

PUBLIC ART STAFF REPORT

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

Cultural Connection Goal: **Integrate High Impact Public Art & Urban Design throughout the Community**

Thomas Fallon Statue – Construction demolition and de-installation is expected to begin late April, weather permitting. Staff is in conversation with community about what happens after the statues have been removed.

Adobe Bridge – Temporary relocation to storage of three dragonfly sculptures, which are part of the Wildlife of the Guadalupe River public artwork, has been complete. Bridge is currently under construction and completion forecasted for 2023.

Airport Art:

- **XO** – Artwork was successfully dedicated on March 9, 2023. There was good media coverage including by the San José Mercury News: [Hugs and Kisses at San José Airport's New Selfie Spot.](#)
- **Art Window** – Staff is drafting a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a permanent commission for the Art Window, located adjacent to the TSA Pre-Check lanes.

Bassett Park (AHSC Grant) – Parks department has reactivated the Bassett Park project. Included in the park design is artist Vicki Scuri's illuminated streetscape pedestrian light elements. The base construction project schedule has been reset which impacts the completion date for the public art; its completion goal is now planned for 2025. Staff is working with the artist and a fabricator to finalize the fabrication plan for these lantern artworks.

County of Santa Clara – City is in on-going negotiations with County to manage their percent for art program on Capital Improvement Projects as well as one gallery space at the County of Santa Clara Civic Center.

Emergency Operation Center & Fire Department Training Facility Relocation (EOC/FDTF) – Installation of the exterior artwork by artist Johanna Poethig is complete. The process for procuring artwork for the facility interior (Phase 2) is underway; it will focus primarily on engaging local artists, with up to 30 two-dimensional artworks by San José artists to be commissioned for permanent display in select locations inside the facility. Facility completion is forecasted for Spring/Summer 2023.

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 is substantially completed and GRP/CDM project is anticipated for completion by 2023.

- **One Day One Action** – An environmental awareness project is in development with Bay area artists Trena Noval and Sue Mark which will encourage residents to shift their habits, rituals, and behaviors to be good stewards of the environment. The artists have enrolled a diverse Advisory Council who will support the development of the project’s social media prompts based on a series of intimate interviews. Julie Benabente, Deputy Director with the City of San José’s Environmental Services Department is facilitating the City’s climate efforts as an advisor. Additionally, the artists finalized the following community partners organizations who will support outreach to their community and networks: CommUniverCity, Food Empowerment Project, Người Việt ở San José (Vietnamese in San José), Santa Clara Open Space Authority, The Tech Museum, and Veggielution are finalizing the Steering Council.
- **River Oaks Pump Station** – In consultation with the base project design team, the public art element will be integrated into the site perimeter fence. Artist Michael Amescua has been selected for the project; design concept development is in process and expected to come before the PAC in June 2023.
- **Water Resources Administration & Operations Facility** – Bay Area artist Adam Feibelman is under contract. His first stakeholder group meeting was on January 20, 2023. On February 17, 2023, the artist met with staff on site to further understand the technical operations performed by Municipal Water staff. On March 21, 2023 the artist met with staff again, to present and refine concept. Concept to be submitted for Public Art Committee review at their April 4, 2023 meeting.

End of Watch Police Memorial – Artist Gordon Huether’s memorial artwork element has been fabricated and key stakeholders are apprised of developments. The landscaping and site development project is now under construction and, weather permitting, project completion is forecasted by May 2023.

District 4 mural/Collectively Rising – The mural by artist Jason Jagel was extensively tagged. Staff has assessed the damage and it was not reparable. This was communicated with the artist, and council office, and it was determined to remove mural and deaccession. Mural was removed/painted over in February. An on-going discussion with the City Anti-Graffiti team has commenced to perhaps develop other creative solutions to graffiti intervention at this site that Anti-Graffiti staff can easily accommodate.

District 10 - OCA staff is coordinating with the council office on site evaluations for three murals in that district.

Fire Station 8 – Project planning has continued in consultation with the base project team. Bay Area artist Jesse Hernandez who was selected to design a metal mural for an exterior location at the site is in the process of developing concept design proposal.

Fire Station 14 – San José artist Bill Vujevich is in the process of creating his trompe oeil mural on the exterior wall of the station but there have been some delays due to weather. The artist has

used actual firefighters, local children, and pets in the artwork design. It is expected to be complete in Spring 2023.

Fire Station 23 – Project in early planning stages.

Fire Station 32 – In consideration of the facility design and location, the most optimal opportunity for the public art component of this project is a mural on one or more exterior walls of the facility property. The project is in the artist selection phase.

Fire Station 36 – Project in early planning stages.

Fourth and San Fernando Parking Garage Mural – Project in early planning stages.

Japantown Heinlerville Park/Plaza Art - San José artist Roger Stoller has completed fabrication of the sculpture for the park, and it is expected to be installed in Spring 2023. The park estimated completion date, which is determined by Shea Properties (the site developer) has been extended to late Spring 2023. This construction will include completion of Heinlerville Park in which the artwork will be located.

Market/San Pedro Parking Garage – The façade project with artist Brian Brush is in construction documentation development. Structural design has been submitted with the base project for a preliminary permit review. The integration of the electrical engineering is in process as is the integration of a future electronic billboard.

Mural Artists Roster – The Mural Artists Roster of local muralists has been updated as reported to the PAC at its meeting on February 7, 2023. The updated roster features 132 artists. It has been used by staff for two new mural projects since that time.

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 worked with a consultant to prepare a building condition assessment report which was completed in March 2023. Parks is determining best path forward as significant damage to structure and roof was reported.

Plata Arroyo Park - The Public Art Core Team reviewed artists from the pre-approved Mural Roster and met on March 22, 2023. The PACT recommended San José artist Carlos Rodriguez for the mural commission. He has created youth art programs for MACLA, Mountain View Youth Center, and Alum Rock Counseling Center. Rodriguez is also the co-owner of New Edge Creative Studios. Contracting the artist is in process.

Pellier Park – Storytelling wall shop drawings for art tiles are complete. Stone veneer shop drawings were recently completed, and production has been initiated. Construction completion is anticipated in late spring/early summer.

Public Art Map (Online) – Staff is working with the City's GIS Enterprise Team on the development of an online map for the City's website that will have many desirable features

including links to detailed info in the Public Art Collection webpages on the City's website, the ability to filter by Council Districts, type of location, type of artwork and more, and it can be used as a navigation tool on a mobile device or printed out. Completion is estimated for late Spring.

Pune, India Sister City Statue – (not part of Public Art collection). The Shivaji Maharaj statue was a gift to the City from sister city Pune, India in the late 1990s. The statue has deep meaning to people from India and many people (residents and visitors from India) visit the Guadalupe River park trail to see the statue. In recent years the statue has been subject to severe vandalism including removal of the sword, tail, and most recently the entire statue was stolen, and then recovered at a melt facility. The artist who created the statue is deceased, and staff is working with the sister city organization to make a restoration assessment. As this is not part of the public art collection, and there is no fund source from public art to restore, funding for restoration remains an open question.

San Jose Walls – In its ongoing effort to create the Bay Area's longest "Art Walk", San Jose Walls, a project of Empire Seven Studios in collaboration with the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy (GRPC), has brought forward its 2023 workplan for approval by the PAC. Adding to the group of murals created over the past four years along the Guadalupe River Trail area within the GRPC's jurisdiction, for 2023 there will be new artwork by San José artist Ruben Escalante and also conservation work on several existing murals damaged by tagging. (Not a City project.)

Sonic Runway – The OEDCA Events Team is working on a schedule of curated events at the site and on-going programming can be found here: <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/cultural-affairs/public-art/sonic-runway>. The artist's fabrication contract covered one year of programming and maintenance. Their contract for programming and on-going software creation and hardware conservation for the term of the installation (through 2028) is complete and has been signed and executed.

St. James Park – Artist Mark Reigelman is developing concept design for review by the Public Art Committee in April 2023. The artist process included consulting with both City staff and the landscape architects.

Thank You America – Parks received a grant from the County of Santa Clara to begin the design process of the figurative component of the memorial, and City Council approved and allocated funding from the budget document process in June 2022. 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 San José South Vietnamese Veterans' design (which was based on Tuan's original design). The District 7 Council Office hosted a community meeting with public art staff and the artist on August 1, 2022 at 6:00pm wherein the artist presented the maquette to the community for input. The meeting was well attended physically and virtually, and no overall changes were requested to the concept design as the community was pleased with the artist's work. The concept was approved by the Public Art Committee on October 4, 2022 and is now in the process of the next steps towards the artist working to fabricate, engineer, and install the work.

Valley Medical Center – Artwork is in fabrication. Installation is planned for late 2023 with retrofitting of the base building infrastructure to proceed it. Staff has been working with SVCCreates and the County to position the artist to work directly with the County when SVCCreates contract with the County expires. This happened the end of March.

VTA-EBRC – Public Art staff is working with VTA on two large-scale projects associated with the Eastridge to BART Regional Connector. Eastridge concept will be advanced for approvals in May and June. Story Station will move forward in September and October.

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. An update has been requested from VTA staff.

Washington Community Center — The Public Art Core Team reviewed artists from the pre-approved Mural Roster and selected Bay Area artist Desi Mundo for the mural commission. Mundo is the founder of the Community Rejuvenation Project (CRP). Mundo also has a long history of community organizing and public art advocacy. Contracting the artist is in process.

William Street Bridge — Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful and San José artist Paul J. Gonzalez are collaborating on a project to repaint the William Street Bridge over Coyote Creek, adding new artist elements along the bridge that reference natural elements of Coyote Creek. Artwork design proposals have been presented to the PAC for approval. The project is funded by grants obtained by the artist and KCCB and is completion is expected in early Summer. (Not a City project.)

Weavers' Gifts – Fabrication is complete. Staff continues to work with the quarry on the details of shipping from Ireland to San José. UPS, the shipper, is finalizing details. Staff is hopeful shipping is imminent.