

# ***Life!***

Artist: Larry Kirkland

Completed June 2020

N. San José Berryessa BART Station / 1620 Berryessa Road, San José, CA / Council District 4

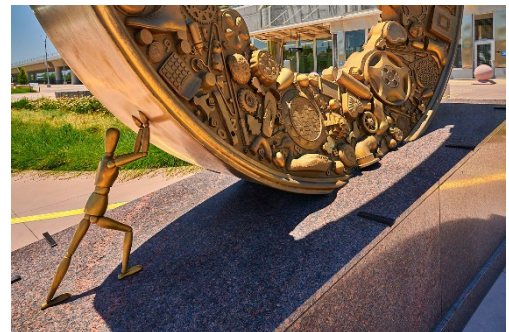
## **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

Artist Larry Kirkland's sculpture *Life!*, located at the main entrance of the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Berryessa station, is a prominent visual feature of the station.

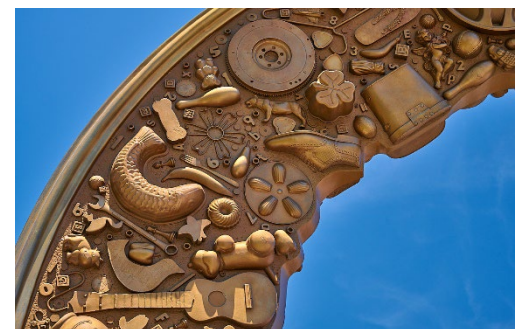
The surface of the large circular bronze sculpture features a vast array of common objects that could be found at the nearby, historic Berryessa Flea Market, which served as inspiration for the artwork.



Kirkland notes, "These are all things that make up an individual life. The piece suggests each and every person's life journey. The uphill slope is what life often is, never known what lies ahead." The small figure that appears to be pushing the wheel of objects up the slope also suggests symbolism about life experience.



Kirkland's design was also influenced by engagement and input from the local community and stakeholders and, as well, the fact that the more than 100 year old Berryessa Flea Market location had been slated for a development project that may spell the market's end also inspired him.



This is a project of the Valley Transit Authority (VTA) as part of its partnership with BART to build the North San José Berryessa BART station. The City of San José's Public Art Program was contracted to manage all aspects of this public art project in collaboration with VTA's construction of the BART station.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Larry Kirkland has collaborated with community and business leaders and design professionals to conceive and create his large-scale, multi-dimensional public artworks. Kirkland's installations can be found in institutional and municipal buildings, transit hubs, research facilities, libraries, universities, cruise ships and urban parks and plazas. Among his many commissions are artworks installed at Pennsylvania Station in New York; the American Red Cross Headquarters and National Academies of Science in Washington, D.C.; Putra World Trade Center in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and Kansai International Airport in Osaka, Japan. He works in a wide range of media including metals like bronze and steel, stone and marble, and more. In addition to Life! At San José's Berryessa BART Station, Kirkland also created sculptural work in Carrera marble at San José's Evergreen Branch Library.

Born in Port Hueneme, CA, Larry Kirkland moved with his military family throughout the U.S. and abroad during his childhood. He received his undergraduate degree in environmental design in 1972 from Oregon State University and his Masters of Fine Arts degree in 1974 from the University of Kansas, both with honors.

Kirkland has received many honors including a Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and has served on the peer review panel for the U.S. General Services Administration's Design Excellence and the Arts Program. He has served as a juror on numerous art and architecture competitions and programs and has been involved in arts master plans for New Jersey Transit and Denver's Wellington E. Webb Municipal Office Building. He also served on the Public Art Network Council of Americans for the Arts. Learn more about Larry Kirkland's body of work at <https://larrykirkland.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 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 at [publicart@sanJoseca.gov](mailto:publicart@sanJoseca.gov).

