

OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS (OCA) REPORT FOR March 2022

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

The San Jose Arts Commission will be teleconferencing from remote locations through June 2022.

San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA)

The OCA is actively undergoing a recruitment for two Sr. Arts Program Coordinators. More detail will be presented as recruitment processes are finalized.

Support Diverse Cultural Spaces & Places Throughout the Community

City-owned cultural facilities are reopening, including museums and theaters. The City Council voted to rescind its recent booster 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 - Public works and public art staff are developing the construction bid set to de-install the statue, relocate to city storage, and repair any demolition at the site. De-installation is expected to be complete by August 2022.

Adobe Bridge – The Public Art Committee reviewed the Adobe bridge art enhancement concept design by artist Hou de Sousa at their February 1, 2022 meeting. Adobe received positive input as well as some prospective elements that could be improved upon in the design. Adobe is to continue to work out the details and refine the design.

Airport Art:

- **XO** – Artists Laura Kimpton and Jeff Schomberg are continuing to work on construction documents.
- **Art Window** – Cynthia Cao is in the initial stages of designing an exhibit plan for a collection of 2D software generated works collected specifically for the airport's mezzanine Art Window located adjacent to the TSA Pre-Check lanes.
- **Threshold, E-Cloud, and A Million Times For San José** are being scheduled for routine cleaning and filter replacement.

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. Following the PAC's approval of her design development proposal at its meeting on Feb. 1, Bay Area artist Johanna Poethig, who is creating artwork for the facility exterior, is completing design details and has started the first phase of the fabrication process. Artwork for the facility interior (Phase 2) will focus primarily on engaging local artists, with up to 30 two-dimensional artworks by San José artists to be selected for permanent display inside the facility. Facility completion is forecasted for the end of 2022.

Environmental Services Department (ESD) Projects:

- **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 in 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 to be better stewards of the environment. In December 2021, the Public Art Committee reviewed and approved the artists' Concept Proposal. The project framework is in development, and the artists are in the initial stages of researching and engaging potential partners with the advisement of ESD partners. In parallel, the artists are seeking a Social Media Specialist as part of the team.
- **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** – Public art staff is working with a City team to apply for a Clean CA grant for any potential art interventions along this waterway.

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 have completed the final review process by Public Works, and the project is in the process of being set up to proceed into the construction phase through Public Works, which is expected to begin in Summer 2022.

Fire Station 8 – Project in early planning stages. Staff has made several presentations at community meetings and has worked with the base project team to determine the optimal public art opportunity for this location on E. Santa Clara St.

Fire Station 14 – San José artist Bill Vujevich was selected for small mural project for the exterior of Fire Station 14 as part of the community budgeting process. The process of collaboration between the community and SJFD to develop a vision for the artwork is underway. Vujevich was selected for the project by a panel of community members and SJFD personnel; staff is working with artist on design development with the goal to complete the project in early Summer 2022.

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. Installation of the tile artwork installation was completed in early November 2021; the additional artwork window treatment will be installed in March 2022. A dedication event for the new fire station is being planned for April or May.

Hummingbirds – Due to safety reasons, the pole mounted sculptures by artist Todd Andrews on Park Ave. were dismantled in 2018. They will be retrofitted and reinstalled. This work is being funded through the participatory district budgeting process. The contract with the artist and flagpole contractor for retrofit services have been executed. Lane closure requests are in process with Department of Transportation for the flagpole retrofit. The traffic control for the lane closure will require a CalTrans permit which will extend the project schedule for this work.

Japantown Heinlenville Park/Plaza Art - San José artist Roger Stoller has completed fabrication of the sculpture for the park. The estimated completion date, which is determined by Shea Properties (the site developer) is planned for Summer 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 will go through 2022.

Neighborhood Galleries (4 largescale mural treatments) – 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 is projected for Summer/Fall 2022 provided all logistics fall into place. The BART encroachment for the District 4 mural by artist Jason Jagel is complete. Because of the extended timeline, this permit will require an amendment, which is in progress. The project also requires a license agreement from VTA, also in progress. In the meantime, staff is negotiating logistical details with the artist.

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, and Parks and Public Works are working with a consultant to prepare a building condition assessment report.

Parade of Floats – Bay View Development is responsible for restoring the toppers on Andrew Leicester's *Parade of Floats' Agriculture and Arts & Community* sculptures. Paint colors have been selected and approved by the artist and City staff.

Pellier Park – Construction has commenced. Artist Norie Sato is working with the landscape architects, SWA, on advancing the design of the feature wall.

Right the Blight II – Through the budget process, a second phase of this project has been funded for those specific districts. The project launch meeting was conducted in August, and the evaluation of 21 sites citywide has been conducted with the goal to select five sites total, two in District 7, and three in District 10. Project is currently on hold as staffing shortages and deadline demands from Capital Improvement Projects take precedent.

Sonic Runway – The Sonic Runway artists did unique St. Patrick’s Day programming. Recent vandalism to one of the gates called for an emergency repair. All systems are now operational. A schedule of curated events at the site will be announced in 2022.

St. James Park – Artist Mark Reigelman has been commissioned for design services. Staff is in conversation with DPW and PRNS on project initiation aligned with the base project.

Valley Medical Center – The County issued the artist’s Notice to Proceed. An 18-month schedule is projected for shop drawings, fabrication and installation, meaning the installation may not occur until 2024.

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 executions are in progress for Pae White and the team of Laura Haddad and Todd Drugan. Staff is working with VTA team on a community outreach strategy.

VTA BART Phase II – During February 3, 2022 VTA board meeting, Councilmember Peralez submitted a referral asking that VTA staff work on identifying a future source of funding for public art in the BART Phase II stations after learning that federal grant funding cannot be used. Furthermore, he asked that VTA staff work on developing a percentage for art policy similar to the 1% policy that the City of San José has on Capital Improvement Projects. VTA staff will provide an update before the end of the fiscal year.

Weavers’ Gifts – One of the major sculptural elements, the limestone basket, has been damaged beyond repair. Councilmember Peralez submitted a Budget Document with a request to fund the replacement, and it was approved in the Council-approved June Budget Message. Based on this approval, staff located the original structural engineer to update installation documents. These drawings have been reviewed and approved by DPW staff. The fabrication contract with the original quarry in Ireland is with the City Attorney’s Office for final review. Purchase orders for installation and inspection are in process.

Strengthen the Cultural Community's Infrastructure

Cultural Funding Portfolio - Investments in Art, Creativity and Culture includes three large grant programs: Operating Grants (provides partial support to San Jose arts organizations with professional staff and year-round programming); Festival, Parade and Celebration Grants (provides partial support for community events held in San Jose and organized by nonprofit organizations); and take pART (provides partial support for publicly-accessible San Jose arts activities by San Jose organizations). OCA provided three virtually pre-application workshops via Zoom. Each pre-application workshops were recorded and are

posted on www.sanjoseculture.org. Grant panel meetings are: March 17– 18 (OpG); March 24 – 25 (take pART); and April 14– 15 (FPC).

Due to the public health risk related to the COVID-19, the Office of Cultural Affairs will convene the OpG, take pART, and FPC panel meetings as a virtual meeting conducted via Zoom call to minimize the risk of spreading the virus and protect vulnerable members of the population. Currently, many scheduled public meetings within the City of San Jose are being held virtually via Zoom.

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.

Destination Events in San Jose

The OEDCA special events staff coordinate and authorizes outdoor special events which drive our cultural, community and economic development goals. After two years, the number of events and attendees are climbing back towards pre-pandemic levels. In the calendar year of 2019, before mask-wearing and COVID-19 became a part of everyday life, there were 97 events held throughout Downtown San Jose with a total of 2,042,848 attendees. From 2020 – 2021, event planning was halted or extremely limited. From March 2020 through June 15, 2021, only nine events were allowed by the State of California and the County of Santa Clara's standards. Altogether, those nine events generated 642,939 attendees – showing that the city was still craving social interaction and experiences. On June 15, 2021, the requirements and guidelines affecting special events drastically changed and opened the door for many event organizers to return. Since the June 2022 announcement, 46 events have returned to Downtown San Jose and brought 1,616,714 attendees back to the public outdoor space. and look forward to 2022 bringing more events to the community.

Since the start of 2022, we have had a number of in-person events return to the city's outdoor spaces. The year kicked off with Vietnamese New Year festival celebrations, followed by Black History Month community-driven events. The Santa Clara County Department of Public Health and Black Leadership Kitchen Cabinet changed their venue for their African Ancestry Health and Heritage Month: Black Family Day event to Parque de los Pobladores where they welcomed many new audiences and vendor collaborations. The San Jose Sharks took their Black History Month event to the streets with a Street Rally. The Culture Night Market kick off 2022 with a new event location within the Eastridge Mall parking lot, with more events scheduled in March and April.