

Cultural Affairs Division
Economic & Workforce Development Department



Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, October 6, 2025
5:30 - 7:30 pm
Oakland City Hall
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland CA 94612
Hearing Room 1, 1st Floor

There are two opportunities to make a comment during meetings– Public Comment and Open Forum. Zoom participation is strictly for viewing only. Comments will no longer be accepted via Zoom or telephone. How to Make a Comment:

There are two opportunities for the public to address the Committee and City staff. The first opportunity is during the "Public Comment" period. The second opportunity is during the "Open Forum" period. Dialogue during the meeting with Commissioners, City staff, or its guest speakers is not permitted outside of the two comment periods.

RE: ZOOM PARTICIPATION + COMMENT PERIODS

All Commission meetings will be conducted in-person. The Public Art Advisory Committee is no longer accepting public comments via Zoom or telephone. Therefore, live comments must be made in-person. An alternative option is to submit a written comment by 4:00 PM BEFORE the meeting starts to kzaremba@oaklandca.gov. Any comments received via email during the duration or after the meeting may not be entered into public record but will be shared with the Committee at a later time.

Please click the link below to view the webinar. **Zoom participation is strictly for viewing only.** Comments will no longer be accepted via Zoom or telephone. Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88632456644>

Meeting ID: 886 3245 6644

- 833 548 0276 US Toll-free
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Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting
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5:30 - 7:30 pm
Oakland City Hall
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland CA 94612
Hearing Room 1, 1st Floor

AGENDA

- I. Welcome/Call to Order/Roll Call**
- II. Land Acknowledgment**
- III. Public Comment**
- IV. Action Item: Adopt the September 8, 2025 Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) Meeting Minutes**
- V. Action Item: Review and approve Vanessa “AGANA” Espinoza’s revised designs for the DeFremery Park – Measure WW “Snack Shack” Public Art Project, located at 1651 Adeline Street (D3)**
- VI. Action Item: Review and approve Adia Millett’s conceptual designs for the Mosswood Community Center, located at 3612 Webster St (D3)**
- VII. Discussion Item: PAAC Co-Chair Vacancy Nominations and Membership Updates**
- VIII. Informational Item: Public Art Program Coordinator Updates**
 - a. CIP Program**
 - b. Public Art for Private Development**
 - c. Artist-Community Initiated Projects**
 - d. Program Activities/Administration**
- IX. Open Forum**
- X. Announcements**
- XI. Agenda Building for November 2025**
- XII. Adjourn**

♿ This meeting location is wheelchair accessible. To request disability-related accommodations or to request American Sign Language (ASL), Cantonese, Mandarin, or Spanish language interpreter, please email KZaremba@oaklandca.gov or call (510) 238-2155 Or 711 (for Relay Service) at least five (5) business days before the meeting. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting as a courtesy to attendees with chemical sensitivities.

Esta reunión es accesible para sillas de ruedas. Si desea solicitar adaptaciones relacionadas con discapacidades, o para pedir un intérprete de en español, Cantones, mandarín o de lenguaje de señas (ASL) por favor envíe un correo electrónico a KZaremba@oaklandca.gov o llame al (510) 238-4949 o al 711 para servicio de retransmisión (Relay service) por lo menos cinco días hábiles antes de la reunión. Se le pide de favor que no use perfumes a esta reunión como cortesía para los que tienen sensibilidad a los productos químicos. Gracias.

會場有適合輪椅出入設施。需要殘障輔助設施, 手語, 西班牙語, 粵語或國語翻譯服務, 請在會議前五個工作天電郵 KZaremba@oaklandca.gov 或致電 (510) 238-4949或 711 (電話傳達服務)。請避免塗搽香氛產品, 參加者可能對化學成分敏感。

Địa điểm tổ chức cuộc họp có đường dành riêng cho xe lăn. Để yêu cầu các phương tiện hỗ trợ phục vụ người khuyết tật hoặc yêu cầu thông dịch viên ASL, tiếng Quảng Đông, tiếng Quan Thoại hoặc tiếng Tây Ban Nha, vui lòng gửi email đến địa chỉ KZaremba@oaklandca.gov hoặc gọi đến số (510) 238-4949 hoặc 711 (với Dịch vụ Tiếp âm) ít nhất năm (5) ngày làm việc trước khi cuộc họp diễn ra. Vui lòng không sử dụng các sản phẩm có mùi thơm khi tham gia cuộc họp này như một phép lịch sự đối với những người tham dự nhạy cảm đối với các chất hóa học.

Cultural Affairs Division - Economic & Workforce Development Department
Public Art Coordinator – Kristen Zaremba
Phone: (510) 238-2155
Recorded Agenda: (510) 238-2386
Telecommunications Relay Service: 711

Land Acknowledgement

On behalf of the Cultural Affairs Commission & Public Art Advisory Committee:

We want to take a moment to honor the traditions and territory we are a part of. Those of us on the land we now know as Oakland and lands all the way up to Albany are in Huichin (*Hooch-yoon*), the unceded territory of the Chochenyo (*Cho-Chen-yo*)-speaking Confederated Villages of Lisjan (*Lih-Shawn*) Ohlone. We stand with the Lisjan people and their right to legal recognition and benefits from the US Government.

Cultural Affairs Division

Economic & Workforce Development Department



Public Art Advisory Committee

(PAAC)

September 8, 2025

1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

Hearing Room 1

Minutes

Members Present: Sarah Miller (Co-Chair), Mario Navasero, *Kaitlin Kushner, Katerina Leventi, *Eric Murphy (Co-Chair)

Excused: Marcus Guillard

Staff Present: Kristen Zarembo, Public Art Coordinator; Josie de Mira, Assistant Public Art Coordinator

Guests: Vanessa “Agana” Espinoza, Artist

Meeting Chair: Sarah Miller

- 1. Welcome/ Roll Call / Meeting called to order at 5:40 p.m.** PAAC Chair Sarah Miller called the meeting to order and performed roll call.
- 2. Land Acknowledgment:** S. Miller recited the Cultural Affairs Commission/Public Art Advisory Committee Land Acknowledgment.
- 3. Public Comment:** No comment was provided.
- 4. Action Item: Adopt the June 2, 2025 and August 4, 2025 Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) Meeting Minutes.** K. Leventi moved to adopt the June 2, 2025 minutes, S. Miller seconded; Motion passed. K. Kushner moved to adopt the August 4, 2025 minutes, M. Navasero seconded; S. Miller Aye. Motion passed.
- 5. Action Item: Review and approve Vanessa “AGANA” Espinoza’s conceptual designs and award a \$5,000 design honorarium for the DeFremery Park – Measure WW “Snack Shack”**

Public Art Project, located at 1651 Adeline Street (D3). Public Art Coordinator Kristen Zaremba introduced artist Vanessa ‘Agana’ Espinoza to the committee, and summarized the artist selection process. Agana shared her conceptual design for a mural on the DeFremery Park Snack Shack. The artist and program staff conducted a successful community engagement effort at the Panther Skate Plaza event on September 4th, presented the initial concepts, and gathered feedback through conversations, drawings and on-line submittal forms. Zaremba noted that staff and the artist will be presenting the project and conceptual designs to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission on September 10, 2025, with further community engagement planned for the Black Cowboy Association parade on October 4th and the Life is Living Festival on October 11th. The goal is to bring a revised design back to the Public Art Advisory Committee in October, with the project slated for completion by the end of the year. Agana, a muralist with a personal connection to the park, described her design concept as interconnected portraits of figures from the park's past, present, and future, exploring themes of resistance, healing, and community building. Agana spoke about the inspiration she drew from the Zapatista Negra movement and how it informed her design throughout the mural. The current design includes images of Lil’ Bobby Hutton, the Oakland tree, and the People’s Free Food Program of the Black Panther Party. She shared that she had received input from multigenerational park users and park staff and would continue to revise the design based on community feedback, which included requests for more women, youth, and current figures. Agana also shared a visual example of her technique for creating a three-dimensional embroidery effect with paint and expressed her interest in including paintings on the windows to create both privacy and a unique experience. Once completed, the mural will be protected with an anti-graffiti clear coat. Assistant Public Art Coordinator Josie de Mira added that the Panther Skate Plaza art activation involved community members through drawings and dialogue and shared images from the event. Following the presentation, Agana answered questions and received feedback from the committee on topics including her window painting technique, extending the mural to the handball court and ground, the portrayal of the Black Panther Party, and protocols for copyright and equitable feedback. The committee expressed great enthusiasm for both the design and the artist’s vision. **K. Kushner motioned approve Vanessa “AGANA” Espinoza’s conceptual designs and award a \$5,000 design honorarium for the DeFremery Park – Measure WW “Snack Shack” Public Art Project, located at 1651 Adeline Street (D3) M. Navasero seconded; S. Miller Aye; K. Leventi Aye; Motion passed unanimously.**

6. Informational Item: Public Art Program Coordinator Updates

a. CIP Program

- i. Mosswood Park** A design honorarium was issued to artist Adia Millett to allow her to move forward with conceptual design. The artist will present conceptual designs at the next PAAC meeting in October. Additionally, Zaremba is researching an alternative method for contracting the artist via an on-call contractor with Public Works. This method would make the artist a subcontractor to a licensed on-call contractor, which would satisfy the stage law public improvement installation requirements.
- ii. Shifting Topographies** The original Request for Proposals for removal of the deaccessioned sculpture received no bids. The City Administrator subsequently authorized staff to solicit new bids directly and an on-call

contractor has been identified to prepare a task order to implement the work. The project will require a BART permit and a right of entry agreement with the property owners. The removal is expected to start in October, take approximately a month to complete, and will require the closure of the BART entrance and include the use of a lift and a crane to work over the entrance.

b. Public Art for Private Development

- i. Zaremba attended a site visit to the Margaret Gordon West Port housing development on Brush Street. The public art elements are located on both the ground and second floors and are more visible from inside the building, where they are well-illuminated. Photos of the installation were shared. The artwork, consisting of ceramic frit on insulated units of glass, was a new method for both Civic Design Studio and East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC).
- ii. A new art installation by Adrien Segal was recently completed at Samuel Merritt University. The project includes a bench carved from a fallen redwood tree. Staff showed photos and a video of the sculpture being installed with a crane. The second part of the artwork will be a ground mural based on local waterway maps. The overall theme of the art connects waterways, the Oakland watershed, and the estuary, blending natural and historical elements of Oakland with the contemporary architecture of the main entrance.

c. Program Activities/Administration:

- i. Zaremba recently visited PAAC member Marcus Guillard at the One Hat One Hand art fabrication studio, and noted they recently merged with DEKA.
- ii. The Cultural Affairs Manager position recruitment is open until September 21st. The hope is to have the new manager start by the end of the year.
- iii. SB456, a state bill to modify mural licensing requirements, has passed the legislature and is now on the governor's desk with letters of support. If it goes into effect in 2026, it will be a positive development for the muralist community.
- iv. Interim Cultural Affairs Manager Lex Leifheit and Cultural Funding Coordinator Pamela Mattera are collaborating with a local consultant to explore the feasibility of a cultural districts program for Oakland. A kick-off event is planned for October. PAAC members will be invited to attend.
- v. Public Art Program staff also met with SOMA Pilipinas in San Francisco, a state and city designated cultural district, to learn about their public art efforts and place-keeping strategies.
- vi. Staff member Josie de Mira reported that the artist roster is open for artists to update their portfolios before the new, improved roster was rebuilt on the public art program website. De Mira also noted that images have been added to the Public Art Projects page to accompany project descriptions.

7. Open Forum: No Speakers

- 8. Announcements:** Zaremba acknowledged that this was Committee Member Murphy's final meeting, as his term was ending. Zaremba thanked him for his seven years of contributions to the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) and noted that a more formal gathering would be planned to honor his service.

- 9. Agenda Building:** DeFremery and Mosswood design updates, Private development Clara and Edes mural, conversation on civic residence program
- 10. Adjournment:** K. Leventi motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. M. Navasero seconded; E. Murphy Aye; S. Miller Aye. Motion passed unanimously.



Cultural Affairs Division Economic & Workforce Development Department

TO: Public Art Advisory Committee

ATTN: Sarah Miller, Chair

FROM: Kristen Zaremba, Public Art Coordinator

DATE: October 6, 2025

RE: DeFremery Park – Measure WW “Snack Shack” – Public Art Project Design Development Review

SUMMARY

Staff recommends that the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) review and approve the revised designs by Vanessa “AGANA” Espinoza for the DeFremery Park “Snack Shack” project. Approval will allow the artist to proceed with further community engagement during the month of October and final design refinements for presentation to the PAAC in November, prior to on-site mural installation for the DeFremery Park – Measure WW “Snack Shack” Public Art Project.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Vanessa “AGANA” Espinoza was presented to the PAAC and approved as the recommended artist for the commission on August 6, 2025.

On September 8, 2025, PAAC approved conceptual designs presented by the artist for the DeFremery Park public art project, located at 1651 Adeline St, Oakland, CA 94607.

On September 10th the project was presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, where it was approved unanimously.

As reported previously, on September 4th, 2025, the artist and Public Art Program staff facilitated an art activation at DeFremery Park during the weekly Panther Skate Plaza gathering, where she engaged with multi-generational community members, shared her designs, and provided art activities to gather input for design development of the mural. Of the hundreds of participants at the Skate Plaza, approximately seventy-five participants either provided input or came to the art activation table to view the conceptual design and speak with the artist and staff about the project. These included community panel members and past, current and future OPRYD staff with longstanding ties to the park. The conceptual designs were well received and community members provided feedback and showed enthusiasm for the future mural.

DESIGN UPDATES AND NEXT STEPS

AGANA’s designs have evolved to reflect the input she is receiving from the PAAC, project stakeholders and community members at community events and one-on-one meetings, including photography sessions with DeFremery Park staff and community members with longstanding ties to

the park and surrounding neighborhood. Individuals included in the mural were nominated by community stakeholders based on their history with the park.

As previously reported, the artist's core artistic themes center on food justice, multicultural solidarity, intergenerational unity, and Black and brown liberation through a social justice lens, while incorporating elements representing the park's diverse current to create a visual story that invites future movement leaders to contribute to its rich legacy.

Additionally, AGANA is now proposing to work with one of the other project finalists, Zoe Boston, to commission a song celebrating the project. As proposed by Zoe Boston: "The vision for the full process of the proposed song and visuals consists of: documentation through behind-the-scenes footage of the artist and interviews with local participants who are a part of song process, a commissioned song by well-known Oakland / Bay Area artists (loove Moore, Zoë Boston, and DJ Agana)—featuring residents and youth which will serve as a living soundtrack for the mural. The project will culminate in a mural unveiling celebration that brings the community together and uplifts local pride while offering a platform for artistic and professional growth."

Going forward, AGANA will attend the Black Cowboy Festival on Saturday, October 4, as well as the Life is Living Festival on Saturday, October 11, to present these revised designs for community feedback prior to refining the final compositions.

The artist will also consult with Public Art Program and Public Works staff to determine what materials will work best for long-term maintenance of painted exterior walls. The artwork is planned for installation in December 2025, to be coordinated with OPRYD and OPW.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no change to the funding. The DeFremery Park Public Art Project is funded through City of Oakland percent for art funds (per Ordinance Number 13562 C.M.S) by Measure WW (East Bay Regional Parks grant program). The artist will be contracted for design development, including community outreach, and on-site installation of the final artwork in an amount of up to one hundred fifty-five thousand dollars (\$155,000). A portion of the budget, to cover on-site mural installation, will be administered through a licensed contractor, to be determined later in coordination with OPW.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) provide feedback and approve revised designs by artist Vanessa "AGANA" Espinoza, for the DeFremery Park – Measure WW "Snack Shack" Public Art Project.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristen Zarembo, Public Art Coordinator



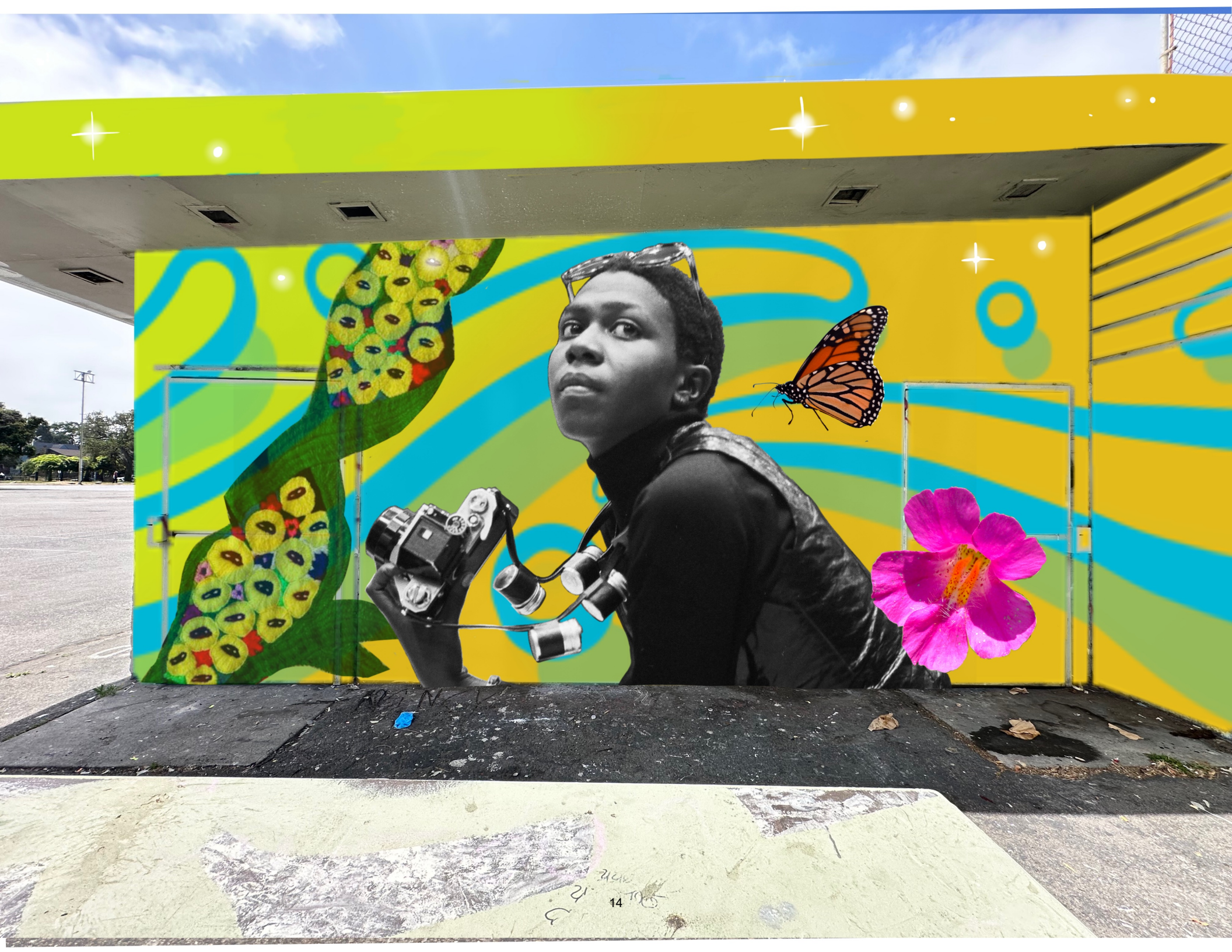
Josie de Mira, Assistant Public Art Coordinator

Attachment: DeFremery Park Public Art Project Revised Artist Designs













Cultural Affairs Division Economic & Workforce Development Department

TO: Public Art Advisory Committee

ATTN: Sarah Miller, Chair

FROM: Kristen Zaremba, Public Art Coordinator

DATE: October 6, 2025

RE: Mosswood Community Center – Public Art Project Conceptual Design Review

SUMMARY

Staff recommends that the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) review and approve the conceptual designs developed by Adia Millett for the Mosswood Community Center project, and to provide direction on preferred themes and design options. Approval will allow the artist to proceed with further community engagement and final design development, prior to fabrication and on-site installation for the Mosswood Community Center Public Art Project.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Oakland Public Art Program agreed to commission an artist, as required through Ordinance 11066 C.M.S. to enhance the Mosswood Community Center capital improvement project located at 3612 Webster Street, Oakland, CA 94609.

Staff worked with the project designers, Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects (LMSA), Einwiller Kuehl Landscape Architecture, Art is Luv (community engagement); and Oakland Parks Recreation and Youth Development (OPRYD) and Department of Public Works (DPW) staff to identify public art opportunity types and sites. Multiple locations, most notably the front façade and entry of the main facility, as well as the interior stairwell and other lobby spaces within the center, were recommended for public art, as outlined in the [Mosswood Park Master Plan](#). The master plan includes multiple buildings, to be delivered in phases. For this [Phase One / main facility capital project opportunity](#), staff identified the exterior location above the building entrance, facing northward and the park fields, as the most beneficial location to elevate the building's identity and create a welcoming point of entry. The new work should successfully compliment the building's architecture and surrounding park land, while celebrating Oakland culture and the Mosswood community center's identity. A second, interior public art installation coordinated with community center staff and youth, will be implemented once the exterior project is underway.

On March 3, 2025, the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) approved Adia Millett as the commissioned artist. The final artwork will consist of a unique design printed onto ceramic tiles by the Oakland-based fabricator, Magnolia Editions.

The artist's initial conceptual proposals consist of three distinct designs (including one alternate), each focusing on a key theme derived from community input: People, Land, and Culture. All designs integrate stakeholder feedback concerning community connection, the natural environment, and the celebration of diverse cultures.

Adia Millett will develop the final designs throughout the fall of 2025, incorporating all community input. The proposed final design will be presented to the PAAC for review and approval in November 2025.

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Public Art Program staff and the artist executed a comprehensive community engagement plan throughout April 2025, prioritizing input from key park users and community groups.

On April 2nd, Public Art Coordinator Kristen Zaremba presented the artist selection to the Mosswood Park Recreational Advisory Council (RAC) and answered member questions. An online survey was shared to collect community feedback.

On April 10th, Public Art staff, Adia Millett, architects (LMSA), Public Works staff, Charmin Roundtree (Art is Luv), and landscape architects (Einwiller Kuehl) met at the park to review the redevelopment landscaping plans and assess existing flora.

Following these meetings, the artist and Public Art Program staff collaborated with OPRYD to participate in the Earth Day Beautification Park Clean-up event on April 19, 2025. Adia Millett and staff engaged with multi-generational community members, sharing the artist's portfolio and providing art activities designed to gather input for the artwork. The event drew over 200 volunteers, with many stopping at the public art table to learn more about the project and provide feedback.

An online survey mirroring the Earth Day activity prompts was also distributed to youth members of Youth Alive!, a local violence prevention agency, which yielded 18 responses.

Finally, on April 25th, Assistant Public Art Coordinator Josie de Mira shared the project with neurodivergent teens and young adults from the OPRYD Inclusive Services Program. Participants provided input by drawing pictures based on their park memories and artwork ideas. This program will be housed in the new community center upon its completion.

The artist has developed alternative approaches and refined her conceptual designs using the feedback gathered from these groups. After review and design direction from the PAAC, she will share refined versions of her conceptual designs with these same community groups to collect additional feedback before presenting a final proposed design to the PAAC in November/December.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Mosswood Community Center Public Art Project is funded through City of Oakland percent for art funds (per Ordinance Number 11066 C.M.S) by Measure KK and state grant funds. Once approved by the PAAC, the artist will be contracted for design development, fabrication, and installation coordination of the final artwork in an amount up to one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) through a licensed, preapproved general contractor in coordination with Public Works Project Delivery Division.

A portion of the budget, to cover installation and contract administration, will be allocated to the general contractor.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) review, provide design direction on preferred designs, and approve conceptual designs by artist Adia Millett for the Mosswood Community Center Public Art Project.

Respectfully submitted,



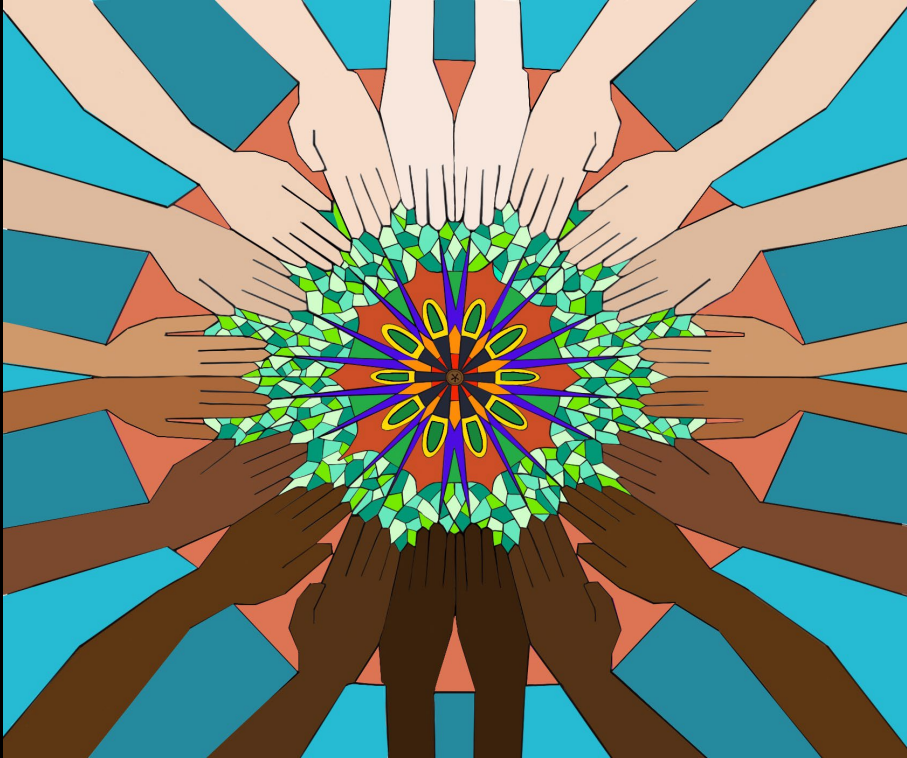
Kristen Zaremba, Public Art Coordinator



Josie de Mira, Assistant Public Art Coordinator

Attachment: Mosswood Public Art Project Conceptual Designs

The People



The Land



The Culture

