

**Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, June 1, 2026**  
**5:30 - 7:30 pm**  
**Oakland City Hall**  
**1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland CA 94612**  
**Hearing Room 2, 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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.

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**Meeting ID: 812 0466 0275**

- 833 548 0282 US Toll-free
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**Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kdaDY7mLub>**

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**AGENDA**

- I. Welcome/Call to Order/Roll Call**
- II. Land Acknowledgment**
- III. Public Comment**
- IV. Action Item: Adopt the April 6, 2026 Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) Meeting Minutes**
- V. Action Item: Review and approve the final mural design by Rachel Perls for the Shell Station located at 5755 Broadway (D1), funded with Council District 1 “Love Life” mural funds**
- VI. Informational Item: Public Art Program Coordinator Updates**
- VII. Public Art Program Updates**
  - a. CIP Program - New Projects: Lincoln Square Recreation Center**
  - b. CIP Program: Ongoing Projects and Collections Management**
  - c. Public Art for Private Development**
  - d. Artist-Community Initiated Projects**
  - e. Program Activities/Administration**
- VIII. Open Forum**
- IX. Announcements/Acknowledgements**
- X. Agenda Building for July 6 Meeting**
- XI. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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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](mailto:KZaremba@oaklandca.gov) hoặc gọi đến số (510) 238-4949 hoặc 711 (với Dịch vụ Tiếp âm) ít nhất năm (5) ngày

Oakland Cultural Affairs - Public Art Program, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 9<sup>th</sup> fl. Oakland, CA 94612  
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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)

April 6, 2026

1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

Hearing Room 2

### Minutes

**Members Present:** Katerina Leventi (Co-Chair), Mario Hernandez, Nia Jacobs, Sarita Schreiber, Sabina Kariat, Sarah Miller (Co-Chair), Kaitlin Kushner

**Excused:** Mario Navasero, Marcus Guillard

**Staff Present:** Kristen Zarembo, Public Art Coordinator; Josie de Mira, Assistant Public Art Coordinator; Lyz Luke, Cultural Affairs Manager

**Guests:** Benjamin “BJ” McBride, Curator; Ruth Meza, Transportation Planner, Major Projects Division, Department of Transportation (DOT); Emily Ehlers, Manager, DOT; Theresa Nelson, community member; Steve Costa, community member

**Meeting Chair:** Sarah Miller

1. **Welcome/ Roll Call / Meeting called to order at 5:39 p.m.** PAAC Chair Katerina Leventi 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 March 2, 2026 Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) Meeting Minutes.** S. Schreiber moved to adopt the March 2, 2026 minutes, K. Leventi seconded; all remaining members voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **Action Item: Review and Approve Proposal for 1-800 Happy Birthday Temporary Art Installation by Artist Lead Mohammad Gorjestani and Curator Benjamin “BJ” McBride at Latham Square.** Kristen Zarembo, Public Art Coordinator, introduced the project the proposed installation location at Latham Square on Broadway, referencing past installations on the site, most notably the 2021 Kehinde Wiley “Rumors of War” traveling

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sculpture installation, and welcomed the project curator BJ McBride. Zaremba explained that the Public Art Program has collaborated previously with the local Uptown / Downtown Business Improvement District (BID), who hold a current permit to activate Latham Square, which streamlines the process for projects of this nature, and that this partnership will be used to facilitate permitting for the installation. Curator BJ McBride presented the multiformat project, which honors individuals killed by police officers, and provided background on how the phone booths were acquired, refurbished, and programmed to play voicemails. He noted that the project was previously exhibited in New York City and has partnered with the For-Site Foundation, Black Joy Parade, and the Black Panther Party Museum to return the installation to the Bay Area, where it originated. McBride explained that Latham Square represents a fitting next step for sustaining the project locally. He also described how technicians regularly monitor and maintain the phone booths. McBride responded to committee members' questions regarding potential programming around the exhibition, the specific location at Latham Square for the phone booth, which is still under consideration, and details of the audio component. Zaremba added that the installation, to be aligned with Juneteenth, includes equally powerful daytime and illuminated night-time visibility in a central, freely accessible location, providing enhanced opportunities for Oakland residents and visitors to experience the work. The committee commended the artist for the thoroughness of the plan and proposal. **K. Kushner motioned to Approve the Proposal for 1-800 Happy Birthday Temporary Art Installation by Artist Lead Mohammad Gorjestani and Curator Benjamin "BJ" McBride at Latham Square; K. Leventi seconded; all remaining members voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

6. **Action Item: Review and Approve Department of Transportation (DOT) and Public Art Staff Report and Deaccession Recommendation for the I-880/Broadway Underpass Sculpture Installation by Artist Team of Five.** Zaremba noted that Public Art staff are bringing this item back to the PAAC, accompanied by a staff report to support the DOT recommendations, based on the previous considerations and plans for streetscape improvements in this area. Department of Transportation staff Ruth Meza, Transportation Planner, Major Projects Division, summarized the history of the project and referenced prior discussions with the Public Art Advisory Committee in 2014 and again at the May 2024 meeting. She explained that DOT streetscape design and engagement work has continued since that time, and the team is returning to provide updates and request approval for deaccession. Meza referred to the staff report and presented an overview of the broader Undercrossings Improvement Project, including the four locations, project scope, and primary objectives, which center on safety, wayfinding, and maintenance. She described the current design proposal for the undercrossing, which includes new lighting, enhanced wayfinding elements, and repainting the columns. Meza noted that CalTrans requires PAAC approval of the deaccession as part of the construction permit application. She stated that the existing artwork would be removed in 2027, with project improvements scheduled to continue through 2028.

The committee inquired about the guardrail artwork materials following its removal, including who would assume responsibility for it and whether it would be treated as artwork or recycled as metal. Zaremba explained the condition of the materials will be

addressed after deinstallation, noting that the artist has not requested the materials be returned and that the materials are technically City property. She stated that any portions that are not salvageable to be repurposed would presumably be recycled by the contractor. Committee members asked additional questions regarding the rationale for the deaccession, the possibility of new artwork at the site, future graffiti abatement at the locations, the durability of the proposed light columns, methods for securing a barrier around the artwork prior to removal, and opportunities to incorporate artwork into wayfinding and signage. Zaremba clarified that while new artwork will not be considered for these undercrossing sites, due to funding restrictions and site logistics with CalTrans, the City has several other streetscape improvement projects that will include public art installations through the Public Art Capital Improvement Ordinance. Co-chair S. Miller noted that all requirements for reviewing the deaccession have been met and that discussions have been ongoing for many years. **K. Kushner motioned to approve the Deaccession Recommendation for the I-880/Broadway Underpass Sculpture Installation by Artist Team of Five; N. Jacobs seconded; all remaining members voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

7. **Action Item: Review and Approve Public Art Staff Recommendation to Allocate Public Art Funds Not to Exceed \$15,000 for Restoration of the Rockridge Temescal Greenbelt Public Art Project by Artist Mark Brest van Kempen** Kristen Zaremba introduced the project as part of the City's civic art collection and referred committee members to the staff report including the original artist recruitment and project history. The commission, composed of multiple sculptures and structures along the greenbelt, was designed as an interpretive artwork intended to highlight the creation of the Rockridge Temescal Greenbelt. She reported that the artwork has been subject to graffiti tagging and theft, prompting discussions among staff, the community, and the artist regarding potential restoration approaches and corresponding funding sources. She stated that funding has been reserved in the 2025–2027 Public Art Plan for the restoration of the civic art collection and may be allocated to this project pending approval by the PAAC. The artist, Mark Brest van Kempen, was unavailable to attend the PAAC meeting, but has expressed both availability and interest in undertaking the restoration. Zaremba further reported that on March 2, staff convened on site with PAAC members, community representatives, the artist, and District 1 Councilmember Unger to assess the condition of the installation and discuss restoration options.

Community representative Theresa Nelson, Co-Founder of Friends of the Greenbelt (FROG), provided a history of the park and explained that the property is under multi-agency ownership. She described the ongoing challenges of theft and graffiti affecting both the public art sculptures and the spotting scope structures. Steve Costa, also representing FROG, shared that although the community had previously advocated for deaccession of the artwork due to these persistent issues, they are now open to restoration given the newly available conservation funds.

The committee members and community representatives engaged in a discussion regarding potential methods to deter vandalism and graffiti, improve ongoing maintenance practices, and define the scope of the proposed restoration work. Following this discussion, the committee indicated that it would be prepared to approve the item on the condition that a follow up discussion with the artist and restoration plans are provided

at a future meeting. **K. Leventi motioned to approve to Allocate Public Art Funds Not to Exceed \$15,000 for Restoration of the Rockridge Temescal Greenbelt Public Art Project by Artist Mark Brest van Kempen; S. Schreiber seconded; all remaining members voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**

**8. Informational Item: Public Art Program Coordinator Updates**

**a. CIP Program**

- i. Staff provided brief updates on the Mosswood Community Center, DeFremery Park, and Tyrone Carney projects, noting that there were no significant developments to report at this time.
- ii. Shifting Topographies Deaccession: The sculpture has been fully removed, and the property owner may consider commissioning a mural for the now blank wall. Staff reported that the two projectors previously used to display dynamic light projections on the artwork have been donated to the Oakland School of the Arts.

**b. Public Art for Private Development**

- i. Staff provided updates on Mandela Station, Liberation Park, an upcoming development at 34<sup>th</sup> and San Pablo, noting ongoing coordination and progress on each project.

**c. Artist-Community Initiated Projects**

- i. Staff and S. Schreiber provided an update on the Peralta Hacienda Historical Park "SII" sculpture, fabricated by Hood Studios. The artwork will be dedicated late spring.

**d. Program Activities/Administration**

- i. Public Art staff prepared a memo for distribution to Councilmembers and their staff regarding the Council Mural "Love Life" funds. Cultural Affairs Manager Lyz Luke and Public Art staff will be meeting with Councilmember offices to provide additional information about the funding opportunity.

**9. Open Forum: No Speakers**

**10. Announcements: No announcements**

**11. Agenda Building: No items**

**12. Adjournment: S. Schreiber motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 PM. M. Hernandez seconded; all remaining members voted in favor. Motion passed unanimously.**



## Cultural Affairs Division Economic & Workforce Development Department

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TO: Public Art Advisory Committee

ATTN: Sarah Miller and Katerina Leventi, Co-Chairs

FROM: Josie de Mira, Assistant Public Art Coordinator

CC: Kristen Zaremba, Public Art Coordinator

DATE: June 1, 2026

RE: Councilmember District 1 “Love Life” Mural at Shell Station – Final Design Review

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### SUMMARY

Staff recommends that the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) review the revised final design by Rachel Perls for the Councilmember District 1 “Love Life” mural planned for installation at the Shell Station at 5575 Broadway. The PAAC previously reviewed and approved the full proposal and conceptual designs on March 2, 2026. Final design approval is now required for the project to proceed through the City’s standard grant process administered by Council staff.

### PROJECT BACKGROUND

This mural proposal is the most recent project to be supported by funds allocated by City Councilmembers, each of whom received \$60,000 to commission murals that reflect the City’s “Love Life” motto and administered through the City’s standard grant process by Council staff. As is required for all public artwork supported with City funding or proposed for installation on City property, the design must be reviewed and approved by the PAAC prior to grant issuance.

Artist Rachel Perls and Ashlee Jemmott, Deputy Policy Analyst in the Office of District 1 Councilmember Zac Unger, presented the full project proposal at the March 2, 2026, PAAC meeting. As no final design was presented, the presenters agreed to continue community engagement and return to the PAAC at a future date for final design approval.

### DESIGN UPDATES & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The final proposed design features a hyper-realistic depiction of three large-scale California poppies, a local wildflower and the official state flower of California. The trio is intended to evoke a sense of community while symbolizing renewal and new growth. The artist notes that the vertical striations in the composition align naturally with the wall’s paneling, creating a cohesive visual effect. Rockridge community members were invited to share their opinions through an online survey with three image

PAAC 6-1-26 Item V

options, and 43 neighbors took part, ultimately choosing the California poppy design as the clear favorite.

## RECOMMENDATION

**Staff recommends that the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) review and approve the final mural design by artist Rachel Perls, for the Councilmember District 1 “Love Life” mural to be installed at the Shell Station located at 5575 Broadway.**

Respectfully submitted,



Josie de Mira, Assistant Public Art Coordinator

Reviewed and approved by:



Kristen Zaremba, Public Art Coordinator

PAAC 6-1-26 Item V



Submitted On	Name	Email	Option 1 Poppies	Option 2 Yellow Dahlia	Option 3 White Dahlia	Additional comments
03/24/2026 10:17:00			2	-1	0	Some people will say that the mural should "blend in" with the background – but I disagree. I think the artwork should be bold and beautiful, adding visual energy to its environment. That's why I chose Poppies. Also I think of them as being very representative of our area. Perhaps they are California Poppies?
03/24/2026 10:21:30			2	0	0	I love them all, but the poppies are by far my favorite, so that's why I "voted" the way I did!
03/24/2026 10:55:51			2	0	1	
03/24/2026 10:57:21			2	0	-1	California poppies are an iconic local flower – favorite. White dahlia will get dirty too quickly.
03/24/2026 11:00:27			2	0	1	
03/24/2026 11:05:31			1	0	0	A combination of these three is worth consideration but not offered.
03/24/2026 11:15:50			0	2	-1	love the poppies but the colors are harsh
03/24/2026 11:31:30			0	2	0	Looks like it will be beautiful
03/24/2026 12:44:49			2	-1	1	Thanks to the owner of the property for allowing this.
03/24/2026 13:35:49			0	1	0	I live on Broadway and appreciate you doing this project. I like that the poppies are native flowers. While dahlias are pretty, they are not. If not doing a native flower consider wisteria, which is common in the neighborhood. It could be a middle ground on the color pallet between the very bright of the poppies and the very neutral of the dahlias.
03/24/2026 13:59:18			2	0	1	
03/24/2026 14:05:30			2	-1	-1	
03/24/2026 14:23:23			2	-1	0	poppies are CA! Color is great. White/yellow - will it last or be covered in soot and fade (brightness that is)
03/24/2026 14:45:47			2	0	0	
03/24/2026 15:14:34			1	1	2	All are beautiful.
03/24/2026 15:41:25			2	0	1	
03/24/2026 16:11:54			2	0	1	What's better than the state wildflower? Are they orange?
03/24/2026 16:43:54			2	0	0	I favor a native flower, the state flower, ubiquitous and beautiful, also bright and more colorful than the other choices, good for art that is glanced at in passing by drivers on their way to the freeway. The subtler dahlias will make less of an impression.
03/24/2026 17:09:28			2	-1	-1	
03/24/2026 17:12:00			2	1	-1	
03/24/2026 17:31:44			2	0	1	Love the poppies! Bright and vibrant. It really pops
03/24/2026 20:02:44			2	-1	0	Love that you're gathering neighborhood input on this! The poppies are "both" the most interesting, artistically, and the most striking, thematically. Great work on all this!
03/24/2026 21:04:42			2	-2	-2	
03/24/2026 21:06:18			2	0	0	
03/24/2026 22:17:58			2	-1	-1	The sooner the better
03/24/2026 22:44:16			1	2	0	So happy you were selected for this mural. I love the poppies but the color contrast is so strong I feel it will overpower the space - so went w the yellow dahlia. I loved the matilija poppy mural in Lafayette! Can we have a something similar?
03/24/2026 23:29:09			2	-1	-1	The poppies, our state flower, will be more long lasting over time with the deeper brighter colors. and will catch more attention.
03/25/2026 7:10:16			2	-2	-2	
03/25/2026 8:03:11			-1	0	1	The color palette of the white Dahlia blends in with the existing building and would be gentle on the eyes. It evokes a sense of peace and calm. While I like the puppy, that large of an image would, I think, be too jarring and distraction for drivers.
03/25/2026 10:17:56			2	-2	-2	Poppies are California's flowers
03/25/2026 18:24:06			2	-2	0	
03/27/2026 7:35:50			2			In gratitude
03/27/2026 12:46:44			2	0	0	
03/27/2026 15:33:22			2	0	1	
03/29/2026 10:52:43			2	-1	-1	LOVE the poppies! As does everyone in my house

03/29/2026 16:14:03	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2	1	1	Wonderful
03/30/2026 7:24:40	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2			
03/30/2026 14:37:58	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2	0	1	
04/03/2026 23:15:13	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2	0	0	
04/04/2026 16:28:17	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2	-2	-1	
04/05/2026 16:48:04	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2	1	0	
04/09/2026 16:02:30	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	2	0	1	