

# City of Lafayette

## **Public Art Plan 2025**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

*The impulse to create art in public places is one of the things that makes us human.*

Barbara Goldstein, ed.,  
*Public Art by the Book*, American Association of the Arts  
2005

Cities, towns, and villages have been using public art to improve public spaces, build community, and celebrate creativity for centuries. Public art is important because it defines who we are as a community — past, present, and future — and illustrates what we value.

The City of Lafayette recognizes this and has established policies and programs in its General Plan and Zoning Ordinance, its own public art collection, and the Public Art Committee to ensure everyone in the community has access to public art. This Public Art Plan is a foundation for a continuing appreciation and investment in public art in Lafayette.

## II. OVERVIEW

### A. What Is Public Art

Public art is artwork in the public realm — those places that are open and accessible to the public at no cost — regardless of whether the artwork is on public or private property or whether it is publicly or privately funded.

The City of Lafayette sponsors two types of public art – Public art and Public art for projects. Original works of art in any media, permanent or temporary, and displayed at a public place, including performative art, such as dance, spoken work, light and video installation, are considered “Public art.” “Public art for projects” is artwork that is installed as a requirement for the construction or alteration of a building located in the downtown district. These works are defined as semi-permanent artworks, in any visual media, that are affixed to a structure or its grounds and displayed at a public place.

### B. Why Public Art

Public Art in Lafayette

- Highlights our community’s commitment to art and enhances our community’s quality of life
- Commemorates events, honors individuals, identifies historic locations, and tells stories of our past and present, and promotes a sense of belonging
- Creates opportunities for the expression of the diversity and unique character of our neighborhoods or the community as a whole
- Educates and inspires, making it possible to experience art in the course of daily life
- Gives a sense of discovery and vibrancy to the public realm

- Enhances public spaces and creates destinations where people walk and gather
- Advances art and design in the built environment, and helps create a sense of place
- Serves as a forum for supporting local and regional artists
- Contributes to the economic vitality of the downtown business district

### **C. How Public Art in Lafayette is Funded**

#### **1. Public Art for Projects Fund**

Section 6-2603 (Public art requirement and security) of Chapter 6-26 on Public Art of the Lafayette Municipal Code requires the installation of public art for construction projects located in a commercial or multi-family residential zoning district within the downtown. The code provides the option of installing an artwork on the development site at a cost of not less than 1% of the final construction or alteration cost, or, if site conditions make installation infeasible, paying an in-lieu fee equal to that 1%. Click [Chapter 6-26](#) of the Lafayette Municipal Code for information about the Public Art requirement.

In-lieu fees and maintenance endowments for Public art for projects will be placed into a Public art for projects fund maintained by the city. The Public art for projects fund will be used exclusively to:

- Acquire or install Public art for projects;
- Commission Public art for projects for a specific site;
- and/or maintain Public art for projects.

#### **2. Public Art Fund**

A fund may be established for other funds designated for Public art, such as awards and gifts, and used for the City's public art program, its administration, and the City's public art collection, including City-sponsored Public art.

## **III. LAFAYETTE'S PUBLIC ART PROGRAM**

### **A. Public Art Policies and Regulations**

#### **1. General Plan**

The Lafayette General Plan adopted in 2002 includes a goal to support public art (Goal LU-23). Achievement of this goal is based on its adopted policies and programs:

- Promote public art that reflects the cultural life of the community (Policy LU-23.1)
- Research mechanisms for funding public art (Program LU-23.1.1)
- Encourage the provision of public art in public places and parks (Policy LU-23.2)
- Consider designating a group to:
  - Guide the acquisition and exhibition of public art
  - Encourage the exhibition of local artists
  - Promote other arts programs (Program LU-23.2.1)

- Consider implementing an ongoing sculpture exhibit program throughout the commercial district, with special emphasis allowed for local artists (Program LU-23.2.2)
- Develop a comprehensive inventory and documentation of all city-owned public art (Program LU-23.2.3)
- Review and update the Public Art Plan as needed (Program LU-23.2.4)

Click [Land Use](#) for the chapter in its entirety.

## 2. Municipal Code

To implement these policies and programs, the City Council adopted Chapter 6-26, Public Art, into the Lafayette Municipal Code. The purpose of the chapter is to:

- Establish a public art program and its administration.
- Establish the City of Lafayette public art collection.
- Contribute to the cultural enrichment of the community by adding public art that is of the highest quality, visually stimulating and of enduring value.
- Ensure that public art is incorporated into project planning at the earliest possible stage.
- Ensure the value of public art is proportional to the true value of a project.
- Establish public art gift policies and procedures.

Click [Chapter 6-26](#) for the chapter in its entirety.

## B. Public Art Committee

The Public Art Committee was formed to implement the City’s public art program. Committee members demonstrate knowledge of and interest in the arts through training, education, occupation, or avocation. The Committee is appointed by the City Council as advisors in matters pertaining to public art in the community. Members completing their third consecutive full or partial two-year term must re-apply and re-interview for their position in the same manner as a new committee member.

### 1. Mission

**The mission of the Public Art Committee is to promote public art within Lafayette, support artistic and cultural diversity and enrich Lafayette through programs that are both inspiring and educational.**

### 2. Responsibilities

- Create and implement a cohesive positive artistic vision for the downtown
- Work with development project applicants on their public art requirement
- Serve as steward of the City’s public art collection, including curating, documenting and archiving the collection
- Recommend to the City Council how the Public art for projects fund and the Public art fund should be used

- Review and recommend acquisitions for the City’s collection and gifts to the City
- Curate and present rotating exhibits in the Lafayette Library and Learning Center’s Don Tatzin Community Hall Gallery, the Homework Center and Public Art Display Case, and at the Town Hall Theatre Gallery

### 3. Members

Founding members included artists, collectors, museum board members, arts educators, and arts and community volunteers.

#### a. *Founding Members*

- Susan Dannenfelser
- Connie English
- Paul Fillinger
- Erling Horn
- Clay Jensen
- Dennis Mudgett
- Tom Taneyhill
- Marcia Barrow Taylor
- Sandra Wolfe

#### b. *Past Members*

- Carolyn Considine
- Susan Loria
- Christy Mack
- Carol Reif
- Jenny Rosen

#### c. *Current Members*

- Carter Considine
- Dave Dondero
- Patrick Dunne
- Yukie Fujimoto
- Erling Horn
- Janice Peacock
- Sandra Wolfe

### 4. Committee Accomplishments

- Curated and established the City’s public art collection, consisting of 11 sculptures, 20 paintings, prints and mixed media works, one textile work, and two works of photography
- Advised 13 development applicants with satisfaction of the public art requirement for the installation of nine works of art, with four more to be installed in the coming two years, totaling approximately \$1.3 M in public art

- Established a Public Art Committee member liaison program for development applicants
- Exhibited the work of over 116 local artists, including oil, acrylic and watercolor painters, 13 photographers, four textile artists, two ceramicists, and one glass artist
- Curated over 50 shows at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, and, beginning in 2022, 11 shows at the Town Hall Theatre and 4 shows in the Public Art Display Case
- Hosted five exhibits of student art at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center in collaboration with Lafayette Partners in Education
- Presented the work of Lafayette residents in three *A Day in the Life* photography contests
- Showcased local student artwork in a collaborative utility box art project with Lafayette Partners in Education
- Collaborated with the Lafayette Historical Society to create an interactive utility box art project to celebrate 175+ years of Lafayette history
- Created a new photographic catalog of works in 2022
- Recommended acceptance of three gifts of art to the City
- 21 members have served on the Committee, donating over 2000 hours of volunteer time
- Established the Lafayette Downtown Mural Program
- Revised the Municipal Code to broaden the definition of the forms and media of temporary and permanent public art allowable in Lafayette

#### 5. Committee Goals

- Implement the Lafayette Downtown Mural Program
- Update the artwork labels at Lafayette Library and Learning Center
- Implement a cleaning and maintenance plan for the public art collection
- Create an online map of public art in the City of Lafayette
- Revise the Municipal Code to require a minimum public art requirement for projects under State Density Bonus laws
- Expand the kinds of art presented in Lafayette, both permanent and temporary, and provide education around the programs
- Explore more funding alternatives, including public and private partnerships as well as grant opportunities to increase the amount of public art present in the City
- Develop public and private partnerships as well as civic and community collaborations to create more opportunities to present public art
- Explore federal, state, county, and local grant opportunities to support public art programs
- Clarify the procedures for art installation by City commissions and committees, private businesses, building owners, and other non-profit arts groups, including explanations of permits and review by City commissions
- Explore new venues for local art

- Update the Public Art Plan every 4 years
- Implement the Public Art Plan as outlined in this document
- Provide staff to support the scope of the City’s public art plan

### **C. Public Art Programs**

#### 1. Current Programs

- Assisting Public art for project applicants with requirements in the curation and placement of artworks
- Curating exhibitions for the Don Tatzin Community Hall Gallery, the Homework Center and Public Art Display Case at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center and at the Town Hall Theatre Gallery to support local, regional and student artists
- Developing public art programs, such as the Utility Box Art Program, Poetry for the Ages, and Public Art tours to enhance downtown public spaces and/or our community’s quality of life through art
- Implementing the Lafayette Downtown Mural Program

#### 2. Future Programs

- Explore public-private partnerships and civic-community collaborations to create opportunities for community expression and promote a sense of belonging
- Develop programming in downtown locations to give a sense of vibrancy to the public realm and make it possible to experience art during the course of daily life

#### 3. Priorities for Expending the Public Art Fund

- Prioritize the Downtown Specific Plan by presenting art in the commercial district
- Acquire artwork for the City’s Public Art Collection
- Commission temporary works of art
- Research and distribute grants and commissions to local and regional artists
- Develop additional programming with the support of city staff

## **IV. PUBLIC ART IN LAFAYETTE**

### **A. City Public Art Collection**

#### 1. Sculpture

- Erskine, Peter, *Sun Painting* (2009), Lafayette Library and Learning Center
- Goggin, Brian, *Speechless* (2009), Lafayette Library and Learning Center
- Hsu, Joyce, *Flying Girl with Flowers* (2006), Lafayette Library and Learning Center
- Key, Jeff, *Vessel #245 – Nesting* (2000), Lafayette Library and Learning Center
- Mudgett, David, *Resolve* (2017), Roundabout at Olympic Blvd. and Pleasant Hill Rd.
- Rupe, Sita, *Puzzle Pieces* (2009), Lafayette Library and Learning Center
- SZFM Design Studio, Art benches near 3614 & 3650 Mount Diablo Boulevard
- Tanaka, Kana, *Optical Streams – Parts 1 & 2* (2009), Lafayette Library and Learning Center

- Weber, Ann, *String of Pearls* (2006), Lafayette Library and Learning Center
  - *General Lafayette*, Plaza Way and Golden Gate Way
  - *Millennium Column*, City Offices, 3675 Mount Diablo Boulevard
2. Paintings, prints and mixed media at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center
    - Ahr, Carolyn *Orange Tulip* (2007)
    - Almaguer, Michael, *Balance* (2003)
    - Barnard, Suzy, *Surrounded by Blue* (2009)
    - Becker, Robert, *Coaches* (2008-2009)
    - Becker, Robert, *Next Swimmer* (2008-2009)
    - Becker, Robert, *Sleepy Hollow B Meet* (2008-2009)
    - Becker, Robert, *Miramonte/Campolindo Football* (2008-2009)
    - Becker, Robert, *Warm Ups - Soda Center* (2008-2009)
    - Bloom, Arlynn, *Resting* (2008)
    - deSoto, Lewis, *Napa* (2007)
    - Garza, Carmen, *Sandia* (1997)
    - Gross, Sarah, *Mechanical Beetle* (2009)
    - Huguen, Amanda, *Fistulation* (2009)
    - Inlow, Yan, *Resting Woodpecker* (2007)
    - Innis, Cynthia, *Fathom* (2007)
    - Jackson, Oliver, *Intaglio Print XVIII* (2007)
    - Lubliner, Malcolm, Glenn Seaborg portrait (1986)
    - Nugent, Bob, *Flora Brasiliensis #68* (2007)
    - Payne, Emily, *Acres of Diamonds* (2009)
    - Santamarina, Vivian, *Once Upon a Time* (2009)
  3. Textiles at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center
    - Gass, Linda, *On the Edge*, (2008)
  4. Photography at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center
    - Horn, Rolfe, *Along Huckleberry Path, Study 14, Oakland Hills* (2006)
    - Melnikova-Raich, Sonia, *Morning Paper* (2007)

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center is located at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

#### **B. Gifts**

- Dannenfelser, Susan, *Tree of Thanks* (2012), Community Garden, 3932 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Bradley Falk, Stephen, *Seeing Red* (2019), Lafayette Library and Learning Center
- Moeller, Greg, *Birdhouses* (2021)

#### **C. Public Art for Projects**

The following works of art were commissioned as part of the Public Art for Projects requirement:

- Berry, Roger, *Over Easy* (2012), 3201 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Bologna, Joe, *Bird Row and Friendly Gathering* (2022), 3408 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Botero, Mariana (2024), *Komorebi*, 3742 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Chistopherson, Elin, *Red Bud Spring* (2017), Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd.
- Held, Archie, *Water Sculpture* (2013), 3454 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Huether, Gordon, *Blossoms* (2016), 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Long, JP, *sculpture* (2019), 210 Lafayette Circle
- Stern, Alice, *A Living Street* (2020), 954 Mountain View
- SZFM Design Studio, *Tree elements* (2007), 3585-3599 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Trautman, Ben, *Shadow* (2017), 3594 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- True, Laurel, *Fountain Mosaic* (2007), 3597 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Public Art for Projects Requirement Works Coming Soon:

- Barr, Aileen, *ceramic mosaic*
- Kinematics Lab, *kinetic sculpture*
- Wowhaus, *sculpture*

#### **D. Temporary Public Art**

- Dolberg, Adam, *Black, Indigenous, People of Color Rock Garden* (2020 - 2022), the Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd.
- Nolan, Alex and Chad Glashoff, *Ursus Redivivus* (2018 - 2022)
- Utility Box Art Program

#### **E. Privately Funded Public Art**

- *The Neighbors*, tile mural by Carol Van Zant King, 3540 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- La Fiesta Square mosaic and fountain by SZFM Design Studio, Mt. Diablo Boulevard/Moraga Rd./Lafayette Circle East
- Bas-relief walls by T. Sheets, 3650 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Wood wall, southern entrance of BART Station
- Lafayette Hillside Memorial, Deer Hill Rd.
- *Unity in Diversity* mural, 333 Arts (2020), Oak Hill Rd. and Mt. Diablo Blvd.

#### **F. Locations for Public Art**

##### 1. Downtown

The priority for the installation of public art is downtown. All great downtowns, whether they are in small villages or major cities, have public art. Art unifies a public space and creates a sense of place. The goal of the Public Art program is to contribute to the cultural enrichment of the community by promoting the expression and expansion of the arts in the downtown and through the introduction of interactive public art in downtown parks and other public spaces. These locations include public rights-of-way (utility boxes, medians, sidewalks, landscaped areas) and publicly accessible plazas,

walls, courtyards, and parking lots. More art in the downtown will enhance its character and make it an even greater downtown.

## 2. Gateways

The primary community gateways are important places for public art to establish the character of the community. City identity signage may be incorporated into the public art. These locations are:

- Pleasant Hill Rd. and Olympic Blvd.
- Pleasant Hill Rd. and Mount Diablo Blvd.
- Pleasant Hill Rd. at Reliez Valley Rd. / Springhill Rd.
- Mount Diablo Boulevard and Acalanes Rd.
- South end of Moraga Rd.
- SR 24 eastbound offramp and Oak Hill Rd

## 3. Other Locations

- The Lafayette Library and Learning Center
- Town Hall Theatre
- Park Theater
- City Offices
- Community Center
- Plaza Park
- Rain Garden (parcel adjacent to the west)
- Community Park
- Leigh Creekside Park
- Gazebo Park
- Buckeye Fields
- Lafayette Reservoir
- Public access points to public trails and pathways

## V. PUBLIC ART RESOURCES

- [City of Lafayette Public Art Webpages](#)
- [Chapter 6-26 \(Public Art\) of the Lafayette Municipal Code](#)
- [Chapter 6-36 \(Density Bonus\) of the Lafayette Municipal Code](#)
- [Land Use Chapter of the General Plan](#)