

Enriching Lives



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
ARTS COMMISSION

CIVIC ART PROGRAM

FY 07-08/FY 08-09 TO DATE
REPORT

March 11, 2009

**Los Angeles County Arts Commission
1055 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 800
Los Angeles, CA 90017**

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Introduction

This report documents civic art accomplishments in FY 07-08 and FY 08-09 to date.

Since the beginning of FY 07-08, the Civic Art Program has initiated 27 new civic art projects, all permanent visual artworks which, upon completion, will be included in the County's art collection.

Thirty projects have been completed, documented, copyrighted and inventoried into the County's collection, including five restorations of older County artworks.

Projects have been completed in every district, and in collaboration with 14 departments and the Department of Public Works in nearly every case.

Currently 20 projects are underway, with another six due to be complete in FY 08-09.

The Arts Commission continues to compile the first-ever inventory of County-owned artworks, which was begun in February 2007. To date, 81 three-dimensional artworks have been identified, documented, and accessioned into the County collection. The inventory has not yet documented County-owned two-dimensional works or works on paper (i.e., limited edition prints, photographs, lithographs, etc.).

Civic Art Program Highlights

FY 07-08

- Initiated 15 new civic art projects
- Completed seven projects
- Actively engaged community in four civic art projects, including Allen Martin, Ted Watkins and Helen Keller Parks, and Sun Valley Health Center

FY 08-09 To Date

- Initiated 14 new civic art projects
- Completed 23 projects
- Successfully completed the first jurisdictional partnership with the City of Cerritos, which matched the County's civic art allocation of \$86,000 for a sculpture in Cerritos Regional County Park
- Actively engaged community in five civic art projects, including Woodcrest, Lennox and Lawndale Libraries, and two new fire stations in the Fifth District
- Received Board approval for the first revisions of the Civic Art Policy and Procedures, which more accurately reflects the civic art process
- Chaired the regional coalition of public art administrators, PacSoCal, which meets bi-annually
- Sponsored the County's first technical assistance workshops for visual artists

FY 07-08 Completed Projects by Department

(unless otherwise noted, funding was derived from civic art allocations)

Health Services

Sun Valley Health Center, Third District

Terry Braunstein executed four mosaic artworks and trim in the interior and exterior of this health clinic, which serves the community as well as the adjacent Sun Valley Middle School.

\$79,000 (funded entirely by Third District)



Parks and Recreation

Allen Martin Park, First District

Claudia Reisenberger and Franka Diehnelt of Merge Conceptual Design implemented a color and graphics scheme for structures throughout the park, which improved the visual appeal of the park and tied park elements together visually.

Over 100 community members participated in choosing colors and implementing the scheme. An effective tool for graffiti abatement was integral to the design – if graffiti occurs, Parks staff can add another colorful circle to the design.

\$24,000



Helen Keller Park Pool House, Second District

Michele Martinez's five ceramic tile murals for the façade of the pool house and boundary wall include tiles designed by community members and imagery that reflects fun at the pool as well as references to the importance of water to Helen Keller.

\$50,000

Ted Watkins Pool, Second District

To create a sense of community pride, Robin Strayhorn engaged students in the after-school program at Ted Watkins Park to design tiles for her mosaic and ceramic tile mural at the entrance to the refurbished pool house.

\$36,000



Sheriff



East Los Angeles Satellite Station, First District

Jose Antonio Aguirre developed a color and graphics scheme for the perimeter of the East LA Civic Center, including the parking garage, band shell and East LA Sheriff Station. His color scheme visually united structures surrounding the Civic Center.

\$9,000

(Sheriff, continued)

Sybil Brand Institute, First District

Michael Davis served as a consultant for the programming phase of the renovation or replacement of Sybil Brand Institute. Davis conducted in-depth research on arts programming in correctional institutions locally and nationally, and brought together local artists and teachers who had worked extensively in correctional facilities to discuss the possibility of investing civic art funds in programs for inmates. His final report will be released in conjunction with a Board-approved jail plan.

\$22,000

Superior Court of California

Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, First District

Artist Susan Schwartzberg installed a multi-part memorial to Clara Shortridge Foltz who blazed the trail for women in the legal profession. She was the first woman in California to be admitted to law school and the bar, and she created the first public defender system. Numerous artworks commemorate Foltz throughout the Courthouse lobby.

\$340,000 (Courts funds)



Investments in Civic Art in FY 07-08

Health Services	79,000 (Third District funds)
Parks and Recreation	110,000
Sheriff	31,000
Superior Court	<u>340,000</u> (Courts funds)
	\$560,000

FY 08-09 To Date Completed Projects by Department
(unless otherwise noted, funding was derived from civic art allocations)

Fire

Fire Stations 93 and 136, Fifth District

Nine oil on wood paintings by Jason Greene, who spent a week in residency with the department, grace these two Palmdale fire stations. His paintings depict both the extraordinary and everyday events in the daily lives of firefighters.

\$30,000



Fire Station 108, Fifth District

Henk Pander spent two weeks riding along on emergency calls and sketching staff in their everyday activities. His stay resulted in five two-dimensional works – one large-scale oil on canvas painting (right) and four small water colors.

\$30,000



Parks



Belvedere Regional Community Park Pool

City Terrace Park Pool

Eugene A. Obregon Park Pool

Atlantic Park Pool, **all First District**

Sonia Romero created distinct color and graphic patterns, enlivening blank walls with repeat patterns of large-scale symbols of water. Youth from the Civilian Conservation Corps implemented the projects.

\$51,000 for all four pools (funded entirely by the Dept. of Parks and Recreation with grant funds)

Carver Park Pool, Second District

Matt and Paul Doolin of Topanga Art Tile designed a ceramic and glass tile mosaic mural with water and sealife imagery for the pool house entrance.

\$17,000



Enterprise Park Pool House, Second District

Robin Strayhorn designed a 9' x 10' tile mural for the refurbished pool building.

\$35,000



Lennox Park Pool House, Second District

Wayne Healy of East Los Streetscapers executed a hand-painted ceramic tile mural (left) for the exterior wall at the front entrance to the pool house.

\$44,000

Mona Park Pool, Second District

Dakota Warren's 140' long artwork (right) along the wall of the pool depicts water, and was created with paint, colored concrete and hand-made glass and ceramic tiles.



El Cariso Park Pool, Third District

Rod Baer designed a custom fence that features blue wave patterns. The fence was fabricated and installed by the general contractor.

\$12,000

Cerritos Park, Fourth District

Kim Emerson created five sculptures for the entrance to the park near Bloomfield Avenue. The grouping explores the history of water in Cerritos going back to pre-historic times, and the largest sculpture acts as a sun dial during the Equinox.

\$172,000 (\$86,000 funded by the City of Cerritos)



Public Library

Lawndale Library, Second District

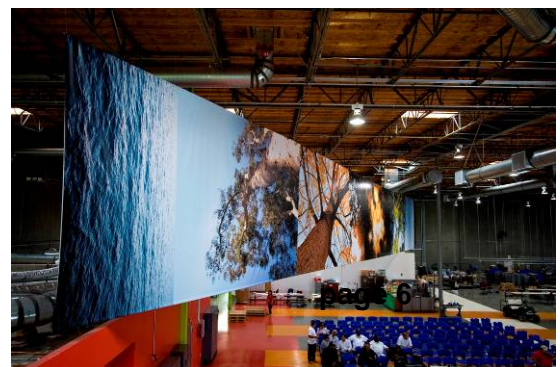
Anne Marie Karlsen's wall of art glass windows contains kaleidoscope-like imagery which initially appears as abstract designs, but upon closer examination, reveals Lawndale's history. The artist derived the designs from historic photos from the community. The artist also created a plaque commemorating Helen Buss, Lawndale's first librarian.

\$81,000

Registrar Recorder/County Clerk

Employee Operations Center, First District

Rebeca Méndez created a monumental banner spanning 160' across the interior of the facility, which depicts skyward views of Los Angeles



County, starting at the Pacific Ocean and ending at the San Gabriel Mountains. She also designed banners for the 20' high racks which store birth and death records and election results.

\$32,000

Investments in Civic Art in FY07-08

Fire	60,000
Parks and Recreation	351,000
Public Library	81,000
Registrar Recorder	<u>32,000</u>
	\$524,000

Projects Underway by Department

* = expected to be complete in FY 08-09

Community and Senior Services

San Pedro Community and Senior Services Center, Fourth District

Local artist(s) will be engaged to create an art piece for the exterior of the facility.
\$13,500

Coroner

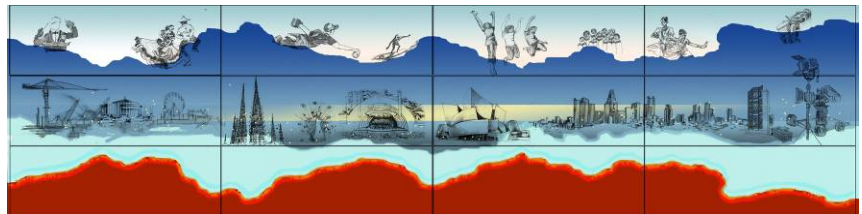
Coroner Annex, First District

Erin Palmer is collaborating with Public Works and the Coroner to create a quiet, intimate outdoor public garden with art features and integrated seating. A small portion of the budget will be used to purchase artwork for staff and visitor areas.
\$176,000

Executive Office

*Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Executive Office, First District

Cha-Rie Tang is creating a 12'w x 4'h fused glass artwork that will be



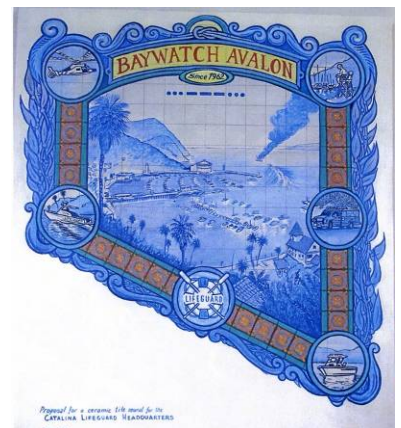
integrated into the furniture/partition system and can be relocated if necessary. The artwork depicts people at work and play in Los Angeles, and various iconic sights in Los Angeles County.
\$23,000

Fire

*Avalon Lifeguard/Paramedic Station, Fourth District

Sandow Birk is creating a hand-painted ceramic tile mural for the exterior of this new facility. The work will be made in the traditional "azulejo" blue and white glazing technique, and will depict services provided by the station's staff, as well as the Avalon Harbor.

\$33,000



Fire Station 156, Fifth District

Matt Dehaemers is creating an outdoor fire pit using a large, carved-out granite boulder, placed in the center of a 16' diameter circle embedded in the concrete. The circle will be made of lithocrete in a richly-colored oak tree design. Eric Powell is designing three custom gates for the facility which will depict the neighborhood street layout from a bird's eye view.

\$172,000

Fire Station 128 and 132, Fifth District

Local artists will be sought to involve local college students in the creation of an artwork.
\$140,000

Fire Station 150, Fifth District

Steve Farley will create a terrazzo artwork for the floor and walls of the lobby, while Garin Baker will paint a large-scale mural in the recreation room.
\$125,000

Health Services

Hubert H. Humphrey Comprehensive Health Center, Second District

Airworks Studio is creating a colorful hanging sculpture for the two-story atrium of the health center. Made from geometrically shaped polycarbonate, the artwork will add a sense of lightness and air to the busy waiting area.

\$35,000



Harbor UCLA Medical Center, Second District

Civic art funds will support an ongoing art program at the Center with an artist in residence, the addition of visual artworks in the work areas and music events.
\$8,000

Mental Health

Olive View Psychiatric Urgent Care Center, Fifth District

Jeff Miller and Amy Trachtenberg are collaborating with the design/build team to integrate several elements throughout this new facility: a hanging sculpture and a 24' hand-painted wall frieze in the waiting area; stepping stones embedded in concrete at the main entry and in the courtyard; and a colorful 50' long polycarbonate top for a "green" fence separating the courtyard from the parking lot.

\$71,000 (\$10,500 from Third District funds)

Military and Veterans Affairs

Patriotic Hall Refurbishment, First District

A new large-scale mural is planned for the entry lobby. It will replace the three-part 1942 Works Progress Administration mural by artist Helen Lundeberg (1908-1999), which was removed in the 1970s and cannot be located. In addition, several County-owned artworks from the Civic Center Park, which is scheduled for renovation, may be moved to the Hall.

\$305,000

Parks and Recreation

Alondra Park Pool and Skate Park, Second District

Kipp Kobayashi and Marta Perlas' design of skateboarders' silhouettes will be executed by sandblasting and staining the surface of the skate park.

\$130,000



*Bethune Park Pool, Second District

Paul Tzanetopoulos's artwork for a 140' long pool wall, depicting swimmers in a graphic pattern, is made of glass and ceramic tile.

\$18,000

*Ted Watkins Park, Second District

Robin Strayhorn continues her work in Ted Watkins Park with a mosaic artwork on the central flagpole featuring a tribute to Ted Watkins, who founded the Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC), an important community resource to this day.

\$37,000

Stephen Sorensen County Park Gym, Fifth District

Victor Henderson and Elizabeth Garrison are creating a hand-painted mural on canvas for the interior multi-purpose room and ceramic tile accents for the front entrance.

\$64,000

Vasquez Rocks Interpretive Center, Fifth District

The County's first platinum-certified LEED building will also feature the County's first art work with a focus on ecology and sustainability. The community is participating in selecting the artist and reviewing the proposed artwork.

\$35,000

Public Library

*Lennox Library, Second District

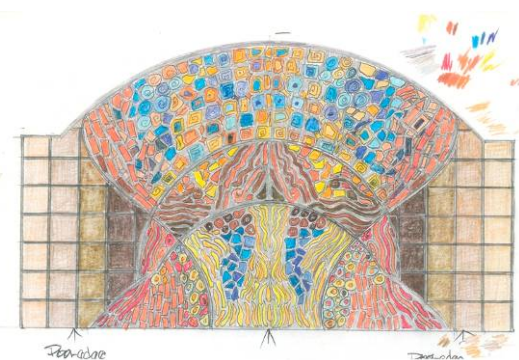
Denis Richardson is creating three large stained glass panels for the library entry. His imagery is derived from a community workshop with over 40 participants who drew images of "flying."

\$12,000 (\$5,000 funded by Public Library)

Woodcrest Library, Second District

Sheri Simons conducted a community workshop to obtain visual materials for her hanging sculpture in the lobby of the library.

\$12,000 (\$5,000 funded by Public Library)



Topanga Library, Third District

Norman Grochowski is creating three large flower-like sculptures for the terrace and six light sconces; local resident Jim Sullivan is making a ceramic tile "welcome mat" for the main entrance (left); Matt and Paul Doolin are creating a round ceramic mural of Topanga scenery; and Megan Rice will produce sculptures of children and animals for the children's area.

\$111,000 (\$40,000 funded by Third District)

Acton/Agua Dulce Library, Fifth District

Anne Marie Karlsen is currently fabricating five large, circular porcelain enamel discs containing kaleidoscope-like imagery, derived from historic photos of the communities of Acton and Agua Dulce.

\$64,000

La Crescenta Library, Fifth District

Accomplished trompe l'oeil muralist and local resident Evan Wilson and master stained glass artist Tim Gibbs collaborated with community representatives to develop artworks for the new library. Wilson will complete three interior murals and a 4' wall frieze that encircles the main floor. Gibbs' stained glass around the entry contains hand painted images of La Crescenta.

\$72,000

Public Works



*Centinela Building and Safety Permit Office, Second District

Ball and Nogues Studio has designed a hanging sculpture made of hundreds of strands of bead chain for the high-ceilinged lobby of the new permit office. In addition, historic photographs of the neighborhood will be installed in the lobby.

\$25,000

Restorations completed in FY 08-09



Hall of Records Reflection Pond and Mosaic Map, First District

This artwork, on Temple Street in front of the County Hall of Records, was originally created by Joseph Young in 1962, and represents the aqueduct system in Los Angeles County. Neither the pond nor the water flowing down the wall had functioned for over 20 years. Restoration began in January 2007 and was completed in October 2008.

\$340,000 (Extraordinary maintenance funding)

City Terrace Library, First District

Created in 1978 by Goetz Art Studio, Ofrenda Maya I, a glazed ceramic tile mural, is composed of 432 tiles and depicts warriors in a traditional Mayan style. Several years ago many of its tiles were damaged. One of the original artists recreated the 116 damaged tiles. Restoration began in July 2008 and was completed in January 2009.

\$10,000 (Library funding)



Gardena Mayme Dear Library, Second District

Placed over the entryway to the Gardena Mayme Dear Library is a mosaic tile mural which depicts the Western history of writing. This artwork, created by Livio Napolitani in 1964, had, over the past decades, accumulated dirt and several tiles were missing. A restoration in November 2008 included cleaning and replacing the missing tiles with matched colored epoxies.

\$8,000



Compton Library, Second District

Dora De Larios' ceramic tile mural was created as the Compton Library was being constructed in 1973. The colorful mural was inspired by pre-Columbian motifs and wraps around the Library's exterior into its interior lobby. Although still in remarkable condition for a 35-year-old work, the mural had wear and tear from dirt, mineral deposits and graffiti. It was cleaned and repaired in the summer of 2008. \$13,000



San Gabriel Library, Fifth District

In 1984 the Friends of the San Gabriel Library commissioned Robert Freeman to paint a mural over the Library's children's section. The acrylic mural depicts the San Gabriel Mission as it stood in the late 18th century. In May 2008 it was cleaned and its painted colors restored. \$10,000

Los Angeles County Arboretum, Fifth District

A marble sculpture, *Je N'Oublierai Pas*, was created in 1930 by French sculptor Louis Aimé Lejeune. It was commissioned by heiress Anita Baldwin for her Anoakia Estate and uses a Greek female figure to personify the Baldwin family motto and crest. In 1991 this work was donated to the County and placed in a



damp, shady location near the Arboretum's waterfall. Beginning in June 2008, the sculpture was cleaned of dirt and fungal growth and moved by crane to a sunnier place in the Arboretum's Korean Garden. Restoration was completed in September of 2008.

\$29,000 (funded in part by Dept. Of Parks and Recreation)

Other Civic Art Activities

Prequalified Artists' List

By Civic Art Policy, a pre-qualified list of artists is established approximately every two years. These artists are selected by a distinguished panel of public art experts, and the list is used for about 75% of the civic art projects. The list is being updated this fiscal year and a new roster of artists will be in place by the beginning of FY 09-10.

Reproductions Policy

Policies indicating how the Arts Commission will manage requests from outside agencies to use imagery of County-owned artworks are being developed in collaboration with Board offices and County Counsel.

FY 09-10 Possible Upcoming Projects

First District

Sorensen Library
Bassett Park
East Los Angeles Civic Center band shell
Sybil Brand Institute

Second District

Alondra Park Gymnasium
Del Aire Community Building
East Rancho Dominguez (Compton) Library
Yvonne Burke Driving Range

Third District

El Cariso Gymnasium
Dan Blocker Beach
Will Rogers Coastline View Pier

Fourth District

Ranchos Los Amigos Campus Consolidation

Fifth District

Camp Kenyon Scudder/Joseph Scott camp
Challenger Youth Memorial Center
High Desert Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center
Pitchess Detention Center

Resources

Los Angeles County Arts Commission
www.lacountyarts.org

Civic Art
www.lacountyarts.org/civicart.htm

The County's Art Collection and Inventory
www.lacountyarts.org/civicart_countyscollection.htm