

# Spirit of Welch Park

## Artist: Andrew Kong Knight

2024

Clarice Drive and Kenesta Way, San Jose, CA 95122 / Council District 8

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

Welch Park is an 11.1 acre park at Clarice Drive and Huran Drive with amenities that include: BBQs with picnic areas, softball and soccer field, youth playground, community center, and a dog park. The Welch Park Community Center is classified as a neighborhood center and is 800 square feet in size. Youth programs include Camp San José, Summer Food Service Program, and R.O.C.K Afterschool Program.

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 recruited Bay Area artists. From this roster artist Andrew Kong Knight was selected for the Welch Park Community Center commission by the Public Art Program.



San José artist Andrew Kong Knight held four live painting and drawing events over two different weekends to engage with community members for inspiration. His mural design, titled *Spirit of Welch Park*, celebrates both the people he encountered and the regular visitors to the park, as well as highlighting the vital community services offered there, like the monthly food distribution program. Painted in an impressionist style, the mural design features a family in the center, set against a backdrop of fields and orchards to emphasize the richness of community and the Welch Neighborhood history. Dogs in various poses of play surround the family. An apple tree and peach tree extends to the roofline, framing the scene. Overall, the artist captured the uplifting spirit of the Welch Park community, radiating with love and joy.

Mural assistant: Debi McKee (Shera)

Volunteer Assistants: Melissa Dutra (MacGyver) and Jackie (RavenJAX)

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Andrew Kong Knight is a multidisciplinary visual artist and musician with over 25 years of experience. Knight has taught art and public art mural painting at the Academy of Art University San Francisco; California State East Bay, Hayward; Contra Costa College; and Chabot College. He has worked on numerous art commissions for the City of Hayward, Union City, San Lorenzo, and San José, as well as for Universal Studios, Miller Freeman publications, Hewlett Packard, and Mercury/Def Jam Records. His work

has been featured in dozens of publications, including Professional Artists Magazine, Airbrush-Action magazine, Art of California, America Illustration, The Washington Post, San Jose Mercury News, and the San Francisco Chronicle. Knight earned a BFA with Honors in Painting from the San Francisco Art Institute and a California State Teaching Credential in Art—also winning a Leadership Award while attending National University in San Jose. He also earned a MFA with Honors in Sculpting and 3D Design from John F. Kennedy University in Pleasant Hill, CA.



More information on the artist can be found at <https://www.andrewkongknight.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.



Office of Cultural Affairs **Public Art Program**

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