



Public Art Commission 2023-2024 Workplan

Staff Liaison: Elise DeMarzo, Public Art Program Director, Nadya Chuprina, Program Coordinator
Lead Department: Community Services / Arts & Sciences

About the Commission

Public Art Commission is composed of five (5) members. The terms are three (3) years in length and commence on April 1. Residency is not required. There are no vacancies as of April 1, 2023. The Public Art Commission oversees Palo Alto's temporary and permanent public art programs. The Commission's primary duties are:

- To advise the city in matters pertaining to the quality, quantity, scope, and style of art in public places
- To periodically review the capital improvement program with the staff for inclusion of works of art in various projects
- To devise methods of selecting and commissioning artists with respect to the design, execution, and placement of art in public places and to advise staff on the selection and commissioning of artists, and the amounts to be expended on art in public places
- To advise and assist staff in obtaining financial assistance for art in public places from private, corporate, and governmental sources
- To review plans for the installation of art in public places and review the inventory of art in public spaces

Current Commissioners

Hsinya Shen (Chair)
Loren Gordon (Vice Chair)
Ben Miyaji
Nia Taylor
Lisa Waltuch

Mission Statement

The Palo Alto Public Art Program promotes the highest caliber of artwork, commissioning memorable public artworks and experiences that stimulate discussion and thoughtful reflection, celebrating Palo Alto’s character and enhancing civic pride and sense of place.

PAC’s 2023 Adopted Priorities are:

Building Community Priority: Develop public art that encourages playing, belonging, community participation and that promotes shared experiences in and around Palo Alto Neighborhoods and commercial corridors.

Social Justice Priority: Develop public art projects that will continue to advance ethnic and cultural inclusion and social, racial, and gender equity.

Public Art Education Priority: Widen and strengthen education and advocacy for public art, including through the roll-out and implementation of the California Avenue District Master Plan and the Baylands Art Plan, and PAMP long-term goals, while responding to current issues and supporting a wider network of artists.

Prior Year Accomplishments

1. Artlift Microgrants 2022: fulfilling the PAC’s first goal of 2022, ten microgrants of \$4,000 each were given. The projects were selected and commissioned in the summer / fall of 2022. All projects were completed throughout 2022. The projects created a sense of community and connection. Examples: Pets of Palo Alto A Family Portrait Project showcased community pets and their people; Small Gestures – postcards featuring original images by artist Victoria Heilweil and PA Camera Club; and Factronauts, a series of four pop-up events where artists asked the public questions and providing answers by a “computer” created by the Factronauts.
2. King Artist Residency Pilot: artist Rayos Magos completed his community engagement and created a beautiful seven-foot-tall yellow, three-sided structure titled *I See You, I Hear You, I Honor You*. The artwork remains on display through October 2023 in King Plaza.
3. California Avenue Public Art Master Plan: activating the Cal Ave corridor with public art. Four murals were installed on the walls of the Public Safety Building Site. Public art staff offered public tours of the murals.
4. Five sculptures by artist Susan Zoccola have been installed along the Charleston-Arastradero Corridor. Zoccola’s colorful compositions are highlighting the pedestrian and bicycle traffic at key places along the corridor.
5. Each year the Public Art Program receives funding from the City to maintain and care for the City’s growing permanent art collection. The staff is diligent about maintenance, examples include repairing Joyce Hsu’s *Birdie* and Beth Nybeck’s *Wild*, the conservation treatment of Nathan Oliveira’s *Universal Woman* and the midtown community’s *Poetry Wall* mural.

PROJECT/GOAL 1:

Code:ART 2023 (October 12-14, 2023, 5 - 10 p.m.)

	The City of Palo Alto Public Art Program will launch its third interactive media art festival, Code:ART, a three-evening event that re-imagines Palo Alto's underutilized plazas, alleys, and public spaces through interactive light, sound, and motion. The festival will feature a major interactive media artwork anchoring the festival and six Urban Interventions activating or reimagining downtown storefronts, alleys, parking lots or blank walls in new and inventive ways. The artworks will invite play and participation, engaging area locals in an event that outwardly reflects the creative community and culture that thrives here.			
BENEFICIAL IMPACTS	TIMELINE	RESOURCES NEEDED	MEASURE OF SUCCESS	STATE MANDATED / LOCAL LAW / COUNCIL-APPROVED
This project promotes two of the PAC 2023 priorities: Building Community Priority and Public Art Education Priority.	This event requires extensive planning and execution beforehand. Actual event: October 12-14, 2023, 5 - 10 p.m.	Municipal Percent for Art, Public Art Fund, collaboration with multiple city departments and community stakeholders.	Community and stakeholder feedback	N/A
HIGH PRIORITY		LOWER PRIORITY		COUNCIL-DIRECTED POLICY UPDATE
Code:ART 3 - high priority for building community, educating community on public art and implementing long-term goals.				N/A
PROJECT/GOAL 2:	<p>The 2023 King Artist Residency: Artist Kirti Bassendine</p> <p>Artist Kirti Bassendine has begun her role as the next Artist-in-Residence with the City of Palo Alto Public Art Program in February 2023. The Artist's Residency project focuses on diverse underserved communities residing and/or working in Palo Alto and experiencing socio-economic or housing instability. The project goal is to spark conversations about inclusion, equity, and a sense of belonging, and will result in a final temporary artwork displayed on King Plaza.</p>			
BENEFICIAL IMPACTS	TIMELINE	RESOURCES NEEDED	MEASURE OF SUCCESS	STATE MANDATED / LOCAL LAW / COUNCIL-APPROVED
Racial Justice Priority: Develop public art projects that will continue to advance cultural inclusion and social and racial equity. Stimulating important conversation in the community about equity and belonging in Palo Alto. Ongoing collaboration with HRC. Racial justice, community building and public art education priorities.		Funds are available through percent for art Municipal funds. Staff resources and time will be used for artist call and the selection processes. Staff will work with the artist during the design development and implementation. Artist will use a studio at the Cubberley Campus.	The Public Art Commission is committed to a platform for ongoing conversations about equity, inclusion, and belonging in Palo Alto through the arts. As a result, the King Artist Residency Program was established. Community participation will be measured.	Council referral to the Public Art Commission
HIGH PRIORITY		LOWER PRIORITY		COUNCIL-DIRECTED POLICY UPDATE

High priority for racial justice, building community and public art education.

Yes

<p>PROJECT/GOAL 3:</p>	<p>California Avenue Murals Festival 2023</p> <p>PAC approved the initiation of a murals festival to increase new mural opportunities in Palo Alto. Staff launched a call for muralists to create a roster of qualified artists. This Muralists Roster will be used for the festival as well as made publicly available. Staff secured 2 wall sites on California Ave for this festival. Artists Olivia Losee-Unger, Paz de la Calzada, and Nicole Ponsler have been selected to paint vibrant temporary murals in the California Avenue District in June 2023.</p>			
<p>BENEFICIAL IMPACTS</p>	<p>TIMELINE</p>	<p>RESOURCES NEEDED</p>	<p>MEASURE OF SUCCESS</p>	<p>STATE MANDATED / LOCAL LAW / COUNCIL-APPROVED</p>
<p>This project promotes two of the PAC 2023 priorities: Building Community Priority and Public Art Education Priority.</p>	<p>Project commenced in November 2022 when Staff launched call for artists. New murals scheduled for summer 2023.</p>	<p>Funds are available through percent for art Municipal funds. Staff resources and time will be used for artist calls and the selection processes. Staff will work with the artists during the design development and implementation.</p>	<p>Community and stakeholder feedback</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>HIGH PRIORITY</p>		<p>LOWER PRIORITY</p>		<p>COUNCIL-DIRECTED POLICY UPDATE</p>
<p>Implementing the California Avenue District Master Plan. Enhancing the “closed street,” art that invites Palo Altans and visitors to gather on Cal Ave. The artists that create the murals often use Cal Ave history as inspiration.</p>		<p>Building community in the Cal District neighborhood, way finding, enlivening the space</p>		<p>Yes</p>

<p>PROJECT/GOAL 4 :</p>	<p>Integrate Public Art in capital improvement projects (CIP) citywide, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fire Station 4: PAC approved the project budget in September 2022. The selection panel recommended Stephen Galloway for the commission. The PAC approved Galloway as the project artist March 16, 2023. ● Public Safety Building: Artist Peter Wegner has completed fabrication and has the artworks in storage to be installed when the building is ready. ● Boulevard Park Public Art Project: The PAC has approved the Los Angeles-based award-winning art and design studio <u>UrbanRock Design</u> for the <u>Boulevard Park</u> Public Art Project. The artist team has visited Palo Alto and conducted meetings with the community to inform their design development. 			
BENEFICIAL IMPACTS	TIMELINE	RESOURCES NEEDED	MEASURE OF SUCCESS	STATE MANDATED / LOCAL LAW / COUNCIL-APPROVED
<p>Enhancing new buildings, and public parks with art. Collaborating with the public on the location, interactivity of the projects and inspiration for the art.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Municipal Percent for Art, collaboration with Public Works, architects, and key stakeholders.</p>	<p>Community and stakeholder feedback</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>HIGH PRIORITY</p>		<p>LOWER PRIORITY</p>		<p>COUNCIL-DIRECTED POLICY UPDATE</p>
<p>Building Community - the artists have engaged the public for their input on Boulevard Park. Social Justice Priority and Public Art Education Priority.</p>				<p>N/A</p>

<p>PROJECT/GOAL 5:</p>	<p>Ongoing Maintenance and Care of the Collection. With a collection of more than 300 artworks, preventative maintenance and restoration of these valuable City assets are an essential part of a public art program, including the comprehensive restoration of the historically significant Arnautoff frescoes at the Roth Building will begin this year.</p>			
BENEFICIAL IMPACTS	TIMELINE	RESOURCES NEEDED	MEASURE OF SUCCESS	STATE MANDATED / LOCAL LAW / COUNCIL-APPROVED
<p>This project promotes two of the PAC 2023 priorities: Building Community Priority and Public Art Education Priority. Ensuring that these valuable assets are maintained properly and reflect well on the City.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The annual maintenance allocation of \$30,000 is spent down each year. Staff oversees the contractors and work being performed</p> <p>Additional funding was committed by the County for the restoration of the Arnautoff frescoes. A conservator has been hired for this project.</p>	<p>A collection of artworks that reflect well on Palo Alto and have not fallen into such disrepair that more costly repairs are necessary or the artwork cannot be saved.</p>	<p>Having artworks fall into disrepair may leave the City open to legal action by the artists under the Visual Artists Rights Act.</p>
<p>HIGH PRIORITY</p>		<p>LOWER PRIORITY</p>		<p>COUNCIL-DIRECTED POLICY UPDATE</p>
<p>Public Art Education</p>				<p>N/A</p>

Public Art Commission – 2023/24 Workplan Image Samples



King Artist Residency Program

Artist Rayos Magos was approved by the PAC is the first artist-in-residence with the City of Palo Alto Public Art Program. His residency, *Rituals of Resilience*, included a six-month community engagement process sparking conversations about culture, identity, belonging, and resilience, with a special focus on amplifying voices of Latinx and BIPOC community members and mental health service providers.

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Magos Rayos' documentation of personal stories and learned experiences has resulted in a final temporary sculptural artwork called *Te Veo, Te Escucho, Te Honro* (I see you, I hear you, I honor you) and will temporarily remain on view on King Plaza for approximately nine months through October 2023.



Public Art in Municipal Development

Passage, 2022 by artist Susan Zoccola, a series of sculptures installed along Charleston-Arastradero corridor in Palo Alto, is inspired by diatoms, a single-celled algae forming a silica-based cell wall, also resembling a bike wheel.

Informed by the intent of the project – a heavily trafficked corridor in which the streetscape project is intended to enhance bike and pedestrian safety, Zoccola created colorful wheel-based compositions marking entrances and key places along the corridor that would be dynamic for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists alike.

Public Art Commission – 2023/24 Workplan Image Samples

2022 Microgrant Projects - The program funded ten Microgrant projects and encouraged play, belonging, community participation, and shared experiences taking advantage of unique locations across Palo Alto. Through funding temporary art projects and experiences in our commercial corridors and our residential neighborhoods, *ArtLift Microgrants* fostered safe and creative ways to remain engaged in the arts, reconnect with each other, and come together as a resilient community. **ArtLift** was presented in support of the city-wide Uplift Local efforts with the purpose of connecting the community.



Mapping Palo Alto Together by Palo Alto-based artist Perry Meigs

Public Workshops: July - August 2022 Mural on Display: October 22 - November 19, 2022

Mapping Palo Alto Together by artist Perry Meigs included a series of free public workshops for youth and adults. Participants used vellum paper over a neighborhood map to draw their most common everyday routes of travel during the pandemic and post-pandemic. Each participant's drawing was scanned and overlapped onto one map that reflected the community as a whole. This drawing process offered participants the chance to visualize how their daily patterns changed during the pandemic. The workshops concluded in two outdoor murals showcasing the participants' work on display at the Rinconada Library.



The Factronauts

Artists: Peter Foucault, Bryan Hewitt, Vita Hewitt, Chris Treggiari

Four Pop-up performances September - November 2022

The Factronauts are intrepid explorers sent by their parent agency, Nor-Cal Artists Seeking America (NASA) into the unknown and unfamiliar world of the contemporary United States. Their mission is to collect, analyze and interpret the facts they encounter while maintaining their good humor and belief in the effectiveness of their process. A nation they no longer recognize as a familiar and safe landscape becomes other-worldly, a surreal and at times a hostile place. The Microgrant project included four pop-up performances across Palo Alto including in Lytton Plaza, University Avenue, Cubberley Community Center, and California Avenue.

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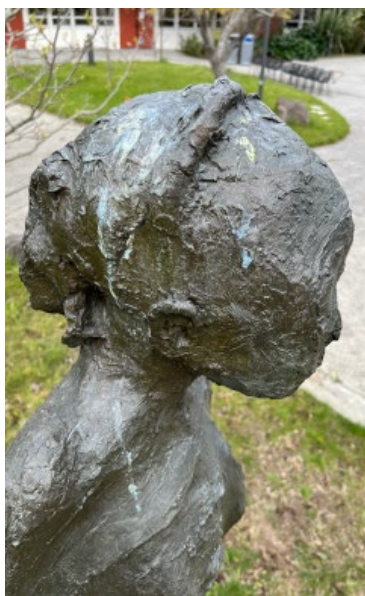


Pets of Palo Alto – A Family Portrait Project

On Display: October 2022 outside Mitchell Park Community Center

Arts professional Harriet Stern in collaboration with photographer Federica Armstrong held a series of community photo sessions across various outdoor locations in Palo Alto to photograph families with their pets. This Microgrant project concluded with an exhibition of the photographs at the Mitchell Park Community Center Basketball Court displayed during October 2022.

Public Art Commission – 2023/24 Workplan Image Samples



The City collection of public art is comprised of approximately 100 permanently sited works and over 200 portable works of art in a diverse range of media.

The City of Palo Alto Public Art Program is committed to ongoing maintenance and restoration projects for the City's fast-growing permanent art collection. Supported through an annual allocation of fund designated for the collection care and maintenance, permanent and temporary artworks are regularly cleaned and receive preventative treatments to protect them from the elements. Occasionally, artworks receive more extensive conservation and repair treatments.

Here, a six-foot tall bronze sculpture by acclaimed artist Nathan Oliveira and permanently installed at the Palo Alto Art Center sculpture garden is shown before and after its cyclical conservation treatment it received in March 2023.

Universal Woman, by Nathan Oliveira, 2008

Before and after conservation treatment, March 2023



California Avenue District Temporary Murals

A series of four site-specific murals by California-based artists, commissioned for the construction safety barriers at 250 Sherman Ave, got installed in August 2022. Artists Alice Lee, Deborah Aschheim, Eva Struble, and Judy Lew Loose draw their inspiration from the unique character of Palo Alto's California Avenue District, its diverse community, rich history, and iconic landmarks that make this neighborhood distinct. The murals, that together equal to over 900 linear feet of art, will remain on display through September 2023.

Public Art Commission – 2023/24 Workplan Image Samples



Artist Deborah Aschheim spent two days on California Ave and met with local community members, including many people who live, work in the California District, or come visit its local restaurants, cafes, and shop. The artist created original artworks depicting over 60 people from the community. Digitized images printed on vinyl remain on display along Jacaranda Lane through September 2023, while all the participants received copied of their portraits signed by the artist.

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