

OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS (OCA) REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2021

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

Consistent with AB 361 and City of San Jose Resolution Nos. 79485, 80237 and 80266, all Boards/Commission/and Committee meetings will not be physically open to the public. The San Jose Arts Commission will be teleconferencing from remote locations. 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 (including outreach to historians that specialize in local history) to meet the City Council-approved Art Removal and Deaccession Policy, this item was deferred until the Arts Commission October meeting. The Arts Commission met on October 18, 2021, to deliberate and decided to "Recommend that the City Council take action to deaccess and remove the Thomas Fallon Statue by artist Robert Glen located at W. Julian Street. Additionally, the statue could be made exclusively available for educational settings such as museums and places of higher education and only at the approval and full public review of the Public Art Committee, Arts Commission, and City Council". City Council is slated to take this item up at their November 9 meeting for a final decision.

Adobe Bridge – Adobe is planning a pedestrian bridge to connect their new building to their other buildings across San Fernando Street. Staff has been working with them to encourage public art be integrated into this in some way. Adobe has listened and is working with artists on some concepts. The final design they decide to move forward with will be brought to the Public Art Committee for review.

Airport Art:

- ***A million Times (San José)***: This new media artwork by Humans Since 1982 is installed in Terminal B and was publicly launched on September 21, 2021.
- ***Threshold***: A permanent artwork by artist Phillip Beesley, located in the two large Terminal B Showcases, was completed on October 7th.
- ***XO***: Artists Laura Kimpton and Jeff Schomberg are working on construction documents.

Bassett Park (AHSC Grant) – PRNS is in the process of reactivating the project to complete Bassett Park that is designed to include integration of artist Vicki Scuri’s illuminated pedestrian light elements in the park construction. The base construction project schedule is in the process of being reset which changes the completion date for the public art; its completion is now planned for Spring 2025.

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. Bay Area artist Johanna Poethig was selected by a panel of stakeholders, arts professionals, and neighborhood residents, from a competitive Request for Qualifications for the exterior component of this project wherein 36 artists applied. Johanna is working with staff and the stakeholder team on her design. Facility completion is forecasted for Summer (FDTF) and Fall (EOC) 2022.

Environmental Services Department (ESD) Projects:

- **CoGeneration** – Video of artwork by Buster Simpson is in production.
- **Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge and Guadalupe River (DENWR) and Guadalupe River Park/Children’s Discovery Museum (GRP/CDM)** – The project by artist Mark Brest Van Kempen 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.
- **Coyote Creek**: Conversations with ESD, Parks and non-profit partners are on-going about potential art interventions that could educate and help reduce trash along the waterway and trail.

End of Watch Police Memorial – Artist Gordon Huether’s approved memorial design has been fabricated and key stakeholders are apprised of developments. The memorial site 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 8 – Project in early planning stages.

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 is underway and artist selection is scheduled for October 29.

Fire Station 32 – The first community outreach meeting was conducted on the evening of September 22, 2021. District 7 Councilmember and key stakeholder staff were present to reveal prospective architectural designs. The public art component of this project has yet to be determined and feedback was provided regarding this from the community and stakeholders. Project is in the evaluation phase.

Fire Station 36 – Project in early planning stages.

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 October 2021 with additional artwork window treatment in early 2022.

Havana Drive/Midfield Avenue Soundwall mural – The mural by artist Morgan Bricca is complete and the District 7 Council Office held a ribbon-cutting event on Friday, October 1, from 5:30-6:30 PM. Around fifty residents attended.

Hummingbirds – Due to safety reasons, the pole mounted sculptures by artist Todd Andrews 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 contracts are in development. 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 team 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 however, that date may be extended.

Market/San Pedro Parking Garage – The project with artist Brian Brush is in construction documentation development. It is expected this process could go through 2022.

Neighborhood Galleries – The Caltrans permit process for the mural at Jackson Ave and King Road in District 5 has been completed. Installation for the murals by artist Scape Martinez at Jackson Ave is projected for completion by year end. A permit application has been approved by BART for the District 4 mural by artist Jason Jagel.

Olinder Community Center Time Mural – Artist Juan Raul 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 robust materials appropriate for an outdoor installation. The mural is contingent upon Parks repairing the canopy.

Pellier Park – Construction has commenced. Completion of the feature wall by artist Norie Sato 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 to select five sites total, two in District 7, and three in District 10.

County of Santa Clara – 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. The City’s consulting work with the County is scheduled to expire December 31, 2021. There are no plans at this time to renew as staff shortages within the City require existing staff focus on City projects.

Sonic Runway – Installation is complete. The opening celebration will be on November 5, 2021 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm in front of City Hall.

Valley Medical Center – Artist Christian Moeller’s structural drawings are complete. Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPOD) approved project. Artist contract amendment was approved on October 19, 2021.

VTA-EBRC – Public Art staff 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. Contract negotiations ongoing.

VTA BART Phase II – VTA has decided not to allocate money for public art on the largest public infrastructure project ever constructed in the City of San José. This issue has been escalated internally and with Councilmembers whose districts are impacted by the project.

Weavers’ Gifts – One of the major sculptural elements, the limestone basket, has been damaged beyond repair. Staff is working with the artist’s quarry in Ireland for pricing, revised structural documents, and pricing shipping and installation. 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

Demystifying Public Art: Insight for Artists Series: OCA staff worked with peers in the Northern California Public Art Administrators Network to organize a series of public art webinars designed to "demystify" public art for emerging artists looking to enter the field. A total of three sessions were held; "Introduction to Public Art" on September 22, 2021, "Presenting Yourself as a Public Artist" on September 29, 2021, and "Avenues for Creating Art in the Public Realm" on October 13. Each session has had over 200 registrants. All sessions were recorded.

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 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. Application Guidelines for the 2022 Creative Ambassadors were released in August with an October 7, 2021 application deadline.

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.

Destination Events in San Jose

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 17th, 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-owned facilities, such as SAP Center, the San Jose Convention Center, and other theater venues operated by Team San Jose. Office of Economic Development and Cultural Affairs (OEDCA) Events staff continue to work with event organizers who might need to make changes to their events due to the ordinance.

Although COVID-19 cases continue to decline through the month of October, we are seeing a handful of event organizers opt to remain virtual or remove elements from their events to avoid large gatherings. An example of this is the annual Applied Materials Turkey Trot. Race organizers recently decided to continue their virtual race options as they did for 2020, rather than plan for an in-person event that typically swells above 30,000 participants. October did see the return of the annual United Airlines Rock N Roll Half Marathon, 10K, 5K and Kids Run, with a modest 4,000 participants through all four race options. Because of the current City of San Jose proof of vaccination ordinance, the Rock n Roll organizers decided to move their annual Health and Fitness Expo outdoors to Discovery Meadow. The Office of Cultural Affairs implemented its annual Cornerstone Awards, honoring individuals who have had significant and meaningful impacts on the artistic and cultural landscape of San José. For the first time, the ceremony was held as a hybrid event with 150 in-person guests and 500 attendees who viewed the ceremony via the City's YouTube channel.

Cultural events had a large presence this month with the successful Culture Night Market expanding its footprint into District Two and *Sankofa – Africa in the Park!*, which kicked-off the 2021 Silicon Valley African Film Festival. The Culture Night Market in District Two used the existing Al Fresco street closure for their event site, activating a space that was no longer in use by the restaurants that have already started operating indoors. In addition, two Dia de los Muertos events were held providing families an opportunity to honor and remember deceased loved ones. One of the Dia de los Muertos events chose to remain virtual, while the second will be an in-person event, following State gathering guidelines. Rounding out the month included events like Pumpkins in the Park, the San Jose Sharks Opening Night Street Rally, San Jose Firefighters Stickball Tournament, and the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Silicon Valley Celebration.

Upcoming Events

As we look towards November, more and more annual events are returning to the public realm. Viva CalleSJ is making a quick return with their upcoming program scheduled for November 7th. This route will take participants through the center of Willow Glen, a portion of Downtown San Jose, and Kelley Park, near Happy Hollow Park and Zoo. The Sonic Runway celebration and light-art installation premieres on November 5th in front of City Hall with performances, food trucks and more. The Veterans Day Parade is making a comeback with an in-person parade on November 11th, providing an opportunity to honor and remember our nation's veterans. And back by popular demand, Christmas in the Park, Winter Wonderland and Downtown Ice will kick-off at the end of November, sprinkling some holiday cheer in Downtown San Jose. For more information and details about each event, please visit www.sanjoseculture.org.