

## **OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS (OCA) REPORT FOR JUNE 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. After June, the next meeting may be in-person or via ZOOM. Please check back on the OCA's website at [www.sanjosculture.org](http://www.sanjosculture.org) prior to August 15, 2022 for final confirmation on the meeting location.

### **Support Diverse Cultural Spaces & Places Throughout the Community**

City-owned cultural facilities have fully reopened, including museums and theaters. The City Council voted to rescind its emergency ordinance requiring proof of vaccinations and boosters to attend 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 in the coming months.

**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 continues to work out the details and refine the design.

#### **Airport Art:**

- **XO** – Artists have engaged a general contractor for the installation and Purchase Orders for special inspections are in process.
- **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.

**Bassett Park (AHSC Grant)** – Parks department 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 being revised. Completion of public art is now planned for 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. 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:**

- **Co-Generation** – Several LED lighting strips have gone dark. Staff filed a claim against the warranty and is now working with Environmental Services Department staff to investigate the failure.
- **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. 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 March, a Social Media Specialist join 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 California grant for potential art interventions that encourage respecting and cleaning this important 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’s artwork for the new fire station in Willow Glen, consisting of a combination of figurative tile work with the tile imagery extending into the window treatment, is fully installed. A dedication event for the new fire station was held on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**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. The sculptures have been delivered to the artist’s studio in Grass Valley and are being repaired. Initial pole retrofit is complete. Artist’s structural engineer is preparing construction documents for City’s Department of Public Work’s review.

**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 has been extended to October 2022. This construction will include Heinlenville Park in which the artwork will be located.

**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. Coordination for installation of the Jackson Ave. mural by artist Scape Martinez is underway and projected for Summer/Fall 2022.

The BART encroachment for the District 4 mural by artist Jason Jagel is complete. The VTA License Agreement is executed. Staff is negotiating schedule and logistical details with the artist and anticipate installation from September 26<sup>th</sup> – October 7<sup>th</sup>

**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. Painting of the toppers was completed on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The Families and Future floats were reinstalled on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Restoration of the up lights in these corner sculptures is in progress. The ceramic mountain atop the neighborhood float was replicated by a SJSU student and has been replaced.

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

**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 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 due to staff workloads as deadline demands from Capital Improvement Projects take precedent, also, re-districting has reshaped the boundaries of District 10 and District 7 making many of the original site evaluations no longer relevant. New site evaluations will need to be conducted.

**Sonic Runway** – The OEDCA events team is working on a schedule of curated events at the site, which will be announced the Summer/Fall of 2022. The artist's fabrication contract covered one year of programming and maintenance. Their contract for programming and ongoing software/hardware maintenance for the term of the installation (through 2028) is being negotiated.

**St. James Park** – Artist Mark Reigelman has been commissioned for design services. Staff is in conversation with the Public Works and Parks departments on project initiation aligned with the base project. The artist is considering strategic approaches to community engagement and site identification.

**Thank You America** – Though project funding is still being sought, Parks received a grant from the County of Santa Clara to begin the design process of the figurative component of the memorial. The artist - Tuan Nguyen - who created the original Vietnamese memorial honoring South Vietnamese soldiers that fought on the American side during the Vietnam War, has agreed to develop a figurative maquette based on the Veterans design (which was based on Tuan's original design). The artist will present the maquette to the community on or before October 2, 2022. With funds included as part of the June Budget Message, and additional fundraising from the community, the artist would be contracted to fabricate, engineer and install the work.

**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 at Story Road and Eastridge Stations. Contract executions are in progress for Pae White. Laura Haddad and Todd Drugan's contract is executed. Staff is working with VTA team on an outreach strategy and anticipate community meetings in June

**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. The fabrication contract with the original quarry in Ireland is complete. The quarry is working to identify an appropriate stone to begin work.

**Wildlife of the Guadalupe** – Adobe has asked for a Temporary Construction Easement in McEnery Park and have asked to temporarily remove three of the insect sculptures associated with Nobu Nagasawa's sculpture. Staff is working with the Parks department on a Loan Agreement.

### **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). Grant recommendations were approved by Council as part of the FY 22-23 Mayor's Budget Message/Operating Budget.

### **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. Staff is entering into partnership agreements to hold Make Music San Jose in downtown and at Mexican Heritage Plaza. Staff is seeking to hold the next #WeCreate408 festival in October 2022 in alignment with National Arts and Humanities Month.

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. 2022 Creative Ambassadors include Stephanie Barajas, Ricardo Cortez, Dana Harris Seegar, Eric Hayslett, Amy Hibbs, and Brandon Luu.

Make Music San Jose returns on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 with a mix of online and in-person performances. This event is a community curated celebration of music on the summer solstice that coincides with the international celebration of Make Music Day. Highlights for Make Music San Jose 2021 includes performances at the School of Arts and Culture at Mexican Heritage Plaza, Parque de los Pobladores, and at San Jose City Hall.

### **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.

As the weather continues to warm and summer approaches, events are on the rise. May kicked off the return of another annual Downtown Farmers' Market in the SoFA district and now occurs on Wednesdays from 3:00pm – 7:00pm through mid-November. After a variety of events, including a 5K run taking place in May, the Special Events team prepares for 20+ events to take place in June. The SubZERO Festival had its two-day celebration during the first weekend of June and welcomed over 12,000 attendees. This first weekend also held the Vibha Dream Mile, two (2) Culture Night Market events, and a San Jose Museum of Art Community Day with an appearance from San Jose Public Library's Maker[Space]Ship. There is high anticipation for another Viva Calle SJ as it is expected to run through Backesto Park, Arena Green, and the Municipal Rose Garden on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. In the coming weeks, Parque de los Pobladores will host MACLA's captivating Pachuquismo performance, Veggielution's fEAST on First fundraiser, the 41<sup>st</sup> annual Juneteenth Street Festival in the heart of downtown San Jose, and the Office of Cultural Affairs' Make Music Day. Larger music festivals such as Music in the Park and Fountain Blues and Brews are pairing up on June 17<sup>th</sup> and June 18<sup>th</sup> for a combined weekend of events at Plaza de Cesar Chavez.

The Special Events team is also preparing for their launch of CityDance SJ starting on Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> and continuing every third Thursday through September. The first CityDance SJ kicks off with the always popular Salsa music, including dance instruction and a live performance. Participants can look forward to future months featuring Bollywood, Cumbia, and K-Pop. For a full list of upcoming events overseen by the Office of Economic Development and Cultural Affairs' Special Events team, please visit [SanJoseCulture.org](https://www.sanjoseculture.org).