AGN. NO.

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER AND HILDA L. SOLIS — April 15, 2025

Celebrating 20 Years of Civic Art and Investing in its Future

In 2004, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the County's first Civic Art Policy, allocating one percent of design and construction costs of new County capital projects to a Civic Art Special Fund to create civic artworks. For 20 years, the Department of Arts and Culture (Department)'s Civic Art Division (Division) has commissioned community-centric civic artworks, supported conservation efforts, provided artistic and cultural services, and offered an evolving array of programming throughout the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, serving all five supervisorial districts.

Since the Division began its work, the County's collection now contains 637 civic artworks in parks, libraries, hospitals, health centers, fire stations, and other public spaces. In the last year, the Division has overseen 108 active projects and completed 30 projects spanning various scopes and mediums. There is a robust community engagement process for every artwork the Division commissions where the artist engages with residents for their input to ensure the art reflects the values of the community and meets the needs of the space. The Division strives to maintain a collection that is inclusive and reflective of all communities in Los Angeles County, honors the diverse artists, approaches, mediums, cultures, and perspectives in the County, and provides opportunities for artists who have been historically underrepresented in public art.

Among the Department's many strong partnerships with other County departments, they are currently collaborating with the L.A. County Library on a Passport to Civic Art program in honor of April as Arts Month. With the passport, residents can visit different libraries that feature civic artworks and accumulate passport stamps that earn them a free art kit. The campaign is a fun way to engage residents in art around their community and spotlight the amazing collection of artworks in our libraries.

- - - MORE - - -

MOTION

SOLIS	_____
MITCHELL	_____
HORVATH	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____

Among the Division's strengths is its commitment to unincorporated communities. The arts-rich community of Altadena has a long and storied history as a home to many talented artists, beloved arts nonprofits, cultural events and experiences, and many public artworks and murals. In the wake of the Eaton Fire, many artists have lost their homes, studios, public gathering spaces, and local businesses. The local Grocery Outlet, which has a massive mural celebrating Altadena on the side of its building, continues to stand as a beacon of hope amid wreckage around it, and has since added a sign that reads "Altadena Strong - We *Will* Rebuild" beside the mural, emphasizing that art is a part of the fabric of local businesses and the community at large.

Prior to the Eaton Fire, the Department was working alongside the community to bring a new civic artwork to Charles White Park, named after the famed African American artist who called Altadena home. Just months before the fire erupted, the Department and community stakeholders selected an artist to produce a sculpture in White's honor, which would complement artworks done around the park by Ian White, Charles' son. After the park and the surrounding neighborhood were severely damaged by the fire, the civic art project is now on hold until the park is restored. As the community rebuilds, it will be important for the arts to continue to be a core part of its identity.

In addition to public artworks and artists impacted by the Eaton Fire, residents' personal collections were destroyed and damaged. To help residents whose belongings were affected by the Eaton Fire, the Department hosted a first-of-its-kind conservation clinic at the Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena on March 16, 2025. At the event, residents brought their artworks, photographs, collectibles, ceramics, jewelry, textiles, stuffed animals, and other treasures for professional volunteer arts conservators to assess, clean, repair, remove the smell of smoke, and place into storage boxes for safe keeping. Attendees also went home with free fire recovery preservation kits to equip them with everything they need to continue repairing belongings themselves.

Across Los Angeles County, civic art continues to be part of the fabric of the community. As we reflect on the accomplishments of the Division over the last 20 years, our County can renew its commitment to incorporating civic artwork, opportunities, and resources into our neighborhoods.

WE ~~I~~, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Commemorate and congratulate the Department of Arts and Culture and the Civic Art Division for 20 years of incredible work in all five supervisorial districts;

2. Spotlight the L.A. County Library Civic Art Passport program to encourage residents to explore civic art opportunities and engage with the L.A. County Civic Art Collection at their local libraries;

3. Encourage department heads or their designees to work with Arts and Culture's Civic Art Division on best practices for the care and maintenance of the County's Civic Artworks at their facilities;

4. Allocate $50,000 from the Fifth Supervisorial Account to support and expand the Civic Art Division's activities to uplift, honor, and preserve the history of Altadena and restore hope through the arts, including but not limited to conservation clinics, fire recovery preservation kits, and artist recovery efforts; and

5. Direct the Department of Arts and Culture to garner information from the community to inform the Department's work to aid in recovery efforts and provide guidance and support to other County departments as appropriate to ensure Altadena's arts and culture priorities and identity are included in the rebuilding process.

# # #

KB:ges