

OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS (OCA) REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 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. However, as the Charter Commission has requested use of the City Hall Committee Room in October and November of 2021, the Arts Commission meetings will continue to be held virtually in 2021. As a reminder, there is no meeting of the San Jose Arts Commission in December.

Support Diverse Cultural Spaces & Places Throughout the Community

City-owned cultural facilities are reopening, including museums and theaters. On August 24th, the City Council approved a vaccination mandate for attendees aged 12 or older attending indoor events involving fifty or more people at all City-owned facilities.

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 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 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 until the Arts Commission October meeting.

Airport Art:

- **Feature Wall/A million times for San José:** Artwork is installed. Operational training still to be scheduled. Press release pending final documentation scheduled for August 30th.
- **Showcase Permanent Artwork/Threshold:** A "teaser" installation consisting of a small sculpture fragment for each case is installed. Installation of the full artwork is expected by the end of September pending US Canadian COVID restrictions.
- **XO:** 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 (EOC/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 local 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*” plaque has been installed and the final photographs are being transmitted. Video of artwork is in production.
- **Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge and Guadalupe River (DENWR) and Guadalupe River Park/Children’s Discovery Museum (GRP/CDM)** – The project has been substantially completed and GRP/CDM project is anticipated for completion by early 2022.
- **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 development planning stage, and a variety of opportunities are being 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 undergoing the final review process by Public Works, after which the project will proceed to the construction process in coordination with Public Works.

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 for September 2021 with additional artwork window treatment in early 2022.

Havana Drive/Midfield Avenue Soundwall mural – CalTrans has approved all necessary permits for this project. Scheduling for the site preparation and creation of the mural is underway with the expected completion of the project by the end of October 2021.

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

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. The estimated completion date, which is determined by Shea Properties, the site developer, is planned for Spring 2022.

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 - The Caltrans permit process for the mural at Jackson Ave in District 5 has been completed and the permit for King Road is anticipated to be granted shortly. Installation for the murals at Jackson Ave and King Rd are projected for completion by year end. 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 – Construction has commenced. Completion of the feature wall by artist is pending PRNS Service Orders.

Right the Blight II - Through budget document 68 for Council District 7, and budget document 79 for council district 10, a second phase of this project has been funded for those specific districts. The project launch meeting was conducted on 8/2/2021, and the evaluation of 20 sites citywide is being conducted with the goal selecting five sites total, two in District 7, and three in District 10.

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 five large scale projects in development – Animal Services Center, Tasman Art Campus, Behavioral Services Center, Vietnamese American Community Center and Silver Creek campus.

Sonic Runway – Fabrication is nearing completion and installation is currently scheduled for October 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. On August 11th, artists were selected for Story Road and Eastridge Stations. Announcement pending contract negotiations.

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.

Strengthen the Cultural Community's Infrastructure

Cultural Funding Portfolio - Investments in Art, Creativity and Culture

In recognition of the financial hardship induced by the pandemic on arts and culture organizations, as well as, the vital role these same organizations will play in the post-pandemic economic recovery, the City of San Jose allocated \$2.2 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) towards grants to arts organizations in FY21/22. These ARP funds helped mitigate the substantial loss in Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) funds, which are typically the source of OCA's grantmaking budget. With the addition of ARP funds, OCA was able to make 109 grants totaling \$3,965,984 in FY21/22 to arts and culture organizations. These grants were made through the following programs:

- **Festival, Parade and Celebration Grants** to support San José community festivals, parades and celebrations by nonprofit organizations. Through this program 48 grants totaling \$500,000 were awarded to arts and culture organizations in FY21/22.
- **take pART Grants** to support publicly-accessible arts activities produced by San José organizations. Through this program 29 grants totaling \$205,000 were awarded to organizations in FY21/22.
- **Operating Grants (OPG)** to support professionally-managed San José arts organizations that operate year-round arts programs. Through this program 32 grants totaling \$3,260,984 were awarded to arts and culture organizations in FY21/22.

Enhance Support for Creative Entrepreneurs and the Commercial Creative Sector

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.

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. Everyday in April, we 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 2021 WeCreate408 and 2021 Creative Ambassadors is provided by the Packard Foundation. A grant from the National Endowment for the Arts was recently awarded to support the Creative Ambassador program in 2022.

Make Music San Jose celebrated its fifth year on June 21, 2021 and was held as a hybrid in-person and online event. The event featured eight community-curated online channels with over 35 performances throughout the day. In-person performances took place at locations across San Jose including Evergreen Library, Eastridge Shopping Center, School of Arts and Culture, Knight Sounds Record Shop, West Valley Library, Parque de los Pobladores, and Music Village in Cambrian Park. Opera San Jose also produced a special Make Music San Jose program at the Winchester Mystery House.

Destination Events in San Jose

SCC County Order Update

On June 15, 2021, the State of California officially moved "beyond the blueprint", removing all restrictions for outdoor events with less than 10,000 attendees. Sectors returned to their usual operations in compliance with Cal OSHA and other statewide agency guidelines and standards with limited public health restrictions. However, outdoor special events with more than 10,000 attendees do have a set of recommendations still in place. These "Mega Events" are 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.

On Tuesday, August 24th, City Council voted on an ordinance that would require all attendees and staff to have proof of vaccination prior to entry of any event of 50 or more people at City facilities. OCA Events staff is working with event organizers who might need to make changes to their events due to the ordinance. For example, the upcoming United Airlines Rock n Roll Half Marathon has decided to move their indoor expo that usually takes place inside the San Jose Convention Center to Discovery Meadow.

Event Organizers continue to submit outdoor event applications, although some event organizers are still postponing their events to next year. August saw many events on the calendar and many that had great attendance including: CityDance San Jose, San Jose Jazz Summer Fest, Music in the Park, and Silicon Valley Pride Parade and Festival. Adding to this busy August, there were a lot of new and returning events like: the First Friday STREET MRKT, Every Friday at Fountain Alley, Bloom Energy Stars and Strides 5k and 10k, and many more. There are plenty of events scheduled for this month including the return of Viva CalleSJ on Sunday, September 19th, SJFD's 20th Anniversary Patriot Day Commemoration on September 11th, the Ethiopian New Year Festival on September 12th, the Jubilee Wellness Festival on September 18th, and the return of the SoFA Street Fair on September 26th. Our team is excited to see events come back to the public realm and look forward to reconnecting with our local and national event coordinators.

San Jose's Al Fresco Program

The San Jose Al 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.