

# CITY OF SANTA CLARITA PUBLIC ART REPORT 2021



[SANTA-CLARITA.COM](http://SANTA-CLARITA.COM)



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>PUBLIC ART PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2020</b>	
SIDEWALK POETRY PROJECT (2020) .....	3
FAIR OAKS PARK (CALIFORNIA SCAPÉ) .....	4
TODD LONGSHORE PARK (ARTREE) .....	4
<b>PUBLIC ART PROJECTS IN PROGRESS</b>	
CANYON COUNTRY COMMUNITY CENTER (COMMUNITREE) .....	5
CANYON COUNTRY COMMUNITY CENTER (BIKE RACK) .....	6
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SHERIFF STATION.....	7
VISTA CANYON MULTI-MODAL CENTER .....	8
<b>PUBLIC ART PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION IN 2021</b>	
CANYON COUNTRY COMMUNITY CENTER (SCULPTURES) .....	9
CANYON COUNTRY COMMUNITY CENTER (TILE WALL) .....	9
CANYON COUNTRY COMMUNITY CENTER (MANHOLE COVERS) .....	9
SIDEWALK POETRY PROJECT (2021) .....	10
BIKE RACK (2021) .....	10
WHILEY CANYON BRIDGE .....	11
CITY HALL – CENTURY ROOM .....	11
<b>TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART</b>	
TRAILHEAD PROJECT .....	12
SIGNATURE PROJECT (AUGMENTED REALITY APP) .....	12
NEW GENRES PROJECT (PROJECTION ART) .....	12
NEW GENRES PROJECT (FOR DISCUSSION).....	12
<b>PUBLIC ART INVENTORY.....</b>	<b>13-14</b>
<b>CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>15</b>

# INTRODUCTION

On March 12, 2020, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order in response to the COVID-19 State of Emergency. On March 19, 2020, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger issued a “Safer at Home” order for all of Los Angeles County, including the City of Santa Clarita. All non-essential City services were suspended and all City facilities were closed to the public in compliance with the order.

Public Art projects that were in a phase of the Public Art Planning and Selection Process (Recommendation 1.1) were temporarily placed on hold with an adjustment to the timeline for each project. The projects determined through funding availability will continue in the 2020-21 fiscal year as indicated in the Public Art Report.

The Arts Commission has identified three civic art projects that qualify under the Civic Art Policy (Recommendation 1.3), which enacts a percent-for-art requirement for new City capital improvement projects that qualify under the policy. Staff continues to work on the qualifying projects that have allocated 1% of the eligible project costs for civic art, the Canyon Country Community Center, the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station, and the Vista Canyon Multi-Modal Center.

Under the circumstances, the temporary public art projects outlined in the 2020 Public Art Report will be carried over into the 2020-21 fiscal year for completion.

Public art enhances our local community by making public spaces more inviting, promoting discussion of the arts and reflecting the history and character of Santa Clarita. The Arts Commission is proud to introduce this report of completed and ongoing public art pieces that continue to enliven the community.



# PUBLIC ART PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2020

## Sidewalk Poetry

**Theme:** Poetry of Place

**Locations:** Various

The Sidewalk Poetry Project includes original poems stamped into sidewalks throughout the City of Santa Clarita. The poems were stamped in spring as part of the Public Works department's sidewalk rehabilitation program.

The Artist Selection Committee (Committee) evaluated the prior years process and looked for ways to improve the program. The 2019 and 2020 theme was Poetry of Place: let the Santa Clarita landscape and the built environment be your inspiration.

The Committee juried and selected nine finalists' poems that reflect the public and natural shared spaces in our community. Selected poems have been stamped on sidewalks near parks, bus stops, trailheads, crosswalks, schools and shopping centers.

### 2020 Sidewalk Poetry Project

Ian Adersen

Blackened oaks and silver ash  
Nurture serene spring saplings  
Lifting arms to oceans of sky

Jessica Rowe

Who says we don't have seasons?  
When the sharp edges of summer  
fade and Santa Anas spring forth  
and heat-curved leaves fall gold  
and cover the Earth like snow.

Kathryn Jennings Fogg

Shadows cast  
by leaves and birds  
dance upon  
a poet's words.

Ashley Alvarenga

Howling winds caress the valley  
Rolling Fields of onions  
Oaks of the ranches  
Yet here we are in the remnants  
Oblivious to what once was

Katherine Kihiczak

I learn calm riverside; summer  
Reminds: it's your river, too-  
Call the current a song,  
So its crests are drummers  
Soft stones- a home in its blue

Garry Gay

drifting in sunlight . . .  
dandelion seeds set free  
by a puff of wind

Amy Hough-Dugdale

Santa Clarita: sacred river.  
Know the spirit of our name.  
When winds and fires scorch  
Let us remember  
the spring that wells within

Andrew McCutcheon

Thank you for stopping to read this.  
Some might think you're dawdling,  
but a poem is a place  
for us to pause, reflect & see  
the world with different eyes.

Kaelyn Peay

The oaks here are a marvel.  
Stoically fragrant with life,  
their leaves curled,  
green and grasping,  
drinking the heat like water.

## California Scape

**Artist team:** Forma Studio

**Location:** Fair Oaks Park

The interactive sculpture titled, *California Scape*, by artist team, Forma Studio, represents and reflects the natural landscapes of the Santa Clarita region. This public art piece located at Fair Oaks Park in Canyon Country provides the community a space to reflect on nature and its calming effects.

The sculpture's dynamic and fluctuating geometry allows for park goers to lounge in the chaise-like curves and offers a connection to its surroundings as it has integrated a tree to grow into the design. Those who experience the sculpture can contemplate nature's role in providing a shaded space for peaceful meditation.

Forma Studio consists of three artists Sixto Cordero, Karen Kitayama and Luisel Zayas who installed the public art piece on August 28, 2020.



## ARTree

**Artist team:** ARTree

**Location:** Todd Longshore Park

The ARTree Community Art Center received funding through the Arts Grants program in 2015 to create a public art piece. The project had local elementary student's art transferred to six 4' by 8' metal sheets which were intended to be installed at Todd Longshore Park. The installation and engineering costs of the project exceeded the grant funding, so City staff have been working to determine an alternative approach to install the art work. Unfortunately, the funding needed to safely install the art as originally envisioned exceeds current available funding. Staff is working with the ARTree organization to find an alternative approach.

# PUBLIC ART PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

## **Communitree**

**Artist:** CJR Design

**Location:** Canyon Country Community Center

An Artist Selection Committee (Committee) was formed at the June 14, 2018, Arts Commission meeting. The Committee's identified theme for the project was 'Gateway' relating to Santa Clarita's new community center as a gathering place to bring people together and create a sense of local cultural space. The civic art piece will be located nearest to the intersection of Soledad Canyon Road and Sierra Highway. In March 2019, the Committee selected artist CJR Design to recommend to the Arts Commission.

The public art piece titled, *Communitree*, is a metal sculpture of an oak tree with a mixture of colorful acrylic glass oak leaves and happy human forms make up the canopy, that symbolize the strength of the community. The sculpture will enhance the intersection and visually compliment the rustic California style at the new C4 facility. The *Communitree* canopy will span 16-19 feet and will be 25-27 feet in height. The materials are a combination of stainless steel and acrylic leaves, which are durable, maintenance free, and climate appropriate for a year round sculpture.

The estimated civic art budget was identified based on 1% of the eligible project costs under the Civic Art Policy from the City capital improvement project. The budget approved for the project is \$145,725.

The Arts Commission reviewed and recommended approval to the City Council for the C4 Civic Art project at their meeting on May 9, 2019. The City Council approved the project at their meeting on June 25, 2019. Installation is estimated for summer 2021.



## Bike Service Station and Bike Rack

**Artist:** Mike Burke

**Location:** Canyon Country Community Center

A public art piece as a functional bike rack was identified to be placed at the new Canyon Country Community Center (C4). The public art piece would allow cyclists to safely store their bicycles on a sculpturally designed bike rack. Due to the specific funding source, the call for entry required the artist to incorporate at least 60 percent recycled materials, while accommodating a minimum of eight bicycles at two points.

On February 13, 2020, the Arts Commission approved Mike Burke's proposal and requested staff to share the project information with the City Council.

The sculptural concept is to use an iconic gas pump and nozzles attached to a round tube wave bike rack (1 ½" schedule 40 steel). The gas pump would be retrofitted to contain tools and a bike pump. The gas pump will be modified to incorporate the City of Santa Clarita branding in color and/or City seal (formal or informal). Depending on the final approved gas pump design (approximately 1920s to 1950s style) the gas pump may contain a LED solar light to illuminate portions of the gas pump.

The project budget is \$8,000. The installation is estimated for summer 2021.





## **Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station**

**Location:** Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station

**Artist:** Roberto Delgado (Community Engagement Plan)

The new SCV Sheriff's Station (Station) is a joint effort between the City of Santa Clarita and the County of Los Angeles. A civic art piece will be located at the Station on City-owned property along Golden Valley Road between Centre Pointe Parkway and Robert C. Lee Parkway.

An Artist Selection Committee (Committee) was formed at the May 10, 2018, Arts Commission meeting. The Committee decided not to have a theme or required medium for this project, rather they decided that the Station and the local community should serve as the inspiration for the art. Six semi-finalists presented proposals for two sites: the slanted windows above the entrance and sections of the interior walls of the lobby. The Committee invited three of the semi-finalists to adapt and re-present their proposals after receiving comments from the Committee during the initial round. The Committee recommended artist Roberto Delgado to develop a Community Engagement Plan, which will include sessions with representatives from the Sheriff's department, junior high school students and the community. The proposed Community Engagement Plan was presented to the Arts Commission at their September 12, 2019, meeting for approval.

This project qualifies as a City Capital Improvement project to be funded through the Civic Art Program. The estimated budget for the project is \$179,876.





## Vista Canyon Multi-Modal Center

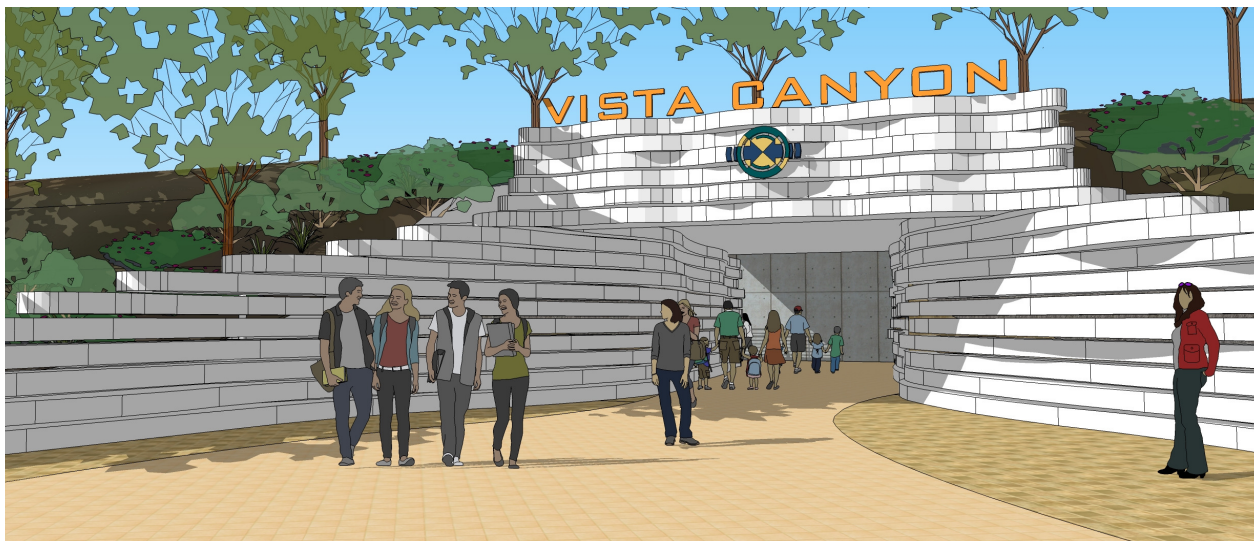
In accordance with the City of Santa Clarita (City) Civic Art Policy, the Vista Canyon Multi-Modal Center (Center) qualifies as a Capital Improvement Project that is required to allocate 1% of eligible project cost to a civic art piece located on site and accessible to the public.

The Center is located within the transit-oriented Vista Canyon development on the east side of the Santa Clarita Valley. The Center includes a Metrolink Station which will be adjacent to the Vista Canyon Regional Transit Center (bus station). Together they will serve as a central location for commuter rail, local and commuter buses, bicycles, and pedestrians for the surrounding communities. The Center will serve the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) Metrolink Antelope Valley line, which runs between Los Angeles Union Station and Lancaster. The eastern side of the Santa Clarita Valley is currently served by the Via Princessa Metrolink Station, which was built as a temporary station after the 1994 Northridge earthquake. This project will consist of a grade-separated pedestrian crossing to a center track platform, approximately one mile of new railroad track parallel to the existing track, a new railroad bridge, sound walls, and amenities, such as canopies, lighting, benches, a security system, and landscaping.

The Center theme is based upon the site's natural, cultural, and historical ecologies. Santa Clarita is historically one of the first gold discovery locations in California. As such, a design character was selected for the station to reflect a gold strike theme. Rustic California detailing also ties the station contextually with the surrounding Vista Canyon master planned community.

An artist selection committee has been approved and an initial meeting is being scheduled to discuss the development of the call for entry.

This project qualifies as a City Capital Improvement project to be funded through the Civic Art Program. The estimated budget for the project is \$40,000, which is based on 1% of the City's portion of the project budget.



# PUBLIC ART PROJECTS PROJECTED FOR 2021

## Canyon Country Community Center

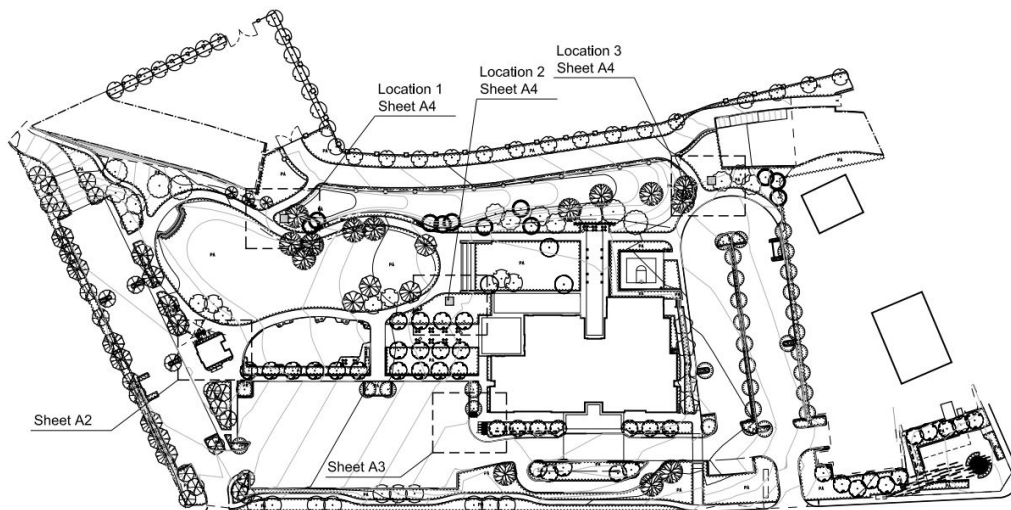
To increase art elements at the new Canyon Country Community Center (C4), staff received direction to add additional public art projects on the property. To determine the best locations and types of public art projects to be integrated into the C4 site, Arts and Events staff met with representatives from Recreation and Community Services and Public Works. Once the potential projects were identified, staff worked with the arts consultant, LaBasse Projects, to determine cost estimates and to refine the proposed approach.

Three additional public art projects will be integrated into the property: maintenance hole covers, a tile wall, and three sculptures.

In the parking lot area, referred to as the Mercado, there is an opportunity to have highly functional public art, utilizing a nontraditional medium of maintenance hole covers. Artist(s) would be commissioned to create illustrations for the covers to complement the area.

The courtyard wall has been identified as a location for public artwork. The courtyard wall will serve as a backdrop for weddings and special events hosted in this location. An original tile mural designed by an artist to be site specific, aesthetically pleasing, and made to withstand the weather would complement the area and the event functions. The courtyard wall is 5' tall by 50' long.

Three locations have been identified for outdoor sculptures to be placed around the walkways surrounding the property. Locations 1, 2 and 3 below.



## Sidewalk Poetry Project – 2021

The Sidewalk Poetry Project was proposed in conjunction with the Public Works Sidewalk Rehabilitation Program to stamp original poems in sidewalks that need repairs or replacements. The Artist Selection Committee determined the theme for 2020 to be, Poetry of Place: Santa Clarita landscape and built environment. The poems were installed in May 2020.

Public Works would like to partner with the Arts Commission to continue to stamp original poems into the sidewalk through the sidewalk rehabilitation program for the 2020-21 fiscal year.



## Bike Rack Project – 2021

The Bike Rack public art project (Bike Rack) was previously identified in the Arts Commission 2019 Public Art Report. The Bike Rack will allow cyclists to safely store their bicycles at the Canyon Country Community Center and raise awareness about cycling in our community. This public art project will be funded through a partnership with the City's Environmental Services division. The installation is estimated for summer 2021.

Environmental Services would like to partner with the Arts Commission to commission a functional sculpture for the 2020-21 fiscal year. The functional bike rack sculpture would be located in front of Old Town Newhall Library.



## **Via Princessa/Wiley Canyon Bridge**

An art project has been identified to address an ongoing maintenance issue at the Via Princessa/Wiley Canyon Bridge that crosses above Railroad Avenue. Public Works staff have encountered ongoing maintenance challenges with the mosaic tiles on the south side of the bridge, and have suggested that public art could be a solution by replacing the tiles with another art medium. This project currently has no allocation of budget.



## **City Hall – Century Room**

The City Council directed the Arts Commission to develop an artistic approach to honor founding Councilmember Carl Boyer utilizing the current Century Room at City Hall as the focal point for this effort. The Arts Commission is in the process of developing a recommendation to honor his memory through public art. This project currently has no allocation of budget.



# **PUBLIC ART PROJECTS**

## **TEMPORARY**

### **Trailhead Project**

The first two Trailhead project sculptural art pieces will be installed by the end of 2020 at the Santa Clara River Trail (near the Starbuck's at Newhall Ranch Road and Bouquet Canyon Road) and the Chuck Pontius River Trail (on Soledad Canyon Road, west of Camp Plenty Road). In 2021 two more sculptural art pieces will be installed at the San Francisquito Creek Trail (on McBean Parkway, north of the U.S. Post Office) and the Via Princessa Trail (on Wiley Canyon Road, near the Via Princessa/Wiley Canyon Bridge). The final two temporary works will be installed in 2022, with the two installed this year being replaced in 2023. The Trailhead project is projected to utilize \$20,000 of the total \$38,000 allocated budget for the Temporary Public Art Program.

### **Signature Project**

The Arts Commission is working with a local technology company, that is a current resident company at the City of Santa Clarita Business Incubator, to develop a temporary public art app. The app will utilize augmented reality (AR) technology to display virtual three-dimensional art in several key locations in Old Town Newhall. The first phase of the project, the technology development portion of the project, will be completed by early 2021. The second phase will select artists to create three-dimensional art pieces that will be displayed through the AR app. This phase will be completed in 2021.

### **New Genres Project**

The original identified project for 2020 was to partner with the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) to create a showcase for student art work in the Old Town Newhall Arts and Entertainment District (District) through projecting their work on buildings. Since the onset of COVID-19, CalArts has had to focus on providing their students with virtual learning and the challenges associated with that goal. This will most likely remain their focus for this school year, so the Arts Commission is recommending that the CalArts Projection project be delayed until 2022.

Instead of the CalArts project, the Arts Commission is developing a project that will utilize the District as a canvas for artists to create works that will safely draw residents and visitors to the area. The project will allow arts organizations and individual artists to apply for funding for art works that can be presented safely in the outdoor spaces along Main Street. This project will complement the Signature AR project, which will hopefully be launched in the District at the same time. The goal is to encourage residents and visitors to come to the District to engage with multiple artistic experiences and to support the businesses and restaurants in the area in a safe manner. It is also important that the project will be a tool to continue to draw people to the District even after the COVID-19 restrictions are reduced or lifted.

# PUBLIC ART INVENTORY

PROJECT	ARTIST	LOCATION	YEAR
Bronco Buster (Replica)	Frederic Remington	City Hall	1895
Adventures in Fantasy	Kurt Conner	Newhall Library	1976
A City of Golden Dream	Miguel Angel Ramirez	City Hall	2000
Going on a Picnic & On the Move Bike Racks	Shuko Nielsen	City Hall	2000
Willie Johnston	Mark Henn	Veteran's Historical Plaza	2005
Heritage Bear	Scott Groller	Valencia Heritage Park	2005
Art Can Project-2006	Cecily Willis, Donna Weil, Anne Marie Durrach, Ray Pinjanthuk, Toni P. Haigh, Gerda Maxey	Old Town Newhall	2006
Walk of Western Stars	Victoria Sulski, Peter Bartczak	Old Town Newhall	2007
Bronze Fountain	Bronze West Imports	Aquatic Center	2007
California Vaqueros	Nicole Ponsler	Old Town Newhall	2007
Community in Action	Marc Kolodziejczyk, Nicole Armitage (Special Children's Art Foundation)	Newhall Community Center	2007
Transit Bear	Mike Burton	Transit Maintenance Facility	2007
History of Santa Clarita's Southern Hotel	Frank Rock	Old Town Newhall	2007
Birds of Valencia	Douwe Bloomberg	Bridgeport Marketplace	2008
Art Can Project-2008	Mary Kay Wilson, Dave Ekman, Gerda Maxey, Jim Ulrick, Frank Rock, Dave Ekman	Santa Clarita Sports Complex	2008
Together In Fun and Fitness	Marc Kolodziejczyk, Nicole Armitage (Special Children's Art Foundation)	Decommissioned	2008
Climbing Tree Bear	Corey Stein	Westfield Valencia Town Center	2009
Final Lap	Bob Hernandez	Aquatic Center	2010
Into the Blue	Rachel Slick	Aquatic Center	2010
Connecting through the Arts	Marc Kolodziejczyk, Nicole Armitage (Special Children's Art Foundation)	Soledad Canyon Road	2011
Fire Pit	Matt Dehaemers	Fire Station 156	2011
Friends	Madeline Wiener	Soledad Canyon Road	2011
The Ever Changing Wall	ARTree	German Autohaus	2011
Street Gates	Eric Powell	Fire Station 156	2011



Crossroads	Idelle Okman Tyzbir, Dianne Foderaro	Magic Mountain Parkway	2012
Howdy Cleaners	Frank Rock	Newhall Library	2012
The Spirit of Santa Clarita	Dianne Foderaro	South Fork Trail	2012
Western Tiger Swallowtail & Yerba Santa	LT Mustardseed	Central Park	2012
Archways	Mark Grieve and Ilana Spector	McBean Regional Transit Center	2013
Community Mosaic Mural	ARTree and the Community	South Fork Trail	2014
Simi Daba Sculptures - Valencia	Simi Daba	College of the Canyons – Canyon Country Campus	2014
Simi Daba Sculptures _ Canyon Country	Simi Daba	College of the Canyons – Valencia Campus	2014
Nexus	Idelle Okman Tyzbir	College of the Canyons – Valencia Campus	2015
Untitled	DALeast	Old Town Newhall	2015
History Bear	Frank Rock	Newhall Library	2017
Cycling Bear	Frank Rock	Valencia Boulevard	2018
Inertia	Miguel A. Del Real	Skate Park	2019
Sidewalk Poetry 2019	Various	Various	2019
IMAGINE	Emma Anna	Valencia Library	2019
Sidewalk Poetry 2020	Various	Various	2020
California Scape	Forma Studios	Fair Oaks Park	2020

# CONCLUSION

The City of Santa Clarita recognizes the valuable role that public art plays in enhancing the quality of life in the community and what art contributes to the well-being of its residents. In the development of the Arts Master Plan, it was clearly identified in the community survey that the City should focus on meeting residents' arts and entertainment needs. One of the key ways that the public identified to achieve this goal, was a desire for more public art projects to enliven the cityscape.

The City of Santa Clarita's Public Art, Civic Art, and Temporary Public Art programs feature new and innovative ways to enhance the experience of the public realm and offer opportunities to create meaningful civic discourse for residents and tourists. These programs give the community successful and engaging public spaces, where citizens and visitors alike encounter works of public art that surprise and delight. Public art has the power to transform a space into an active environment to inspire community engagement and celebrate the unique character of Santa Clarita.

