



CITY OF PALO ALTO

NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
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Free and Family-Friendly Public Art Festival Code:ART Coming to Downtown Palo Alto Next Week October 12-14!

Seven Playful Temporary Artworks will Activate Downtown 5-10 p.m. for Three Evenings

PALO ALTO, CA. --- Come explore Palo Alto Public Art Program's free interactive media art festival! [Code:ART Festival](#) will reimagine downtown Palo Alto with seven site-specific temporary interactive media art installations. This is a fun and free family-friendly event October 12-14, 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. Code:ART Festival will reimagine Palo Alto's underutilized plazas, alleys, and public spaces through interactive light, sound, and motion. Join our free public tours at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. every night, starting on King Plaza, to see all artworks and to meet all artists in person! [Explore all Code:ART installations with Mapme.](#)

The major installation *Questions for the Curious Orchard* by LA-based artist [Nate Mohler](#) will be on King Plaza, at 250 Hamilton Avenue. This interactive site-specific temporary media artwork visually responds to visitors in a playful and engaging way. The installation features 17 handsewn fabric trees controlled by a network of fans acting as the support system for the tree trunks. The trees are connected to each other, deflating depending on the presence of people moving through.

[Nate Mohler](#) is a Los Angeles-based emerging media artist, who works with digital technology as a paint brush to build avant-garde experiences. A 2019 UCLA graduate with a B.A. in Design | Media Arts, Mohler is intrigued with the fusion of conceptual art and technology to support social activism with unconventional space and sound.



Full-scale test of *Questions for the Curious Orchard* by Nate Mohler, 2023. Image credit: Courtney Kinnare

Six urban interventions by Bay Area and international artists will activate downtown storefronts, alleys, parking lots and blank walls in new and inventive ways. These artworks will include dynamic projections, immersive installations, responsive sounds, lights, and game-based experiences:

399 University Avenue: *River of Shadows*, by [Cory Barr](#), Paul Mans, and Matt Sonic is a dynamic interactive digital mural, projecting shadows of its participants in colored light joining the "river" of previous visitors.

285 Hamilton Avenue: *Bureau of Cloud Management* by [Tong Wu](#) and [Yuguang Zhang](#) is an imaginary government bureau that monitors clouds entering its jurisdiction.

555 Ramona Street: *Ripple* by Oakland-based artist [Jeffrey Yip](#) is a multisensory installation with water rippling in response to vibrations from a soundscape.

581 Ramona Street: *Interactive Flow Fields* by San Francisco-based artist [Steven Wallace](#) is a multi-display video installation consisting of a computer running TouchDesigner, displaying a field flow algorithm that is webcam reactive.

536 Emerson Street: *Intersection* by Palo Alto-based creator [Ruokan He](#) is an immersive light- and sound-based multimedia art installation where an underwater forest has moved into a downtown alley.

Lytton Plaza: *Helix Seats* by art and design studio [Pneuhaus](#) is a site-specific art installation featuring two inflatable helices designed for interactive engagement. *Helix Seats* will illuminate the space, functions as seating, and double as eye-catching sculptural centerpieces and giant sensory play objects.



Helix Seats by Pneuhaus

The City of Palo Alto Public Art Program is also teaming up with local downtown businesses for an extended Code:ART Festival program schedule:

[Pamela Walsh Gallery](#), 540 Ramona Street, is pleased to participate in this year's Code:ART Festival with a selection of works by interdisciplinary artist Maja Planinac. They will be exhibiting a new, digital work alongside a small collection of photographs from her recent series called, "Away." Join them on Thursday, October 12 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to meet the artist and hear about her artistic practice.

[Qualia Contemporary Art](#), 328 University Avenue, is inviting the public to a free program on Friday, October 13, at 5.30 p.m. Local artist Clive McCarthy will demonstrate and speak to how he utilizes small, custom-built computer systems to produce painting-like images rendered on flat screens.

[Bell's Books](#), 536 Emerson Street, has Margo Davis' s exquisite portraits of Saul Bellow, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Toni Morrison, Ursula Le Guin, The Dalai Lama, and more, on display throughout the entire Code:ART Festival. Come meet Margo Davis in person at a special event on Friday, Oct. 13 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.!

[Pho Ha Noi](#), 185 University Avenue, has a special drink list for Code:ART festival-goers:

Hanoi Winter. A perfect cinnamony spiced drink for the season: Rye, Fernet, cinnamon, fresh lemon, and pineapple. \$10.

Into the Blue. Hawaiian influence in this creamy indulgence: Bacardi rum, Malibu, pineapple, coconut cream, and Blue Curacao. \$10.

Very Berry. Non-alcoholic offering: Blackberry puree, fresh lemon, and purple water. \$5.

[Palo Alto Libraries](#) has curated a special [Code:ART themed book list](#). All publications are available to readers at Palo Alto Libraries and online.

We are looking for volunteers to support the three-evening interactive public art festival Code:ART in downtown Palo Alto, October 12-14! We need volunteers who can help us with assisting participants and artists and do survey-taking. [Sign up today](#) and join in on the fun! Age 16 and up. For more information about the event and the installations, please call the City of Palo Alto Public Art Program at 650.617.3517.

About the Palo Alto Public Art Program

The City of Palo Alto Public Art Program is committed to contributing to the intellectual, emotional, and creative life of the Palo Alto community by creating engaging art experiences and dynamic public spaces for Palo Alto residents and visitors. The Public Art Commission (PAC) reviews and advises the Public Art Program on selection, placement, and care of public art throughout the City of Palo Alto. Learn more at: www.cityofpaloalto.org/publicart

Sent By:

Elise DeMarzo
Public Art Program Director
Community Services Department
City of Palo Alto
(650) 617.3517
elise.demarzo@cityofpaloalto.org

Palo Alto Public Art Program | [Website](#)



Palo Alto Public Art Program | 1313 Newell Road, Division of Arts and Culture , Palo Alto, CA 94303

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