

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 – Statue was removed on April 25, 2023. Clean up of demolition and restoration of concrete/brick median was finished on May 26, 2023.

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:

- **Art Window** – Staff is doing background research for a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a new commission to be sited in the Art Window platform at the Airport, 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 2026. Staff is working with the artist and a fabricator to finalize the fabrication plan for these lantern artworks.

County of Santa Clara – City recently completed negotiations with County to assist with the management of their percent for art program on Capital Improvement Projects as well as one gallery space at the County of Santa Clara Civic Center. Approval to finalize agreement between City and County is tentatively scheduled to go before City Council on June 20, 2023.

Office of Emergency Management & 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 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 with Bay area artists Trena Noval and Sue Mark 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 Smart efforts as an advisor. Additionally, the artists finalized the following community partner 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. Graphic design is in development and will be reviewed by the Public Art Committee at the June 6, 2023, meeting. A newly created OneDay/OneAction Instagram account will be the principal creative platform for outreach. With partner organizations, including OCA, sharing weekly to increase audience.

- **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 will come before the PAC in June 2023.
- **Water Resources Administration & Operations Facility** – Bay Area artist Adam Feibelman is under contract. Design Development Proposal will be reviewed by the Public Art Committee at their June 6, 2023, meeting.

End of Watch Police Memorial – Artist Gordon Huether's memorial artwork element has been installed at the Police Administration memorial site but will remain covered until the formal dedication event to be held by SJPD. The landscaping and site development project is well-underway; completion is forecasted Summer 2023.

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 team. Bay Area artist Jesse Hernandez who was selected to design a metal mural for an exterior location is expected to present his concept design proposal to the PAC at its June 2023 meeting.

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 June 2023.

Fire Station 23 – Project in early planning stages.

Fire Station 36 – Project in early planning stages.

Fourth and San Fernando Parking Garage Mural – The Public Art Core Team reviewed artists from the pre-approved Mural Roster and met on April 21, 2023. The PACT recommended Bay Area artist Robin Gibson for the mural commission. She is a muralist and graphic designer and has created murals in Oakland and Santa Cruz. Gibson completed her BA at Mills College, mentored by renowned artist Hung Liu, and earned her MA at Stanford University. Contracting the artist is in process.

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 late June/early July 2023. The park estimated completion date, which is determined by Shea Properties (the site developer) has been extended to Summer 2023. This construction will include completion of Heinlerville Park in which the artwork will be located. Discussion about a dedication event for the park and public art is underway

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.

Marijane Hamman Park mural - (not in Public Art Collection). Artist Lila Gemellos will be touching up recent graffiti tags on the mural which was originally commissioned by the neighborhood association. Parks will apply an anti-graffiti clear coat after the touch-ups are completed.

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 October 2023.

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 June.

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 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, horse 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), brought forward its 2023 mural designs for approval by the PAC at their April 4, 2023 meeting. Adding to the group of murals created over the past four years along the Guadalupe River Trail area within the GRPC’s jurisdiction, new artwork by San José artist Ruben Escalante was completed on May 13, 2023. (Not a City project.)

Sensing You – Maintenance

Staff are working with the city Department of Public Works and KiboWorks on the maintenance of *Sensing You* located on the 87 underpass and Santa Clara Street.

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>.

St. James Park – Artist Mark Reigelman Concept was approved by the Public Art Committee in April 2023. He is currently working with the landscape architects to detail the sculpture plinth, with the intention of presenting Design Development to the Public Art Committee in August 2023.

Thank You America – Concrete plinth and statues are currently in the engineering phase.

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 presented to the community on August 31, 2023. A community meeting to present the Story Station concept to community is planned for September 13, 2023. Both projects will eventually be presented to the Public Art Committee as a report.

VTA BART Phase II – VTA staff have yet to identify funding for public art on this project.

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. Community engagement with the artist is in planning stages.

Watershed at San Jose Environmental Innovation Center (SJEIC) – Artist Peter Richards submitted a proposal to make repairs to *Watershed*, a large sculpture that collects rainwater to irrigate a grove of olive trees. The artist will work with SJEIC staff and Public Works to replace the water collection tank, repair the wooden deck, and repaint rusted steel beams. Bay Maples, a local business specializing in native California landscape design, and rainwater & irrigation systems, will assist with repairs to *Watershed*’s irrigation system to the olive trees.

Weavers’ Gifts – The 13-ton sculpture is in transit via ocean. Arrival at the port of Oakland is anticipated in late June.