

OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS (OCA) REPORT FOR JUNE 2021

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

Under new provisions within the Governor's [Beyond the Blueprint](#), all virtual public legislative body meetings can continue as "all virtual" until September 30, 2021. A copy of the order rolling back additional pandemic order provisions and establishing new extensions/provisions can be found under [EXECUTIVE ORDER N-08-21](#) (see pages 9 and 10). The Arts Commission will resume in-person meetings in October, 2021.

Integrate High Impact Public Art & Urban Design throughout the Community

Thomas Fallon Statue - On Friday, January 29, 2021, the Mayor and City staff hosted a [Public Forum](#)) to share community perspectives on public art in our city. The forum provided an opportunity for residents to share their views with City leaders and staff about specific works of art, including the *Thomas Fallon Statue* by artist Robert Glen. The community that attended the meeting overwhelmingly requested the removal of the *Thomas Fallon Statue*. In response to this, and the notorious history of the statue, the Mayor issued a [memorandum](#) to the Rules and Open Government Committee recommending to begin the deaccession process. The Rules and Open Government Committee discussed and unanimously approved of the Mayor's recommendation February 22, 2021. On May 4, 2021 the Public Art Committee was presented with a recommendation to deaccession and remove the statue. The Public Art Committee unanimously approved the recommendation with an amendment to ensure that the statue will be permanently stored away and will not be displayed or sold in the future. Due to the ongoing high volume of public input and documentation required to meet the City Council-approved Art Removal and Deaccession Policy, the Public Art Committee's recommendation to the Arts Commission will be deferred. It will be on the FY 21-22 Arts Commission agenda and work plan.

Airport Art:

- **Feature Wall/A million times for San Jose:** Artwork and protective glass casework have both been received on site. Installation ongoing and expected to be complete by the end of June.
- **Holding the Moment:** Part VI of the six-part exhibition was removed on June 4th. The project will remain online at the [Holding the Moment](#) webpage or on Instagram at #HoldingTheMomentSJ.
- **Showcase Permanent Artwork/Threshold:** The installation has been delayed by Canadian COVID restrictions. However, a "teaser" installation consisting of a small sculpture fragment for each case that will be lit with pin lights. Installation of the teaser expected mid-June.
- **XO:** The contract to commission XO at the airport has been executed. Staff is working with artists to advance design development.

Bassett Park (AHSC Grant): PRNS has reactivated the project to complete Bassett Park. The integration of Vicki Scuri's illuminated pedestrian light elements in the park construction is underway. The project is expected to be completed in Spring 2023.

Emergency Operation Center & Fire Department Training Facility Relocation (EMC/FDTF) – Project development is underway for major projects in these new co-joined facilities on Senter Rd. The public art will focus primarily on engaging San Jose artists, with works by multiple artists to be featured within the facility interior and one or more major works on the facility exterior. Facility completion is forecasted for Summer (FDTF) and Fall (EOC) 2022.

Environmental Services Department (ESD) Projects:

- **CoGeneration** – “*Methanogen Polyptych*” Identification plaque is in process.
- **Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge and Guadalupe River (DENWR) and Guadalupe River Park/Children’s Discovery Museum (GRP/CDM)** – The project will be completed at the end of June and GRP/CDM project is anticipated for completion by the end of the year.
- **One Day One Action:** An environmental awareness project is in development with artists Trena Noval and Sue Mark, which will encourage residents to shift their habits, rituals, and behaviors. Contract is in development.
- **River Oaks Pump Station:** Project is in the very early planning stages, and a variety of opportunities have been explored within a design plan vetted by community.

End of Watch Police Memorial – Artist Gordon Huether’s approved memorial design is in fabrication. Key stakeholders are apprised of developments. Construction documents are underway for the final site design.

Hummingbirds – Due to safety reasons, the pole mounted sculptures on Park Ave., were dismantled and will be retrofitted and reinstalled. Staff is in communication with the artist on the sculpture retrofit. This work is being funded through the Participatory District Funding process.

Fire Station 14 – A small mural project is planned for the exterior of Fire Station 14 as part of the community’s budget process priorities. The process of collaboration between the community and SJFD to develop a vision for the artwork and to select a local artist is underway.

Fire Station 37 – Artist Sam Tubiolo is fabricating the tile work and the window treatment for the new fire station in Willow Glen. Artwork installation is scheduled in coordination with the base project for late 2021 with additional artwork window treatment in early 2022.

Havana Drive/Midfield Avenue Soundwall mural – Artist Morgan Bricca’s approved design is moving forward as the CalTrans maintenance agreement is now being processed.

Japantown Heinlenville Park/Plaza Art - San José artist Roger Stoller is in coordination with the park’s construction to fabricate the sculpture for the park. An estimated completion date is planned for December 2021.

Lincoln Ave Art – Staff is working with the Willow Glen Business Association to determine which final art projects they will undertake to complete the Lincoln Avenue Artworks project.

Market/San Pedro Parking Garage – The project with artist Brian Brush is in construction documentation development.

Neighborhood Galleries - Murals in District 5 are pending Caltrans permits. A permit application has been approved by BART for the District 4 mural by Jason Jagel. Installation of the District 4 mural is pending direction from VTA.

Olinder Community Center *Time Mural* - Artist submitted the proposal to restore the 72' long mural installed on the façade of Olinder Community Center. This will involve repainting the entire mural on more stable and robust materials appropriate for an outdoor installation. In parallel, Parks is working with Public Works to assess the structural integrity, and repair of wood façade which has termite/wood rot damage.

Pellier Park – Council Award date occurred on May 4, 2021 with the start of construction anticipated mid-June.

Right the Blight Hotspot Mural Project - The site location for the final mural at Meadowfair Park is infested with termites. Public Works will analyze whether the building needs to be replaced or repaired. The final mural for this pilot project is put on hold until a further determination can be made.

Santa Clara County – The City's Public Art Program has been contracted by the County as a consultant to the County to develop guidelines for their public art program and provide other consultation resources as needed, including project management. In addition, the City is also consulting on three large scale projects in development – Animal Services Center, Tasman Art Campus, and the Behavioral Services Center.

Sonic Runway – Fabrication is nearing completion and installation is currently scheduled for Fall 2021.

Urban Confluence Silicon Valley (*not a City project*) – City Council approved the recommendation of the finalist at its meeting on May 4, 2021. The finalist is an architect by trade, and the design is a building/structure. Public Art will no longer be involved in the project and consultation will only occur on an 'as needed' basis with staff time being funded by the Urban Confluence team.

Valley Medical Center – Artist's structural drawings are complete. Construction documents were submitted to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPOD) in order to obtain permits for the hospital. OSHPOD provided feedback and is being reviewed by the artist and base project structural engineers.

VTA-EBRC – Public Art is working with VTA on two large-scale projects associated with the Eastridge to BART Regional Connector. The RFQ was released on April 26th and will close on July 2nd.

Weavers' Gifts – One of the major sculptural elements, the limestone basket, has been damaged beyond repair. Staff is working with the artist for perspective on replacement costs and logistics. Councilmember Peralez has submitted a Budget Document with a request to fund the replacement, and it was included in the Council-approved June Budget Message.

Support Diverse Cultural Spaces & Places Throughout the Community

Many large organizations have announced or reopened their facilities including the Children's Discovery Museum, San Jose Museum of Art, and the Tech Interactive.

Strengthen the Cultural Community's Infrastructure

Cultural Funding Portfolio - Investments in Art, Creativity and Culture

At the June meeting, the OCA team will present an overview of the FY 21-22 Operating Budget and the allocations for arts programs. This will include grant recommendations for Operating Grant, Festival, Parade and Celebration Grant, and take pART Grant Programs. The funding will include Transient Occupancy Tax and American Relief Program sources.

Enhance Support for Creative Entrepreneurs and the Commercial Creative Sector

Spring 2021 Professional Development Programs:

The Business of Art: The OCA continues to partner with CCI to present CCI's signature program called *The Business of Art*, designed to enhance the business skills of artists and creative entrepreneurs. This nine-session program took place from March 4 to May 6 on Thursdays from 4-6pm (PST) for online presentations by arts and business leaders who shared innovative ideas and inspiration for sustaining or pivoting art business to meet challenging times. The program culminated on May 6 with "cluster counseling" to allow 1:1 or small group work with the workshop instructors. To supplement the program, participants received a copy of *The Business of Art: An Artist's Guide to Profitable Self-Employment*, a CCI publication. 25 San Jose artists and creatives representing a wide range of artistic disciplines and experience participated in the program. Complete details at tinyurl.com/BOA-SJ-2021.

Each One Teach One: The OCA and the School of Arts and Culture at MHP are partnering to provide a model of professional development training that includes workshops and peer-to-peer mentorships to foster leadership opportunities in the local arts sector for San Jose BIPOC artists, art educators, and emerging and established arts leaders. This project proposal was awarded the maximum grant of \$20,000 from the [Government Alliance on Race and Equity \(GARE\)](#). Mentors and workshop leaders are MALI alumni who have a diverse set of skills and experiences to share with artists, arts organizations and cultural practitioners in San Jose. Workshops and mentorships focus on specific content areas, all while recognizing that equity is the core no matter what the topic (fundraising, marketing and outreach, writing a business plan, event coordination, curation, etc.) OCA desires to expand their professional development training opportunities with the intent to foster leadership opportunities in the local arts sector and its BIPOC artists, art educators, and emerging and established arts leaders to consult in a variety of content issues related to the arts. A key goal is to advance the essential work of creating equity and inclusion in all communities. The mentorship program and workshops began in March and conclude in June 2021. Both programs are open to San Jose artists, creatives, and arts organization staff.

Support Residents' Active, Personal Participation in Arts and Culture

San Jose Creates and Connects - Launched in 2016, the San Jose Creates and Connects initiative aims to connect San Jose residents across communities and within neighborhoods through creative, participatory experiences.

The 2021 WeCreate408 challenge concluded on April 30, 2021. Each day in April, OCA sent out a prompt for a creative action and follow activities by one of our 27 partner organizations. Over 1,500 people signed up for the challenge and OCA social media interactions increased by well over a 1000%. Further evaluation is currently taking place to understand the scope of the campaign's impact.

The 2021 Creative Ambassadorships are currently underway. The role of the Creative Ambassadors is to champion the power of creative expression and engage residents in finding their own creative voice. 2021 Creative Ambassadors include Cynthia Cao, Demone Carter, Ray Furuta, Elizabeth Jiménez Montelongo, and Chike Nwoffiah.

Funding for #WeCreate408 and the Creative Ambassadors is provided by the Packard Foundation.

Make Music San Jose returns on June 21, 2021 with a mix of online and in-person performances. This event is a community curated celebration of music on the summer solstice that coincides with the international celebration of Make Music Day. Highlights for Make Music San Jose 2021 included performances at the School of Arts and Culture at Mexican Heritage Plaza, youth performers at Parque de los Pobladores, and a special performance by Opera San Jose at the Winchester Mystery House.

Destination Events in San Jose

Now, the OCA Special Events team is excited about the State's announcement of California's reopening on June 15th. According to the California Department of Public Health's "[Beyond the Blueprint](#)" announcement on May 21, 2021, all sectors may return to normal operations excluding mega events characterized by large crowds, which will still recommend attendee vaccination verification, face covering guidance, and other minimal guidelines. While masking and travel restrictions still have some guidance listed, there will no longer be restrictions on physical distancing or capacity. With this news, the Special Events team anticipates events to be making a big return to San Jose in the coming months.

CityDance San Jose returns in partnership with the San Jose Museum of Art, the first event of the series will be on Friday, August 6th, followed by the monthly series of outdoor dancing on September 3rd and October 1st.

San Jose's AI Fresco Program

The San Jose AI Fresco program, previously approved through Emergency Orders by City Manager in June 2020, provides additional outdoor space, such as sidewalks, parklets, plazas, paseos, streets, surface lots, and parks to support hard-hit businesses during the pandemic. Through a simple registration process and with no costs, businesses may extend

their operations at these outdoor venues to assist with compliance the County's Order and Social Distancing Protocol. This initiative was recently approved by San Jose City Council to continue until December 31, 2021 in paseos and plazas, unless the pandemic ends or the City reinstates temporary ordinance. With this extension, our team will continue to work with event organizers who are conditionally approved to use San Jose Al Fresco program locations to ensure their permitted will not be affected by Al Fresco use. More information on the San Jose Al Fresco Program can be found by visiting [here](#).

Downtown Farmers' Market Embraces New Temporary Location

To help accommodate restaurants participating in San Jose Al Fresco on San Pedro Street, the Downtown Farmers' Market has temporarily relocated the weekly Friday market to South First Street between San Salvador Street and E. William Street. The Downtown Farmers' Market started Friday, May 7, 2021 and will run through Friday, December 17, 2021 from 10:00AM – 2:00PM. The Market hosts a variety of food, agricultural and artisan vendors. Shoppers will be able to find fresh fruits, vegetables, breads, fish, gourmet foods, flowers and handcrafted goods. Live performances from community groups are also anticipated on certain Fridays. The new location will bring welcomed foot-traffic to the vibrant SoFA District, while practicing the County's social distancing directives.

City Manager's Office and Office of Cultural Affairs Staff Announcements

After 34 years of service with the City of San Jose, City Manager Dave Sykes has announced his retirement effective July 23, 2021. Under his leadership, the Office of Economic Development, of which the Office of Cultural Affairs is a division, is in the process of being renamed the Office of Economic Development and Cultural Affairs. Respected for his good listening skills, he has led the City of San Jose through some of its most challenging crises.

OCA's Senior Art Program Manager Arlene Biala will retire from her outstanding service to the City of San Jose since 1996. Arlene will be sorely missed for her deep knowledge of and commitment to the arts, excellent management of any program she led, balanced perspective, positive attitude and big smile.