



ARTS COMMISSION

Monday, December 12, 2022

Council Chambers

505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

5:00 P.M.

- A G E N D A -

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Approval of Minutes
- 3) Chair's Announcements (Wood)
- 4) Commissioner, Council and Staff Communications
- 5) Cultural Arts Funding Grant Presentations
Laguna Community Concert Band (Mark Lowry and Brad Balen)
- 6) Public Communications - *To assist the Arts Commission in the timely completion of its business, speakers are asked to limit their presentation to three minutes or less.*
- 7) Items for Discussion and Action:
 - A. **Donation of Sculptures by Vladimir Kush (Kush Fine Art)** Discuss accepting bronze sculptures by Vladimir Kush for installation at Heisler Park. (Commissioner: Ballard, Staff: Poeschl and Bichler)
 - B. **Temporary Sculpture Installation on Laguna Frontage Road** – Discuss and approve a temporary installation by Margret Hemsley in the pocket park on Laguna Frontage Road/Woodland Drive. (Staff: Poeschl and Bichler)
 - C. **Key dates list for 2023** – Review calendar of programming for 2023. (Staff: McGregor)
 - D. **Arts Commission Programming Year End Review** – Overview of programming presented in 2022. (Staff: McGregor)
- 7) Adjournment

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with a disability who require a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in a meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, may request such modification or accommodation from the Arts Manager at 949-497-0722 or email art@lagunabeachcity.net. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting.

cc: City Manager
City Clerk
Council Liaison Mayor Kempf
Director Transit and Community Services

Post through December 13, 2022



LAGUNA BEACH ARTS COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday, November 28, 2022

City Hall, Conference Room A

505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

5:00 p.m.

Recap of Minutes

PRESENT: **Commissioners:** Donna Ballard, Michael Ervin, Pat Kollenda, Adam Schwerner, and Karen Wood.

Absent: Suzi Chauvel and Laura Ford

STAFF: Sian Poeschl, Cultural Arts Manager, Michael McGregor, Arts Program Coordinator, and Jamie Bichler, Public Art Coordinator

- 1) Karen Wood called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- 2) Minutes of the November 14, 2022, meeting were approved as presented. M/S Kollenda/Schwerner.
- 3) **Chair's Announcements:** Karen Wood attended the puppet show performance by Luce Puppet Company on November 20, 2022.
- 4) **Commissioner and Staff Communications:** Michael Ervin complimented the Cultural Arts Department on decorating the Community tree at the Sawdust Art Festival's Winter Fantasy. Staff McGregor noted a well-attended performance by Luce Puppet Company on November 20, 2022. Staff Bichler noted the mural "Lovely Day" by Andy Davis at Bushard's Pharmacy would be dedicated on December 1, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. Staff Poeschl noted there were nine remaining performances at the Promenade on Forest in 2022 and there would be no performance on December 2, 2022, because of Hospitality Night. Staff noted meeting with artist Taylor Dean Harrison regarding the approved temporary sculpture installation at City Hall. Staff noted the Festival of Arts Permanent Collection was currently on exhibit at City Hall.
- 5) **Public Communications:** None.
- 6) Items for Discussion and Action:
 - A) **2022 Children's Holiday Palette Exhibition** – Staff McGregor noted the Palette subcommittee and Youth Art Advisory Board had reviewed the 76 submissions for the exhibition and presented the recommendations. Staff noted the designs would be displayed at City Hall from December 1 to December 31, 2022, and the selected artists would be recognized at the City Council meeting on December 13, 2022. A motion was made to approve the selection of designs by Elle Walker, Arabella Gardner, Max Moratorio, Dylan Tian, Caroline Walden, Abigail Olin, Charley Jerabek, Sam O'Neill, Hannah Miller, Brighton Welch, Alice Mitsuha, and Bella Piskun, M/S Kollenda/Ervin. Yeas: Ballard, Ervin, Kollenda, Schwerner, Wood. Noes: None.
 - B) **Alta Laguna Park Temporary Mural** – Staff Bichler noted that staff had met with the Youth Art Advisory Board which recommended the temporary mural at Alta Laguna Park be undertaken by Laguna Beach High School students and presented the proposal by art instructor Jamie Kough to facilitate the project. Staff noted that the proposal included compensation for the participating youth artists and suggested funding options. Staff Poeschl

Arts Commission
November 28, 2022
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noted the project would need a Temporary Use Permit as well as budget approval or the acceptance of a donation to move forward. The Commission directed staff to return to Ms. Kough with the following parameter recommendations: 1) Limit age of participants to 14 years or older; 2) Expenses could not exceed \$10,000 in funding from the City; 3) Youth Art Advisory Board members could not be compensated; 4) The City would require a cost breakdown and expense report of the project.

7) Adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

cc: City Manager, City Clerk, Mayor Kempf, Assistant City Manager



July 1, 2022

Brad Balen
Laguna Community Concert Band

Laguna Beach, CA 92652

Dear Brad:

On behalf of the City of Laguna Beach, I am pleased to present a grant of **\$9,500** to the Laguna Community Concert Band to support your organization's work in 2022-2023. This funding should be **used for marketing and venue rental of events in Laguna Beach**. This grant program is made possible from revenues of the Laguna Beach Tourism Marketing District. The use of these grant funds should be acknowledged in written materials by a statement that **"funds for this program are provided by the lodging establishments and the City of Laguna Beach."**

The City of Laguna Beach Arts Commission will be reviewing a final report on your use of these funds in early 2023. The Commission will be inviting your organization to its meeting to give an overview of your programming and use of the funds. The report form will be mailed to you early next year.

Once again, congratulations! I hope this funding will assist your organization in realizing the full potential of your project.

Sincerely,

Sue Kempf
Mayor

MEMORANDUM

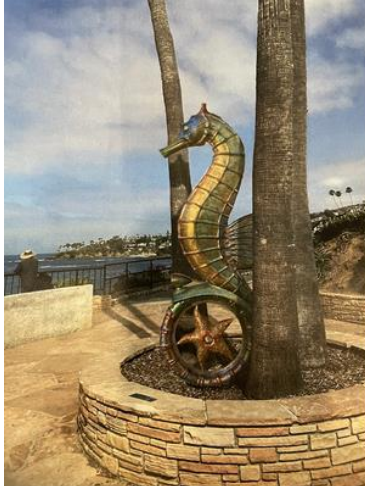
DATE: October 17, 2022
TO: Arts Commission
FROM: Siân Poeschl, Cultural Arts Manager and Jamie Bichler, Public Art Coordinator
SUBJECT: Kush Fine Art Gallery – Sculpture Donation Proposal

The Kush Fine Art Gallery has submitted a proposal to donate bronze sculptures by artist Vladimir Kush to the City of Laguna Beach's permanent public art collection. It is unclear from the proposal if the artist intends to donate two or seven sculptures all to be located in Hesiler Park. The sculptures vary in size with "Segway Seahorse" measuring 6' in height to "Shell" measuring 9' in height. These production pieces exist within the artist collection and are located in the gallery located on Forest Avenue.

In reviewing the application, the Arts Commission should take into consideration the following:

Site considerations:

- 1) The proposed "Segway Seahorse" is located below the World Wars Veteran's Memorial and the September 11 memorial sculpture. Annually, ceremonies are held at the site to honor those who lost their lives and is a site for quiet reflection. The proposed installation location is clearly visible from the memorials.



- 2) Staff requested input from the Public Works Department and the City's arborist noted the following regarding the location of the "Segway Seahorse":

"I am concerned that if the art piece requires any anchoring into the planter, this could damage the root initiation zone of the palms. Once that happens it is an introduction for decay to enter into the trunk of these palms."

3) The location of the “Lyrical Impala” is on a narrow pathway leading from Main Beach to Heisler Park. There are three public art installations in close proximity to this site and would be clearly visible.



The location is clearly visible from the Inn at Laguna Beach and their pool area. Public Works provided the following input:

“The art pieces being proposed that are in the landscape planters might cause issues with the sprinkler coverage and irrigation and would be subject to water spotting and possibly discoloration from the salts, etc. in the water.”

“The fireworks guy’s setup mortars there (proposed location) for the 4th of July. This can damage the art and prevent this space to be used for the fireworks.”

Shell, Sisyphus, Aries, Mystery of the Ocean, Where the World was Born





The application proposed the installation of five smaller sculptures on existing posts. These post caps are not level and include a stone at the center. To accommodate the sculpture, the post caps would all have to be removed and replaced to accommodate the sculptures. Public Works noted:

“The post caps have been known to be vandalized as well as come loose and therefore need to be resecured. They don’t make a very good base for art. “



There are additional concerns that the Arts Commission should consider.

- 1) Permanent public arts sculptures are generally vetted through an open application process through a call for submissions or invitation. In bypassing this process and awarding permanent placement of artwork representing a specific gallery does not offer balanced programming for other galleries who might want to participate.
- 2) The public art collection is varied, seven sculpture in close proximity on publicly owned land by the same artist does not meet that desire.
- 3) The Arts Commission has approved a draft of the “Public Art Ordinance and Policies” which indicates:

Review Criteria for Artwork Donations or Loans

“#6 Uniqueness of Art: The City will accept only unique, one of a kind works of art apart from prints, photographs, or a desirable high-quality, limited-edition work of art by a renowned artist. “

Staff researched the Vladimir Kush – Kush Fine Art website and watched the video of the foundry process and there was no information if these pieces are one of a kind or limited editions. The pieces are currently on display at the gallery.

- 4) Donations are accepted per the recommendation of the Arts Commission. Based on the new draft policy the Commission should consider the approved review criteria:

Review Criteria for Artwork Donations or Loans

The Arts Commission shall evaluate proposed donations or loans and base its decision of acceptance or denial on the following criteria:

1. *Aesthetic Considerations: To ensure artworks of the highest quality, proposed gifts or long-term loans of works of art should be accompanied by a detailed written proposal and concept drawings of the proposal, and/or photographs of an existing artwork, documentation of the artist's professional qualifications and, if needed, a current certified appraisal of the worth of the artwork. The Arts Commission shall assess the aesthetic value of the artist and the artwork to determine whether the donation or loan should be accepted and may refuse the proposed donation or loan on aesthetic grounds.*
2. *Site Context: If the donor is proposing a site for the donated or loaned artwork, the artwork must be compatible in scale, material, form, and content with its proposed site. Attention shall be given to the social context of the work and the way it may interact with or contribute to the use of the site. Significant consideration shall be given to the structural and surface soundness, and to the possibility of and resistance to theft, vandalism, weathering, and excessive maintenance or repair costs.*
3. *Financial Considerations: Funding for the project, and the estimated cost of maintenance and repair over the expected timeframe of the artwork. If the proposed donation or loan is accepted, a legal instrument of conveyance of the work of art should be executed between the City and the donor. Acceptance is contingent on receipt of payment from the owner for all costs associated with the gift, including transportation, installation, and maintenance endowment and staff time.*
4. *Liability: Susceptibility of the artwork to damage and vandalism, any potential danger to the public, and any special insurance requirements.*
5. *Maintenance: The City shall require that the donor provide an endowment for the long-term maintenance and conservation of the donated and loaned artwork, except where there are alternative funding sources for these expenses or there is a compelling reason for the City to accept financial responsibility.*
6. *Uniqueness of Art: The City will accept only unique, one of a kind works of art apart from prints, photographs, or a desirable high-quality, limited edition work of art by a renowned artist.*

The public art sub-committee consisting of Donna Ballard, Suzi Chauvel and Adam Schwerner met to discuss the proposal and the issues noted in this report. The Committee does not support or recommend accepting sculptures by Vladimir Kush to the City's collection, either permanently or temporarily. This is the second application by the artist, the committee recommends denial of the application and that any future proposal be reviewed by the committee to determine the level of interest, prior to utilizing staff resources to prepare the report.

Laguna Beach Arts Commission

Ms. Sian Poeschl

Dear Ms. Poeschl,

I wish you are doing well. I am attaching to this letter our Arts Commission Application for the submission of a new proposed project in Heisler Park. As you recall, per our meeting last year, the members of the board suggested to use the park as an installation location since they didn't move forward with the proposed location on The Promenade on Forest Ave.

We request that you please take our application into consideration and an in-person meeting with the Arts Commission board with the artist Vladimir Kush and staff. Attached you will find a proposal with not one, but several bronze sculptures that we are submitting for your review. We are also attaching at the end of this application images of several smaller bronze sculptures we could install throughout the trail to discuss with the commission.

Laguna Beach is still to this day an art destination, and Kush Fine Art is the most unique art gallery with thousands of visitors every year. Also, as mentioned previously, this project would be financially covered by KFA galleries. The installation of these sculptures would be done with Bronzesmith. Bronzesmith Foundry has done many installations across the United States, and I can provide more information upon request. The owner Mr. Reilly attended our previous meeting as well. As for the maintenance, this would be done by Kush Fine Art Gallery, and I can provide a schedule once the sculptures have been discussed.

As you mentioned, our previous application was never brought back to the table even though, several board members were ready to vote "Yes" on the day of the meeting, and before the meeting ended, we discussed having a Fire Marshall come to the location to makes sure there were no issues with the fire hydrant, also considering the Wave sculpture is already next to it currently.

We only request that you give us the opportunity to present and discuss this project with the Commission. We would also like to extend an invitation to the Commission if they would like to have this meeting in our Gallery, as our doors are always open, and it would be a pleasure to host everyone.

Thank you, Sian, for your time, help and assistance always. We appreciate your time and dedication very much.

Sincerely,

Jorge Barrera
Kush Fine Art Gallery
Laguna Beach, CA

City of Laguna Beach

ARTS COMMISSION APPLICATION

Name: Kush Fine Art Gallery

Address: 210A Forest Ave. Laguna Beach, 92651

Phone / Fax: (949) 376-8017

Date: 9/01/2022 Contact person: Jorge Barrera, Marketing Director (702-982-9902).

Art in Public Places – required by the Municipal Code

Property Information:

Location: Heisler Park

Property owner: City of Laguna Beach

Description of Project: (Additional information may be attached. Please include materials, maintenance schedule, site drawing, colored drawing of installation and photograph of location.)

“Segway Seahorse” & “Lyrical Impala” Bronze Sculptures.

Dimension of site: Various.

Dimension of proposed artwork:


A) Segway Seahorse: 5.5-6ft ft tall

B) Lyrical Impala: 55”x40”x16” (approximately)

Estimated cost: \$60,000 (Donated by Artist to the City of Laguna Beach).

Maintained by: Kush Fine Art Gallery

This form must be submitted to the Cultural Arts Department for consideration at an Arts Commission meeting.

Signature: Vladimir Kush 

For Cultural Arts Department Use

Date received: _____ Arts Commission agenda date: _____

Application # _____

Date _____

Segway Seahorse by Vladimir Kush

No doubt you are seeing the new species of fauna, created by the artist's imagination. The new artifact belongs to both elements: Ocean and Earth. The head and the shape of the neck of the seahorse resemble the chess horse. It is covered with the spikes and shields just as an armory is covering the head of the knight horse. As a seahorse, the creature could be moving up and down under the water, but the wheel allows him to roll in a horizontal direction. As magic, he rolls out of the sea and turns into the circus performer. The silence of the ocean is changed to the earthly sounds of applauding! Before he swam slowly around the corals and hooked up his tail to the seaweed, now he is involved in the hectic downtown life.

The headlight allows him to find its way through the streets at night. The fin behind resembles the wing of the horse with wings- the Pegasus, beloved by the Muse.

His name meaning as " turbulent sea" comes from his birthplace at the origin of the sea



Since Laguna Beach symbolizes the connection of the Ocean and the Land, the Artist believes that the Segway Seahorse reflects the connection between the two elements: the Earth and the Ocean. Being installed at the heart of Laguna Beach town, the connection to arts and music is apparent through the symbolism of the Pegasus, the winged horse.

**Proposed Project for “Segway Seahorse” in Heisler Park
in Laguna Beach, CA,**

Sculpture Height: 5.5-6 ft tall



Lyrical Impala by Vladimir Kush

This type of antelope is known by its grace. Its horns are reaching 45-90 cm with a shape that resembles the Lyra (a Greek musical instrument). Only males are the proud owners of them. In the Bible we can find multiple mentions that the Lyra was popular in ancient Egypt. The Lyra was one of the favorite instruments for the ancient Jewish people. King David enjoyed playing it.

A “lyrical moment” can be seen in the earlier bronze sculpture by Vladimir Kush titled “Flamenco Dancer” Bronze Sculpture. The Dancer is holding her arms in the air shaped as a Lyra.

In Greek tradition, a lyre made from antelope horns was the instrument of Apollo, the god of prophecy and music. Playing it, Orpheus tamed wild animals, and charmed trees and mountains. According to Hindu doctrine, when Krishna played the flute, the cosmos started to move, and creation of the world began.



**Proposed Project for “Lyrical Impala” on Heisler Park
in Laguna Beach, CA.**

Sculpture Height: 55 inches tall



“Shell”

Bronze Sculpture, Size: 9” x 24” x 9”



The light of a pearl radiates from the belly of the conch shell lying on the shore. A few other conch shells, according to ancient belief, soaked up the energy of the sun and ascended to the sky. When night falls and the skyward shells shed their cases, pearl beads will be strewn all over distant celestial fields and shine with a distant luster. Angels will swoop up the empty conchs and blow them like horns, singing the glory of the Lord.

The sea and water are the main sources of life, symbols of transformation, purification, and resurrection. Like the growth rings of a tree, the spiral shape of the shell's case is symbolic of time, with its cycles of the year and phases of the moon.

Yin and yang is a form of spiral, too. Here each half carries a grain of another, characterizing the interdependence and harmony of both.

“Sisyphus”

Bronze Sculpture. Size: 14” x 14” x 8”



The Greeks believed that there was no punishment worse than fruitless labor; thus, the Gods sentenced Sisyphus to an eternity of hopeless toil, forcing him to push a huge stone up a mountain, down which it would inevitably roll.

In his famous essay, philosopher Albert Camus interprets the myth of Sisyphus as the logic of absurdity for the millions of working people.

In this piece, the artist renders his poetic interpretation of Sisyphus at work. It can be called poetic, given how the remarkable Russian poet Vladimir Mayakovsky described the task: "Shine always, shine everywhere, that's the motto of me and the Sun!"

The beetle working every day, rolling the Sun up the mountain - to "shine everywhere" - is an optimistic interpretation of this well-known myth. The ascending and descending of the glowing orb resemble the cyclic movement of the celestial bodies in the sky: the cyclical movement of the sun and disappearance of the moon below the Earth's surface.

“Aries”

Bronze Sculpture, Size: 28” x 18” x 10”



One lonely evening, the sheep left the stable and went to the seashore to see the sunset. “The sunset is so magnificent, but he never teases,” the sheep realized. “Maybe, he will want to become my friend.” But as Aries arrived at the seashore, the sunset dipped quickly behind the horizon in the direction where there seems to be a hole in the sea.

“Mystery of the Ocean”

Bronze Sculpture, Size: 12” x 12” x 12”



The bottom of seas and oceans conceals a multitude of secrets of fabulous treasures, lost with sunken ships. It's hard to imagine how many antique Spanish galleons, transporting gold treasures of the New World, sank on their way home.

The ocean has always been a source of inspiration for artists and writers. There is, one knows not what sweet mystery about this sea, whose gently awful stirrings seem to speak of some hidden soul beneath... all that we call lives and souls, lie dreaming, dreaming, still; tossing like slumberers in their beds; the ever-rolling waves but made so by their restlessness. Herman Melville, Moby Dick, Chapter 111, "The Pacific"

“Where the World is Born”

Bronze Sculpture, Size: 9” x 12.5” x 12”



- The ancient Chinese model of the universe was centered on a giant sea turtle who carried the earth on its back.
- As based on the tortoise, the shell was a dome that represented the canopy of heaven, and its belly represented the earth floating on water.

It is noteworthy that until the beginning of the 20th Century, it had not occurred to anyone that the universe could expand or shrink. Everyone thought that either the universe always existed as is, or that it was created at some point in the past and remains unchanged ever since. The upper part of the painting reminds us of the universe being created by the Big Bang and then keeping static (See *Sunset by the Ocean* by the artist). The turtle carrying the world on its back reflects the human inclination to believe in the ultimate truths, in the permanence of the once created universe. The deliberation of the turtle makes it a symbol of constancy.

**City of Laguna Beach
Cultural Arts Department
Staff Report**

To: Arts Commission
From: Jamie Bichler, Public Arts Coordinator
Agenda Item:
Title: Temporary Art Installation – Frontage Rd. Pocket Park
Location: Frontage Rd. Pocket Park, Laguna Beach, CA

Overview

During the 2020 Pandemic, the Arts Commission and Cultural Arts Department, with funding from the Wayne Peterson Trust through the Laguna Beach Community Foundation, created a grant program titled “Fostering Creativity in a Time of Crisis.” Laguna Beach artist Margaret Hemsley submitted her design proposal and was awarded a grant of \$4,000.

Margaret Hemsley is proposing to fulfill her display requirement for her grant with a temporary installation at the pocket park on Laguna Frontage Road near Woodland Drive. This location is a community gathering space located opposite Thurston Trailer Park and is a highly visible to visitors during the summer festival season. The site is currently under construction and estimated to be completed by June, 2023. The pocket park will return to its pre construction condition with the site measuring approximately 24’ in width by 60’ in length. The temporary sculpture will be on exhibit from June 15, 2023, to September 15, 2023.

Ms. Hemsley is a mixed media artist who works in reclaimed vintage pottery and ceramics. Her sculpture “SIT” is a slight deviation from the original proposal but uses the same materials and application. The installation encourages the passerby to “SIT”, on the nearby benches and take in the beauty of the hills and the wildlife of the canyon. The design is included as Exhibit B with the base and the lettering fully enclosed.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of a temporary sculpture installation in the pocket park at the end of Laguna Frontage Road by Margaret Hemsley from June 15, 2023, to September 15, 2023, to fulfill the art installation grant requirements of the “Fostering Creativity in a Time of Crisis” program.

Attachments: Exhibit A and B

Exhibit A

Pocket Park end of Laguna Frontage Road



Exhibit B

Approved Grant Project



Sample of work

**Arts Commission and Cultural Arts Department
2023 Key Dates**

January 2023

January 3	Deadline: Red Telephone Booth
January 9	Youth Art Advisory Board
January 9	Arts Commission Meeting
January 13	CITY HALL CLOSED
January 13	Exhibition Removal: Festival of Arts Permanent Collection
January 14	Exhibition Install: LCAD MFA
January 16	CITY HALL CLOSED – MLK Jr. Day
January 23	Arts Commission Meeting
January 27	CITY HALL CLOSED

February 2023

February 6	Deadline: Cultural Arts Funding Grants
February 10	CITY HALL CLOSED
February 13	Youth Art Advisory Board
February 13	Arts Commission Meeting
February 20	CITY HALL CLOSED – President’s Day
February 24	CITY HALL CLOSED
February 27	Arts Commission Meeting

March 2023

March 6	Deadline: Banner Competition
March 10	CITY HALL CLOSED
March 10	Exhibition Removal: LCAD MFA
March 11	Deadline/Exhibition Install/Artwork Drop-off: Art That’s Small at City Hall
March 13	Youth Art Advisory Board
March 13	Arts Commission Meeting
March 24	CITY HALL CLOSED
March 27	Arts Commission Meeting

April 2023

April 6	Reception: Art That’s Small
April 7	CITY HALL CLOSED
April 10	Youth Art Advisory Board
April 10	Arts Commission Meeting
April 21	CITY HALL CLOSED
April 21	Exhibition Removal/Artwork Pick-up: Art That’s Small at City Hall
April 22	Exhibition Install: Artist Fund at Festival of the Arts
April 24	Arts Commission Meeting

May 2023

May 5	CITY HALL CLOSED
May 5	Sunset Serenades
May 8	Completed Banner Return
May 8	Youth Art Advisory Board
May 8	Arts Commission Meeting
May 12	Sunset Serenades

May 13 Pacific Opera Project at Bluebird Park
May 19 CITY HALL CLOSED
May 19 Sunset Serenades
May 22 **Arts Commission Meeting**
May 26 Sunset Serenades
May 29 CITY HALL CLOSED – Memorial Day

June 2023

June 2 CITY HALL CLOSED
June 2 World Music Series
June 9 World Music Series
June 10 Circus Bella at Bluebird Park
June 12 Youth Art Advisory Board
June 12 **Arts Commission Meeting**
June 16 CITY HALL CLOSED
June 16 Exhibition Removal: Artist Fund at Festival of the Arts
June 16 World Music Series
June 17 Exhibition Install: Community Art Project
June 19 CITY HALL CLOSED – Juneteenth
June 26 **Arts Commission Meeting**
June 30 CITY HALL CLOSED

July 2023

July 4 CITY HALL CLOSED – Independence Day
July 9 Music in the Park
July 10 Youth Art Advisory Board
July 10 **Arts Commission Meeting**
July 14 CITY HALL CLOSED
July 16 Music in the Park
July 23 Music in the Park
July 24 **Arts Commission Meeting**
July 28 CITY HALL CLOSED
July 28 Exhibition Removal: Community Art Project
July 29 Exhibition Install: Laguna Plein Air Painters Association
July 30 Music in the Park

August 2023

August 6 Music in the Park
August 11 CITY HALL CLOSED
August 13 Music in the Park
August 14 Youth Art Advisory Board
August 14 **Arts Commission Meeting**
August 25 CITY HALL CLOSED
August 28 **Arts Commission Meeting**

September 2023

September 4 CITY HALL CLOSED – Labor Day
September 8 CITY HALL CLOSED
September 8 Sunset Serenades
September 10 **Deadline: Juried Fine Art**

September 11 Youth Art Advisory Board
September 11 **Arts Commission Meeting**
September 15 Sunset Serenades
September 22 CITY HALL CLOSED
September 22 Exhibition Removal: Laguna Plein Air Painters Association
September 22 Sunset Serenades
September 23 Exhibition Install/Artwork Drop-off: Juried Fine Art
September 25 **Arts Commission Meeting**
September 29 Sunset Serenades

October 2023

October 2 **Deadline: Holiday Palette Competition**
October 6 CITY HALL CLOSED
October 9 Youth Art Advisory Board
October 9 **Arts Commission Meeting**
October 20 CITY HALL CLOSED
October 23 **Arts Commission Meeting**

November 2023

November 3 CITY HALL CLOSED
November 10 CITY HALL CLOSED – Veteran’s Day
November 13 Completed Holiday Palette Return
November 13 Youth Art Advisory Board
November 13 **Arts Commission Meeting**
November 17 CITY HALL CLOSED
November 17 Exhibition Removal/Artwork Pick-up: Juried Fine Art
November 18 Exhibition Install: Festival of Arts Permanent Collection
November 23 – 24 CITY HALL CLOSED - Thanksgiving
November 27 **Arts Commission Meeting**

December 2023

December 1 CITY HALL CLOSED
December 1 World AIDS Day
December 11 Youth Art Advisory Board
December 11 **Arts Commission Meeting**
December 12 City Council – Children’s Holiday Palette Recognition
December 15 CITY HALL CLOSED

Arts Commission & Cultural Arts - 2022 Year-in-Review

Cultural Arts Funding: \$263,000 was distributed to 20 organizations providing arts programming in Laguna Beach.

World Arts Day: The City Council made an official proclamation recognizing April 15 as annual World Arts Day.



NEW PERSONNEL

Public Arts Coordinator: Jamie Bichler joined City staff as the Cultural Arts Department's new Public Art Coordinator.

Youth Art Advisory Board: Ella Berberian, Emma Purdy, Ava Roop, and Agata Shamis were appointed to the first Youth Arts Advisory Board to advocate for and provide input to the Arts Commission regarding youth involvement and potential programming.



Art That's Small 1st Place Winner David Kizziar

EXHIBITIONS & COMPETITIONS

City Hall Exhibitions: City Hall hosted successful exhibitions in its first-floor hallway gallery by the following local organizations: Laguna College of Art & Design Masters Program; the Artist Fund at Festival of Arts; Laguna Plein Air Painters Association; and Festival of Arts Permanent Collection.

Art That's Small: The 20th annual small art exhibition featured 65 entries by local artists and was juried by Steven Brittan (President of Laguna College of Art and Design), Tom Lamb (local artist and Vice-President of the Festival of Arts), and local artist, Mike Tauber (former Arts Commissioner, and founder of the annual Art That's Small at City Hall exhibition.)

Our E(art)h Exhibition: The Arts Commission held a call for environmental-themed art to be displayed at City Hall, encouraging the use of recycled and repurposed materials. The exhibition was curated by Hallie Jones, Executive Director of the Laguna Canyon Foundation.

Children's Holiday Palettes: Palette designs were accepted from artists ages 5-17 through mid-November. The Commission selected 12 designs for recognition by City Council and display at City Hall.

[2022 Children's Holiday Palettes](#)



Gnatcatcher, Kristin Russell, Mixed media

Banners: The Arts Commission selected designs by Thomas Clark, Noel Lashley, Marcel Mead, and Tiffany Nassirian. The Arts Commission hosted a 40th anniversary celebration of the program on June 3, 2022.

Juried Fine Art Exhibition: The 16th annual exhibition was juried by Julie Perlin Lee, Executive Director of the Laguna Art Museum, and featured 34 artworks by Orange County artists. [2022 Juried Fine Art Catalogue](#)



Holiday Palette Competition: The Arts Commission selected palette designs by Anne Marie Girtz, Elizabeth McGhee, and Alannah Twede.



2022 Holiday Palette by Alannah Twede



2022 Banner Winner Tom Clark

PERFORMANCES

Music in the Park: Seven concerts were held at Bluebird Park in July and August featuring Party Foul, The Great North Special, Stone Soul, Upstream, ABBA LA, Los Pinguos, and LA Sound Machine.



Party Foul



Lee Rocker

Sunset Serenades: Evening concerts were held at the Heisler Park Amphitheater on Fridays in May and September featuring Eric James Larson, Carolyn Richardson, David Witham, ACE Trio, Jason Feddy, and Pacific Opera Project.

World Music Series: Evening concerts were held at the Heisler Park Amphitheater Fridays, June 3 - 17, 2022, featuring performances by Kamini Natarajan, Riad Abdel-Gawad, and Las Colibri.

Artist in Residence: The concert presenting works of Artist-in-Residence Dr. Pamela Madsen was held on September 24, 2022, at the Festival of Arts.

Festival of Arts 90th Anniversary: The City funded musician Lee Rocker to play a special concert to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Festival of Arts on August 13, 2022.



Las Colibri



Circus Bella

Circus Bella: The one-ring circus returned to Bluebird Park for well-attended performances on June 18, 2022. The program is scheduled to return to Laguna Beach on June 10, 2023.

Luce Puppet Company: Free puppet show performances were held on June 11, 2022, at the Heisler Park Amphitheater to celebrate National Children's Day and November 20, 2022, to celebrate World Children's Day.



Acoustic Asylum

Stage on Forest: The Stage on Forest continues serve as a downtown venue for live music on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings at the Promenade on Forest.

PUBLIC ART

Public Art Ordinance and Policy: The Arts Commission reviewed and approved a draft document, composed in collaboration between the Arts Commission, City staff, Cultural Planning Group, and public input, to establish a new public art ordinance and policy for the City.

Permanent Installations: Beau Stanton was selected to create and install a walkway mural design at the Laguna Canyon Flood Channel bridge.



There Goes My Hero, Ryan Callisto

Temporary Installations: The City hosted the Laguna Art Museum in displaying "Anastasis" by local artist Gerard Basil Stripling on City Hall lawn in February 2022 to commemorate Ethnic Diversity and Black History Month. The newest entries in the "Postcards from Laguna" mural program were installed at 295 Broadway. Beau Stanton installed a new mural on the Third Street Stairway funded through a donation by Tammie Arnold and Mark Porterfield. Ryan Callisto created and installed a painted mural commemorating Taylor Hawkins on the performance deck at the Promenade on Forest.



The City received the Laguna Beach Arts Alliance "Best Arts Program" Art Stars Award for its Temporary Sculpture Program.



LBAA Award



Anastasis, Gerard Stripling

Detail: Laguna Kelp Beds, Terry Thornsly

Public Art Restoration: The following sculptures have been restored- "Tidepool Paddleboard" by Larry Gill and Gavin Heath; "Time Connected," "Continuous Rotation," and "Tidal Pull" by Scott and Naomi Schoenherr; "Call to Action" by Jeffrey Skarvan; "Eternal Legacy" by Gerard Stripling and Michele Taylor; "Sea Breeze" by Sukhadev Dail; "Rendezvous" by Tuan; "Rockpile Carve" by George Stone; "Support" by Louis Longi; "Colors of the Canyon" by Marsh Scott



Tidepool Paddleboard
Larry Gill and Gavin Heath

A mowing strip was installed around "Semper Memento" by Jorg Dubin

The following sculptures are scheduled for upcoming restoration- "Trio Bench" by Jorg Dubin; "Breeching Whale" by John Seeman; "Blue Sky" by James T. Russell; and "Laguna Locals" by Terry Thornsley.

"Streamline Bench" is scheduled to be cleaned and relocated to the corner of Ocean Avenue and Beach Street.



Laguna Tortoise, Michele Taylor

OTHER PROGRAMS

Arts & Economic Prosperity Report: The City has funded for participation in its fourth consecutive "Arts & Economic Prosperity Report." City staff, Commissioners, local organizations, and volunteers have been collecting surveys for Americans for the Arts' sixth economic impact study of the nonprofit arts and culture industry in the United States.



Artist in Residence Concert at Festival of Arts



Detail: *The People's Council*, Linda Brunker

Online Cultural Arts Calendar: In partnership with Stu News and Laguna Beach Arts Alliance, the City continues to maintain and update an online calendar of local arts and culture events and opportunities.

Marketing Workshops: A free online marketing webinar for artists was held May 13, 2022, featuring working artist, "Artrepreneur" J. A. Medcalf.

World AIDS Day: (Left) Ribbons are placed on public artworks downtown annually on December 1 to raise awareness of AIDS and HIV and commemorate those who have died from the disease.



J. A. Medcalf

Marketing workshop presentation slide

