

City of Sacramento
Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission
Report
915 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814
www.cityofsacramento.org

File ID: 2026-00636

3/9/2026

Art in Public Places Overview and Updates Presentation March 2026

File ID: 2026-00636

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Review and comment.

Contact: Donald Gensler, Arts Administrator, Office of Arts and Culture, (916) 808-8493, dgensler@cityofsacramento.org, Convention and Cultural Services Department

Presenter: Donald Gensler, Arts Administrator, Office of Arts and Culture, (916) 808-8493, dgensler@cityofsacramento.org, Convention and Cultural Services Department

Attachments:

1-Description/Analysis

2-APP Presentation - 3-9-26

Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: The City of Sacramento's nationally renowned Art in Public Places program (APP) was established in 1977 to expand public experiences of visual art by installing artworks in public spaces. It includes a collection of more than 650 permanent and movable artworks. More than 60% of these artworks are by local and regional artists. City ordinance specifies that 2% of eligible City capital improvement project budgets be set aside for the commission, purchase, and installation of artworks throughout the city. APP actively seeks and secures additional funding sources through grants, general fund allocations, project management opportunities with outside entities, and inter-departmental collaborations. Public art builds culture and a dynamic environment for city properties and communities throughout Sacramento while supporting the integration of art education and community engagement as vital components of all public art commissions.

Policy Considerations: The Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Commission (ACCEC) is charged with providing for the nature, selection, and placement of artworks.

Furthermore, the recommendations in this report are in alignment with Creative Edge: Sacramento's Arts, Culture and Creative Economy Plan (Creative Edge), which was adopted by the City Council on July 3, 2018, and which serves as the guiding policy framework for the Office of Arts and Culture.

ACCEC serves, in part, to support and advance six goals identified within Creative Edge, intended to fulfill the Sacramento community's vision for its arts, cultural and creative future.

This item addresses all six (6) of the following Creative Edge goals:

Goal 1: Provide arts education to all Sacramento's children and youth; Goal 2: Advance cultural equity for all Sacramento's diverse populations; Goal 3: Build upon and expand Sacramento's unique creative economy; Goal 4: Enable Sacramento artists and creatives to thrive in their work and to provide creative leadership in the community; Goal 5: Celebrate and infuse all Sacramento neighborhoods and districts with arts and culture; and Goal 6: Expand and solidify Sacramento's investment in arts and culture.

This item also addresses all five (5) of the following 2025 ACCEC Workplan goals:

Goal 1: Achieve greater clarity around ACCEC's purpose and role within the City of Sacramento government; Goal 2: Enhance community awareness and understanding of ACCEC as a supportive, accessible resource dedicated to arts and culture; Goal 3: Advocate for City of Sacramento policies and initiatives that value, support, and build the arts and cultural community and ecosystem; Goal 4: Collaborate with the Office of Arts and Culture to address a variety of infrastructure needs required to sustain a thriving and sustainable arts ecosystem; Goal 5: Continue to work with the Office of Arts and Culture in uplifting the goals of the Creative Edge Plan.

Economic Impacts: None.

Environmental Considerations: None, as the recommendations in this report do not constitute a "project" under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as they involve government fiscal activities that do not involve any commitment to a specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment, as contemplated by Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15000 et seq.), and is, therefore, not subject to CEQA pursuant to Section 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Sustainability: Not applicable.

Commission/Committee Action: Not applicable.

Rationale for Recommendation: With the beginning of a new calendar year and new Commissioners beginning at the ACCEC, APP is providing a brief overview presentation outlining the program's history, policy work, recent projects, and upcoming projects. In order to be informed about opportunities and to best inform those constituents they serve; the ACCEC receives this presentation from APP and has opportunities to ask questions and provide comments to APP staff.

Financial Considerations: None.

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): Not applicable.



Troy Corliss, 2015

Sacramento Office of Arts and Culture

Art in Public Places

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM

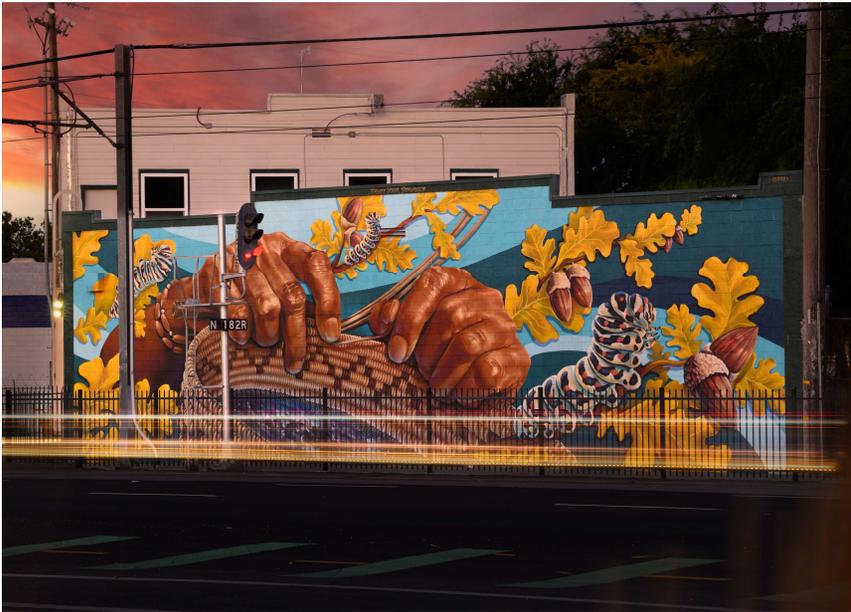
SACCE COMMISSION PRESENTATION

MARCH 9, 2026



Troy Corliss, *Poet Laureate Park*, South Natomas Community Center, 2015

Brief Overview



1. APP Ordinance and Policy
2. SB 456 Overview
3. Historic Public Art Collection
4. Recent and Upcoming Public Art Projects

Trust Your Struggle, *Life in a Basket*, acrylic and spray paint, Sacramento, CA, 2021

1. APP Ordinance and Policy



Larry Meeks, *Peek-a-boo*, North Natomas Community Park, Sacramento , CA, 2003

- Art in Public Places (APP) program established in 1977 (City Code Chapter 2.84). 2% of eligible CIP projects set aside for Public Art.
- 450 city owned artworks (permanent and movable). APP commissions work and maintains the collection.
- More than 60% of these artworks are by local and regional artists.

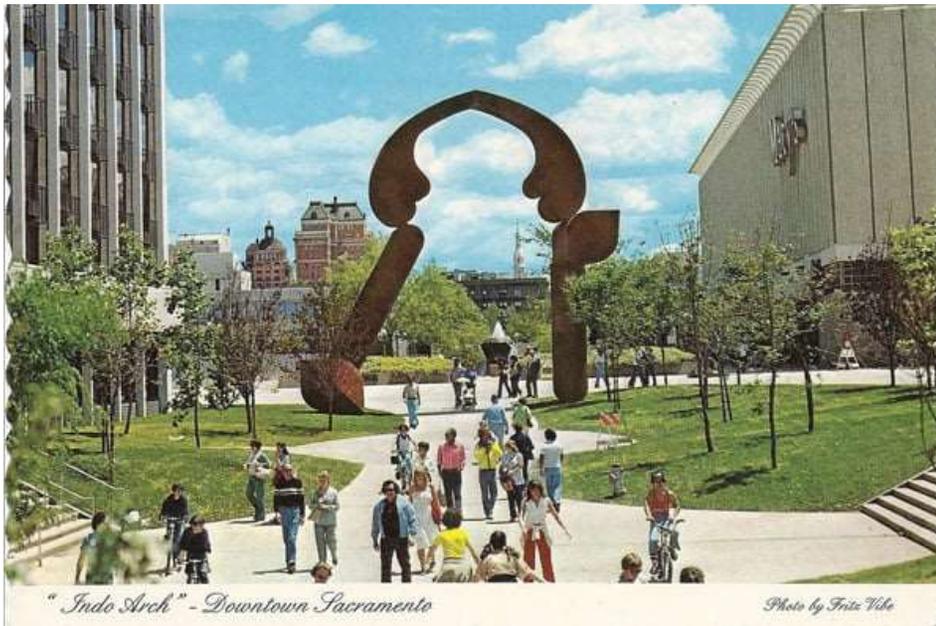
2. SB 456 Overview



Studio Tutto, *Bright Underbelly*, WX Freeway underpass, acrylic mural, Sacramento, CA, 2015

- SB 456 – Author: Senator Ashby; Coauthor: Senator Laird; Sponsors: CA Arts Advocates and League of CA Cities. October 3, 2025 Governor signed bill into law.
- Cities and over 800 artists, arts professionals, arts organizations, and others across CA including City of Sacramento have endorsed the bill carving out a “muralist exception”.
- Muralists must still comply with Cal-OSHA but no longer required to have a commercial painters license with a C-33 or D-64. Muralists are making “fine art” on a wall.

3. Historic Public Art Collection



Gerald Walburg, *Indo Arch*, Sacramento, CA, 1979



Joan Momen, *A Fragment of the Universe* AND Lawrence Argent, *Leap* (both artworks at Sacramento International Airport), 2011

3. Historic Public Art Collection



Vicki Scuri, *Uplift*, Richards Blvd and N 12th Street, Sacramento, CA, 2022



Gale Hart, *Missing the Mark*, DOCO, Sacramento, CA, 2016

3. Historic Public Art Collection



[GIS Collection Map- Sacramento City Collection of Public Art](https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/ccs/oac/public-art)
<https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/ccs/oac/public-art>

4. Recent and Upcoming Public Art Projects



- A. The Living Balance
- B. Birds and Benches
- C. North Sacramento Library
- D. MLK Library

Liv Unger, *The Living Balance*, (detail) vinyl mural, Sutters Landing Regional Park, 2024

A. *The Living Balance*



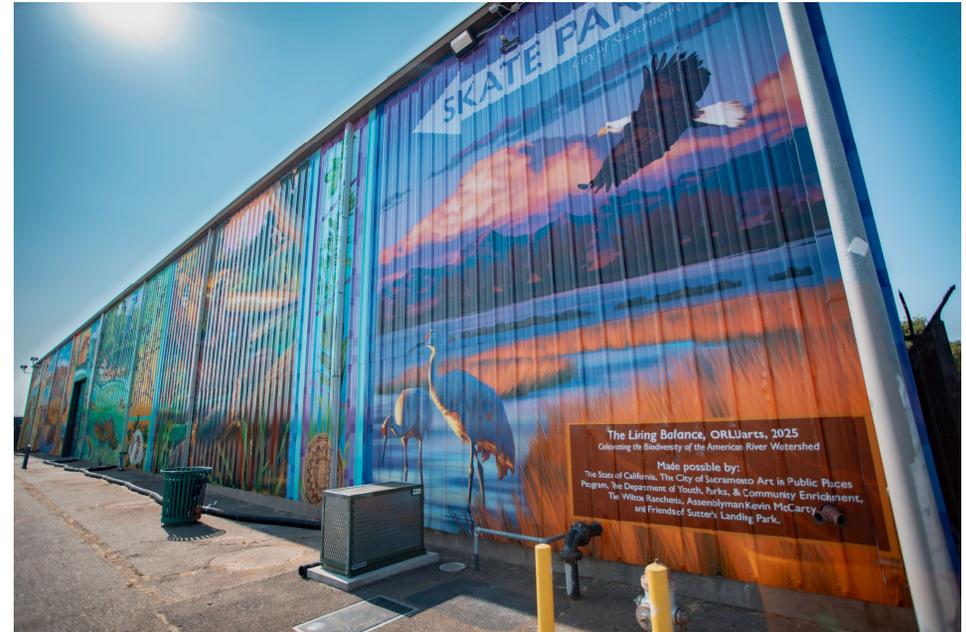
- \$50K State Funded Grant
- \$30K of APP Funding from YPCE Projects
- 200' x 25' wall on Baler Building
- American River Watershed theme
- Friends of the American River, local schoolteachers, Wilton Rancheria, YPCE, and local biologists.

Liv Unger, *The Living Balance*, Final installed mural, Sutter's Landing Regional Park

A. *The Living Balance*



Liv Unger, *The Living Balance*, photo from dedication event at SLRP



Liv Unger, *The Living Balance*, detail showing credits, SLRP

A. The Living Balance



1 Fremont Cottonwood
Salix lasiolepis • *Salix lasiolepis* • *Populus fremontii*
 This tree is native to riparian ecosystems of the Southwestern United States. It provides shade, stabilizes riverbanks, and supports diverse wildlife, including nesting birds and insect populations.

2 Mt. Diablo
Diablo • *Diablo*
 A prominent landmark in the Bay Area, Mt. Diablo holds deep significance for all the tribes within its watershed, including the Miwok and Wintuan, who consider it a sacred place. Ecologically, it's a biodiversity hotspot, supporting unique plant and animal communities due to its varied elevations and habitats. Mt. Diablo can be seen from a few higher vantage points like the Landing Mount at Sutter's Landing, and the banks of the Sacramento River.

3 Coyote
Canis latrans • *Canis latrans*
 A highly adaptable predator, the coyote thrives across California, including the Sacramento region. Coyote is an important figure in the traditional stories of the Miwok and Wintuan people, often depicted as a trickster and teacher. Coyotes regulate populations of rodents and other small mammals, preventing outbreaks and maintaining balance in the ecosystem.

4 California Condor
Californicus • *Californicus* • *Grus californicus*
 The distinctive California Condor is the largest land bird in North America, with a wingspan up to 10 feet. This massive raptor plays a crucial role in nutrient cycling as a scavenger. After a steep population decline, the remaining wild population was captured for a breeding program in 1985, and then successfully reintroduced to the wild in 1992. The condor is revered by many local Indigenous tribes. White Condors have been seen in Sacramento, a more common species found near Sutter's Landing in the smaller turkey vulture.

5 Tule Boat
Tule • *Tule*
 Indigenous peoples of California crafted boats from tule reeds to navigate rivers and wetlands for fishing, transportation, and trade.

6 Tule
Scirpus californicus • *Scirpus californicus*
 This tall marsh plant, sometimes called Bulrush, is vital to California's wetlands. It provides critical habitat for many species, helps filter water, and stabilizes shorelines.



1 Pipevine Swallowtail
Actinote • *Actinote* • *Actinote*
 A striking black and blue butterfly found in California wetlands, its caterpillars feed on native pipevine, making them toxic to predators. The butterfly's life cycle is closely tied to the health of pipevine populations.

2 Blue Dicks Flower
Castilleja • *Castilleja* • *Castilleja*
 A drought-resistant wildflower with vibrant purple blooms, commonly found in California foothills and grasslands alongside California Poppy. Native Americans, including the Miwok and Wintuan tribes, consumed this flower's bulbs as a food source.

3 Wild Sweet Pea
Lathyrus • *Lathyrus*
 A native vine with delicate purple flowers, often found in California's coastal and foothill regions. It provides food for pollinators and its seeds are consumed by birds and small mammals.

4 Sulphur Butterfly
Gnathocarpus • *Gnathocarpus*
 A widespread group of bright yellow butterflies, with several species found in California grasslands and open spaces. These butterflies are important pollinators and indicators of grassland health. Sulphurs are especially fond of alfalfa, and can be seen in large clouds feeding alfalfa fields in the fall.

5 Purple Aster
Symphyotrichum • *Symphyotrichum*
 A wildflower with purple petals, supporting pollination in wetlands and meadows. Its late season blooms from May to July provide a valuable nectar source for butterflies and bees when other flowers are scarce.

6 California Poppy
Eschscholzia • *Eschscholzia*
 The state flower of California, its bright orange petals blanket hillsides in spring, thriving in dry conditions. It provides nectar for pollinators and its seeds are a food source for birds. Native folks used the leaves of the poppy as a vegetable, and some parts of the plant as a mild pain-reliever.

7 Monarch Butterfly
Danaus • *Danaus*
 An iconic orange and black butterfly that depends on milkweed for reproduction, with a western population that migrates to California's coast. Its survival is tightly linked to milkweed availability and habitat protection. Monarchs are migratory and some populations migrate up to 3,000 miles a year, sometimes up to 100 miles a day!

8 Shrewy Milkweed
Asclepias • *Asclepias*
 A crucial host plant for monarch caterpillars, its toxic sap deters predators while its flowers provide nectar for pollinators. Milkweed supplies tough fibers for making string, ropes, and coarse cloth. It plays a vital role in supporting biodiversity and the monarch migration. Cultural practitioners use the fibers of milkweed stems for cordage. In the old days, its juice was mixed with animal grease to create gum.

The Living Balance

ORLUarts, 2025

Celebrating the Biodiversity of the American River Watershed

There are over 60 native species represented in this mural. Can you find them all? Scan to learn more or enter the url in your browser:

<https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/ccs/oac/public-art/public-art-projects/APP>

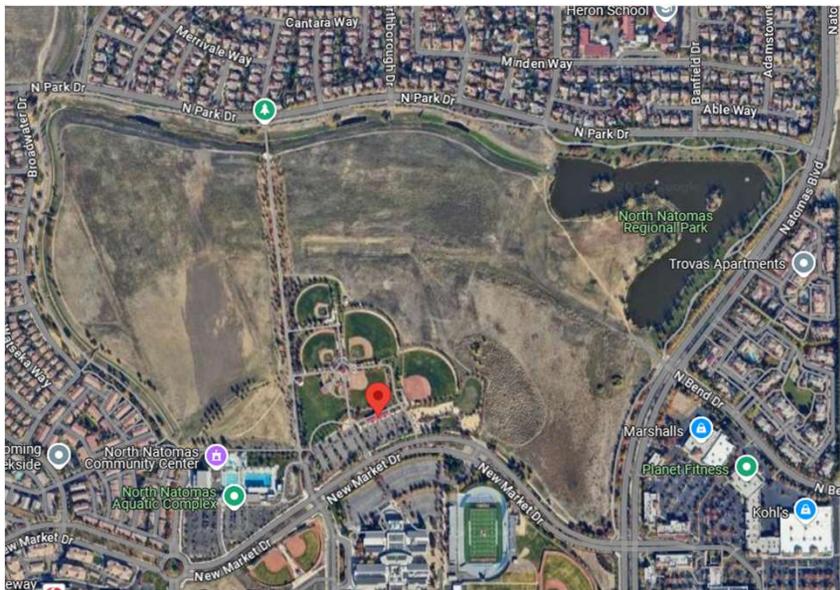
Arts + Culture

City of SACRAMENTO

Liv Unger, *The Living Balance*, Teaching Tool for mural, SLRP

Liv Unger, *The Living Balance*, QR code download, SLRP

B. *Birds and Benches*



- North Natomas Regional Park
- 212 Acres
- 2 Phase project / 2026 - 2028
- SSBMI, Wilton Rancheria, Sacramento Autobahn Society, Natomas Basin Conservancy, Natomas Charter School
- City Council District 1 Office

Aerial View of North Natomas Regional Park, areas for seating and trails for viewing plant and animal life

B. *Birds and Benches*



Art bench by Victor Poznjakov



Art Bench in Ukraine, Photo courtesy of architecturedesign.net



Heron, Photo courtesy of the Natomas Basin Conservancy

B. *Birds and Benches*



Birds and Benches
2026



EVENTBRITE



WEBSITE

JANUARY

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LEGEND

- ARTIST AMBASSADOR EVENT
- ARTIST AMBASSADOR WORKSHOP
- ARTIST MENTOR PRESENTATION
- CAREHOLDER EVENT
- IN PERSON EVENT
- ONLINE EVENT

WHAT IS BIRDS & BENCHES?

Funded through the City of Sacramento's 2% for public art ordinance, the Sacramento Office of Arts and Culture (OAC) Art in Public Places (APP) program has been tasked with management of a new Artist Designed Benches Project in North Natomas Regional Park (NNRP) named Birds and Benches.

These benches will enhance the community atmosphere while celebrating the bird life of the Natomas Basin, focusing on areas in the park where visitors can enjoy resting and viewing avian species.

Please join us in 2026 for free programming provided by local and regional artists.

CAREHOLDERS









https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/ccs/oac/public-art/public-art-projects/Birds_and_Benches



C. North Sacramento Hagginwood Library



- \$100K for Public Art
- Exterior Locations
- History Themes – Del Paso Blvd history
- Possible murals on the building OR
- Possible sculpture in PROW or parking lot

Plan View, Possible art areas, *North Sacramento Hagginwood Library*, Construction Drawings

C. North Sacramento Hagginwood Library



Exterior View, *North Sacramento Hagginwood Library*, rendering

C. North Sacramento Hagginwood Library



Exterior View, *North Sacramento Hagginwood Library*, rendering

C. North Sacramento Library

Preliminary Timeline

| | |
|----------------|---|
| January 2026 | Launch RFQ |
| March 23, 2026 | Deadline for submission to RFQ |
| March 2026 | Selection Panel meets to select up to 5 finalists |
| April 2026 | Finalists present conceptual designs |
| June 2026 | Stakeholder meetings with proposal |
| August 2026 | Artist begins fabrication |
| March 2027 | Installation plans finalized |
| April 2027 | Installation of artwork |
| June 2027 | Dedication Event together with Library opening |

D. MLK Library – RFQ in April

Library entrance area. Locations on walls are the opportunities for artwork. \$150K Budget for Artwork.



D. MLK Library

Preliminary Timeline

April 2026 – RFQ out

June 2026 – Deadline

July 2026 – Panel selects artist

August 2026 – Artist announced

September 2026 – Artist meets with
community members

October 2026 – Design Dev

Dec 2026 – Design Presentation

January 2027 – Final Design

June 2027 – Fabrication complete

July 2027 – Installation

September 2027 – Dedication Event

Discussion



Beth Rubel, *Rhythm and Victory*, acrylic mural , 2630 Northgate Blvd, Sacramento CA, 2022