



California artist Jolene Rose Russell, who is inspired by the diversity of the Santa Teresa/Almaden community, has created a mural that beautifully captures both the human and ecological richness of the area. The mural features two children reading a book together, symbolizing social bonds, knowledge and the future. Behind them, a golden, sunlight-filled landscape reminiscent of the Santa Teresa Foothills spreads out, evoking a sense of warmth and natural beauty. In the distance, two figures can be seen walking along a pathway, perhaps representing the journey of life, imagination, or connection within the community. Framing the scene, Jolene has skillfully incorporated oak leaves and poppies. The oaks symbolize strength and resilience, while the native poppies are a nod to California's natural heritage. The mural is a visual delight and reflects input the artist received from community meetings.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jolene Rose Russell is an artist specializing in large-scale artwork for corporate, retail, and residential spaces. Born and raised in Northern California, Jolene has loved making art for as long as she can remember. She began her venture into large-scale art after being introduced to street painting in high school, where artists use chalk to make huge works of art on the pavement. In 2021, Jolene was part of an artist team to help launch *Community Murals Sacramento*, a public art initiative by Sacramento Office of Arts, resulting in a 2000 ft² mural completed in 2022. She has painted over 30 murals in the United States and Europe. She won First Place in the 3D Category at Street Art Wilhelmshaven (2019), and East Bay Express awarded her “Best Artist” in the *Best of The East Bay* (2013). Jolene graduated from University of California-Santa Cruz with a BFA in Fine Art with an emphasis in painting and drawing. She is currently working in Sacramento and the Greater Bay Area.

More information on the artist can be found at www.jolenerussell.com.

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.