

Collectively Rising

Artist: Jason Jägel

2022

Berryessa Road at Berryessa Station Way., San Jose, CA 95133 / Council District 4

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Collectively Rising is a 20 x 67-foot mural by Bay Area artist Jason Jägel commissioned to connect neighborhoods and reclaim the space surrounding underpasses and bridges for safe pedestrian use.

Central to the composition is a large, winged, blue figure who soaring over a neighborhood landscape. Within the figure's wings is a collection of beings, real and imagined, curiously juxtaposed, and firmly open for interpretation.

The left-side wing includes an elephant and green tiger, two figures in embrace, and a hummingbird attending a flower. Under the gaze

of a night forest, a pale dog keeps company with a figure who's flowing blue hair becomes a river for a paddling canoe. At the banks of the hair-river, stalks of corn grow. Around a prone figure with an open book are a cosmology of dragon, moon, star, and beehive. Continuing, the wing on the right side of the mural includes an earthworm in a top hat, a snail, a despondent flower, and congenial cat. A gesture of solidarity is shared between a kneeling figure and an octopus, while turquoise fish and another humanoid apparently swim past. Moving down the curved wing is a unicorn in mid-stride and olive-colored elk, a palm tree, and a very happy fruit. Neighboring these are a pair of cartoon bears that may be parent and child. At the wingtips, a red butterfly appears above a curling flower and a figure at rest.



Detail: Dragon



Collectively Rising as seen from Berryessa Road

Completing the wingtip is large open hand, the arm of which is ground for a figure riding a skateboard. Below, a group of eclectic individuals with warm expressions look up at the winged figure.

The work was possible with the cooperation of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and the Bay Area Rapid Transit Authority (BART) who granted easement to beautify the vertical face of the retaining wall under the BART rail line at Berryessa Road.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jason Jägel is a painter, educator, and commissioned public artist. His work uses the syntax of comics to invoke fictional worlds that present unexpected relationships between people, places, and things. The artist draws the comparison between his visual constructions and our everyday lives where the unexpected can happen at any time. His work is in many public collections including the Museum of Modern Art, New York, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. His large-scale public murals can be found throughout San Francisco including a new ceramic tile mosaic installed at San Francisco International Airport's new Harvey Milk Terminal.

More information on the artist can be found at <https://jasonjagel.com/copy-of-about-music>



Figure with blue hair and pale dog

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. 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 Office of 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.