



## ARTS COMMISSION

Monday, May 13, 2024

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 (Ballard)  
Introduce City Manager Dave Kiff
- 4) Commissioner, Council and Staff Communications
- 5) 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.*
- 6) Items for Discussion and Action:
  - A. **Temporary Public Art Installation at the Pocket Park on Laguna Frontage Road** – Discuss and approve the temporary installation of a mural titled “Seagull Eclipse” by Jesse Bartels for a three-month exhibit at the pocket park on Laguna Frontage Road. (Commissioner: Schwerner, Staff: Wood)
  - B. **Art in Public Places – Cleo Street** – Discuss and approve options for a permanent mural installation at the beach access at Cleo Street to satisfy the Art in Public Places requirement and method of engaging an artist. (Commissioner: Schwerner, Staff: Poeschl)
  - C. **September Sunset Serenades** – Presentation of performers for the 2024 September concert series. (Commissioner: Kollenda, Staff: Poeschl)
- 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](mailto: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, Director Transit and Community Services

Post through April May 14, 2024



## LAGUNA BEACH ARTS COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday, April 22, 2024

Council Chambers

505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

5:00 p.m.

### Recap of Minutes

**PRESENT:** **Commissioners:** Donna Ballard, Austin Barrow, Suzi Chauvel, Michael Ervin, Pat Kollenda, Michael Ray, Adam Schwerner, and Carl Smith.

**STAFF:** Siân Poeschl, Cultural Arts Manager, Michael McGregor, Arts Program Coordinator, Karen Wood, Public Art Coordinator.

**COUNCIL:** Mayor Sue Kempf.

- 1) Donna Ballard called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- 2) The minutes of the April 8, 2024, regular meeting were approved as presented. M/S Kollenda/Schwerner.
- 3) **Chair's Announcements:** Donna Ballard noted the Laguna Beach Arts Alliance Art Stars awards would be on April 26, 2024
- 4) **Commissioner and Staff Communications:** Staff Wood noted free public events to activate the temporary sculpture installation "Dream Big" at City Hall on April 27 and May 4, 2024. Staff McGregor noted the Artist Fund at Festival of the Arts was exhibiting its "Spring Collection" in the first-floor gallery at City Hall. Staff Poeschl noted the Arts Commission would be having its joint meeting with the City Council on April 23, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. Staff Poeschl noted revisions to the municipal code regarding the Artist Review Panel had been approved by the Planning Commission and would be reviewed by the City Council on June 11, 2024. Mayor Kempf noted the plan for a permanent design concept of the Promenade on Forest would be addressed at the City Council meeting on April 23, 2024.
- 5) **Public Communications:** None.
- 6) Items for Discussion and Action:
  - A) **Temporary Mural Installation 935 Laguna Canyon Road (Sawdust Art Festival)** – Staff Wood introduced Sawdust Art Festival Director of Marketing and Public Relations Franky Duschane and artist Kate Cleaves who presented the proposed mural design. A motion was made to approve the design as presented. Motion: Kollenda. Second: Chauvel. Yeas: Ballard, Barrow, Chauvel, Ervin, Kollenda, Schwerner, Smith. Noes: None.
  - B) **Temporary Public Art Installation at the Stage on the Promenade on Forest** – Artists Brooks Atwood, Sara Dehghan, and Amy Rose Hammond presented design proposals and material samples for a temporary installation. A motion was made to select the proposal by Brooks Atwood. Motion: Kollenda. Second: Barrow. Yeas: Ballard, Barrow, Chauvel, Ervin, Kollenda, Schwerner, Smith. Noes: None.

- C) **Music in the Park Performers** – Staff Poeschl presented the proposed performers for the 2024 Music in the Park concert series at Bluebird Park. A motion was made to approve the performance schedule as presented. Motion: Kollenda. Second: Ervin. Yeas: Ballard, Barrow, Chauvel, Ervin, Kollenda, Schwerner, Smith. Noes: None.
  
  - D) **Amendment to the Minutes** – Staff McGregor presented amendments to the minutes of the February 26, 2024, Arts Commission meeting, noting the motion regarding Sunset Serenades concert included the approval of and funding for a concert performance by Pacific Symphony on October 4, 2024. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2024, Arts Commission meeting as amended. Motion: Ervin. Second: Smith. Yeas: Ballard, Barrow, Chauvel, Ervin, Kollenda, Schwerner, Smith. Noes: None.
  
  - E) **Palette Competition** – Staff Wood presented the guidelines for the Holiday Palette Competition and noted changes to accept submissions online via SlideRoom. A motion was made to approve the guidelines as presented. Motion: Kollenda. Second: Smith. Yeas: Ballard, Barrow, Chauvel, Ervin, Kollenda, Schwerner, Smith. Noes: None.
- 7) Adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

cc: City Manager, City Clerk, Mayor Kempf, Director of Transit and Community Services

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

**To:** Arts Commission  
**From:** Karen Wood, Public Arts Coordinator  
**Agenda Item:** A  
**Title:** Creativity in a Time of Crisis Grant Temporary Mural  
**Location:** Frontage Road Pocket Park

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**Overview**

In 2020 the Arts Commission awarded 29 Creativity in a Time of Crisis Grants to local artists. Jesse Bartels received a grant of \$5000 to create a mosaic mural. He will finish the temporary mural shortly and it is recommended to be installed at the Pocket Park on Laguna Frontage Road. It will be installed on the left side of the narrow park within a planter (please see photo in Exhibit A), leaving the walkway open. The temporary mural will be exhibited from mid-June through September, 2024, corresponding to the time frame of The Sawdust Art Festival, therefore allowing for maximum exposure.

The mural, titled “Seagull Eclipse” is 30” in height and 60” in width. To install it in a free-standing manner, the artist will create a wooden box, painted black, that will surround and frame the mural. It will be mounted on two legs created from 4”x4” lumber which will also be painted black and will be buried into the ground at a depth of 18” and secured by concrete footings. Visually the piece will be 60” in height and 64” in width, with a depth of 6”. If required, braces will be added to the back side of the legs during the installation secured.

“Seagull Eclipse” is the latest in a series of handmade tile mosaic landscapes by the Artist that includes animals. Jesse Bartels notes, “I’m inspired by the natural beauty of our local flora and fauna. Making mosaics this way, by creating the parts first, and then laying them out until I find the perfect configuration is very rewarding and allows for multiple interpretations of the same scene until I decide on one to cement in place permanently. The water is horizontally linear, the leaves and plants are curvy, and for the sky I love to create a sunburst...in this case hidden by the bird, but all the lines pointing to it.”

**Recommendation:**

The Public Art Sub-Committee consisting of Commissioners Adam Schwerner, Donna Ballard and Pat Kollenda are recommending approval of the three-month temporary mural installation by artist Jesse Bartels in the Pocket Park on Laguna Frontage Road.

Attachments: Exhibit A

Exhibit A



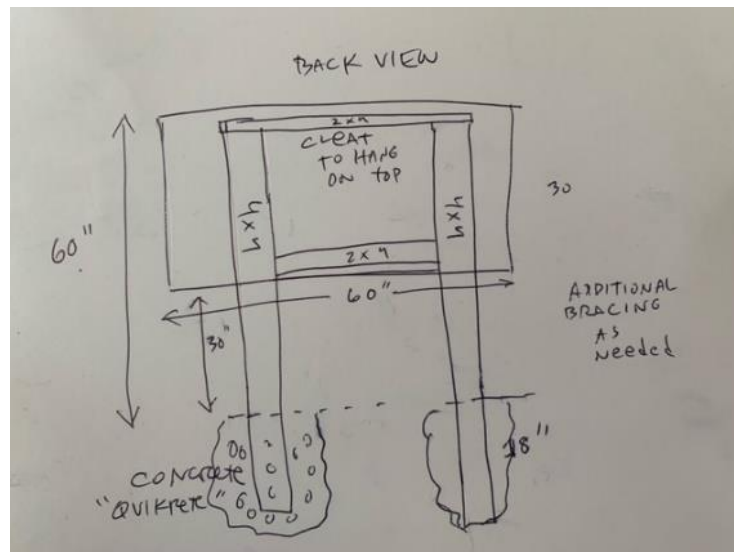
"Seagull Eclipse" 30" x 60" by Jesse Bartels



Laguna Frontage Road Pocket Park



Artist at mural location site



Interior and back of box/frame for installation

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 5, 2024  
**TO:** Arts Commission  
**FROM:** Siân Poeschl, Cultural Arts Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Art in Public Places – Cleo Street (Agenda Item B)

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The Public Works Department are undertaking a beach access renovation at Cleo Street. As part of the renovation is an opportunity for Art in Public Places, a requirement of the City's Municipal Code Chapter 1.09. The value of the project is 1% of the construction at \$14,000.

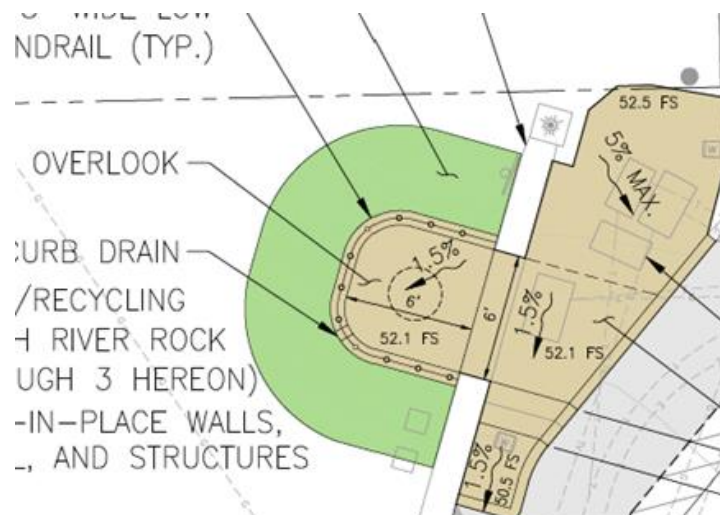
The proposed project includes the replacement of six feet of the river rock wall along Ocean Front Drive with a handrail to accommodate an ADA accessible landing at street level, and an improved view of the ocean. Additional improvements include replacement of the existing stairs, extension of the bottom landing to reduce the drop-off from the bottom step to the beach, new overlook area, and new handrails. Planting areas will be repaired or replaced with native, succulent, and drought tolerant plants to enhance the beach access aesthetics. Seats and additional trash and recycling receptacles are proposed for the accessway. The design will incorporate the river rock aesthetic of the immediate neighborhood where possible. The concept plan of the project can be viewed in this [LINK](#).

The Public Art Subcommittee consisting of Adam Schwerner, Donna Ballard and Pat Kollenda have reviewed the plans and are recommending a mural installation. Public art, particularly murals, serve as a vibrant expression of cultural identity, community values and creative innovation. The sub-committee has identified possible options and is recommending Option 1.

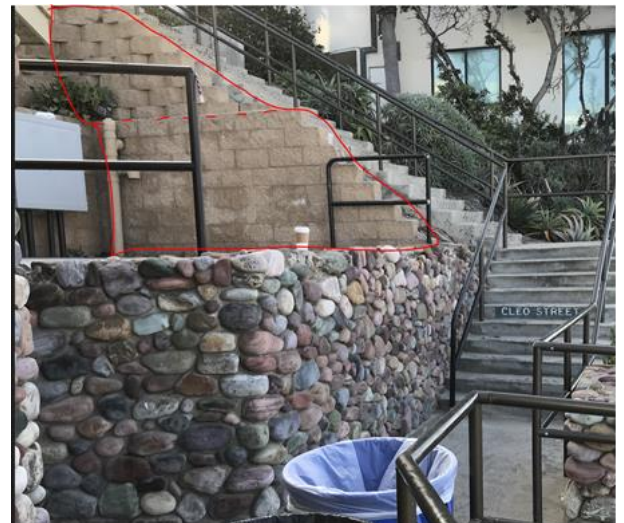
### Option 1 (Low existing wall)



### Option 2 (ADA Overlook))



### Option 3 (Stairway Wall)



In addition to identifying Option 1 as the site, the sub-committee is recommending the selection of an artist for the permanent mural installation, rather than opting for an open call. The artist would be selected based on experience and appropriateness of the work to the location. The selected artist would be asked to meet with the sub-committee to share the scope of work in addition to meeting with the immediate community to foster a sense of ownership and pride in the proposed installation. The scope of the work will be reviewed by the Arts Commission.

### Recommendation

It is recommended by the Arts Commission to: 1) identify Option 1, a low existing wall for the installation of a permanent mural to satisfy the Art in Public Places requirement for the project; 2) to return with the scope of the project ; 3) invite an artist to develop a proposal; and 4) to direct the sub-committee to identify and work with an artist to develop a proposal and return to the Arts Commission.

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 5, 2024  
**TO:** Arts Commission  
**FROM:** Siân Poeschl, Cultural Arts Manager  
**SUBJECT:** 2024 September Sunset Serenade (Agenda Item C)

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The September Sunset Serenades concert series is organized by the Arts Commission and Cultural Arts Department and funded by the Arts Commission Special Programs Budget of the Laguna Beach Tourism Marketing District. The season runs in September on consecutive Fridays at 5:30 p.m.

The selection process for performers in the Sunset Serenades includes the following key criteria:

- Musical quality and talent
- Diversity of musical genres to appeal to a broad audience.
- Local and regional representation to showcase talent from the community.
- Ability to provide an engaging live performance suitable for an outdoor setting.

Performers for the 2024 season are:

9/6/24 [Alejandro Brittes](#)

Accordianist, composer, researcher, and interpreter of music of the Argentine Littoral region Brittes is touring the US with a trio and has been invited to Laguna Beach. As part of his tour, he will be performing at the San Jose Jazz Festival.

9/13/24 [Mike Kelly](#)

An accomplished fiddler, Mike has studied violin since the age of 9. Mike fell in love with Celtic music and in 2002 founded the award-winning band Silgo Rags. Michael is currently the President of the Los Angeles Chapter of the International Irish organization Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Éireann.

9/20/24 [PEACH](#) (& Almost Blues Band)

PEACH is an American Blues Artist, singer, and guitarist. A past LA Music Awards “Best Blues Artist” recipient, PEACH has toured with Taj Mahal, Keb’Mo, Garth Hudson of The Band and Paul Barrere of Little Feat.

9/27/24 [RagTag Band](#)

This Americana folk bluegrass band was established during the pandemic by a group of musicians associated with the Rock ‘N Soul Tom Nolan Band. The two female performers will be part of this concert specifically designed with Sunset Serenades in mind.

September Sunset Serenades will bring the season to an end for concerts in the park with live music continuing every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at the Promenade on Forest through December.