

# A, E, I, O, U and Sometimes Why?

Artist: Samuel Rodriguez

June 2019

Edenvale Library, 101 Branham Lane East, San Jose, CA / Council District 2

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## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Artist Sam Rodriguez created a large-scale, captivating, colorful mural on the exterior of Edenvale Library. In speaking of his design for the artwork he notes that, "The mural was inspired by the community and focuses on the intersection of time periods. San José is changing rapidly, but many remember the past and maintain it. For the younger generation that learns about history from their elders, the past to them is imaginary. So it becomes about how that past is imagined and relates to the future."



This Edenvale Library mural project was initiated as a collaboration between the Library Department, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, the District 2 Council Office, and the Office of Cultural Affairs as part of Viva Calle 2018. Rodriguez was selected for this project by an independent neighborhood review panel. As part of his design process, he met with neighborhood residents to help inspire his design.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Rodriguez is a real San José public art story. Early expressions of his creativity were through graffiti art; he subsequently evolved into an illustrator and skilled fine artist, and earned widespread acclaim for his part in creating beautifully-adorned, customized "lowrider" bicycles. Rodriguez has two other public art projects in the city's public art collection: *potential* is located inside the seven trees library and east side story, one of the raza writer tables in the *recolecciones* artworks collection at the dr. Martin luther king jr. Library. Rodriguez's artwork can also be seen on the corner of empire and n. Eighth streets, a large mural that was commissioned by empire 7.

## 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 and experience. 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 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.

