



July 7, 2026

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
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**DEACCESSION OF NINE (9) CIVIC ARTWORKS TRANSFERRED TO
CALIFORNIA STATE COURT OWNERSHIP
(FIRST, SECOND, THIRD, AND FIFTH DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture) recommends approval to deaccession nine County owned artworks that were transferred during the California State Court Ownership during the change in governance.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the reasons stated in this letter and the record.

2. Approve deaccession of the following artworks:

- *Clara Shortridge Foltz Memorial* by Susan Schwartzberg, Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, First Supervisorial District.
- *Joseph Scott* by Carl Romanelli and Cataldo Papaleo, Stanley Mosk Courthouse, First Supervisorial District.
- *Lincoln the Lawyer* by Robert Merrell Gage, Stanley Mosk Courthouse, First Supervisorial District.
- *Justice* by Donal Hord Stanley Mosk Courthouse, First Supervisorial District.
- *Foundations of the Law* by Albert Stewart, Stanley Mosk Courthouse, First Supervisorial District.
- *King Memorial* by Harold L. Williams and Gerald Gladstone, Compton Civic Center, Second Supervisorial District.
- *Tree of Life* by Michael Amescua, Chatsworth Courthouse, Third Supervisorial District.
- *We the People* by Michael Davis, Chatsworth Courthouse, Third Supervisorial District.
- *Bestowal* by Maya Gohill, Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse, Fifth Supervisorial District.

Board of Supervisors

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PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will find that the deaccession is exempt from the CEQA and will deaccession the artwork from the County Civic Art Collection.

Background

California State Senate Bill 1732, also known as the Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002, shifted the governance of California's courthouses from local counties to the state, including the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Compton Civic Center, Chatsworth Courthouse, and the Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse located in Los Angeles County. The Civic Artworks located in these buildings were not specifically addressed in the Transfer Agreements that transferred ownership of these facilities from Los Angeles County to the Judicial Council of California. However, County Counsel determined the Transfer Agreements had the effect of transferring the buildings, improvements, and fixtures (which included the artworks), therefore Los Angeles County no longer retains ownership of the artworks. The Judicial Council of California has agreed to accept the artworks as part of the transfer.

Reason for Deaccession

As a result, the Civic Art Division recommends the artworks be deaccessioned from the Los Angeles County Civic Art Collection as the artwork is no longer owned by Los Angeles County and no longer located on Los Angeles County property. There are no plans to deinstall the artworks and the artworks will remain at their current sites under the care of the State of California's Judicial Council of California under the existing transfer agreements. The Civic Art Division will maintain existing records of the artworks for archival purposes.

Actions Taken by Civic Art Division

Per the Civic Art Procedures for deaccessions, artists must be notified of a deaccession 90 days in advance. In accordance with this procedure, living artists Michael Amescua, Michael Davis, Susan Schwartzenberg, and Maya Gohill were notified of the intention to deaccession but not remove the artwork on March 12, 2026. A registered letter was sent to artists on March, 31, 2026. The Civic Art Division discussed the recommendation to deaccession the artworks with County Counsel and plans to send the Judicial Council of California a Letter of Understanding acknowledging the transfer of artwork ownership and clarifying the responsibilities for each party upon deaccession of the artworks.

Deaccession Procedures

In accordance with Civic Art Procedures, Section IX. Deaccessioning, the County retains the right to deaccession any accessioned Civic Art on County property if certain criteria are met. In this case, the artwork meets criteria 11 meaning it no longer meets the definition of Civic Art under Section V (Definitions) of the Civic Art Policy which states that civic art is for LA County's historic, cultural and architectural landmarks. In addition, the artwork meets criteria 12, meaning the artwork is no longer consistent with the County's Board adopted policies. Artwork transferred from County control and ownership and into the possession of another party no longer meets the definition of Civic Art and is no longer consistent with the County's Board adopted policies.

Deaccession of artwork from the County's Civic Art Collection requires review by County

Counsel, approval by the Director of Arts and Culture, and final approval by the Board of Supervisors.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The recommended actions support North Star 2, Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities, Community Connections of the County's Strategic Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Approval of the recommended actions will have no impact on the County General Fund.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to the Civic Art Procedures adopted by the Board in 2020, the Civic Art Division consulted with County Counsel to create a report to be presented to the Director of Arts and Culture. After the Director has recommended deaccession, the Civic Art Procedures require Board approval.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The recommended actions are categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15061 (b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the actions will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

The deaccession relieves the County of future maintenance costs, storage costs, and liability of the artwork.

CONCLUSION

It is requested that the Executive Office, Board of Supervisors, return the adopted, stamped Board letter to Arts and Culture, Civic Art at 500 West Temple Street, B-79-2, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or Grace Ramirez Gaston, Director, Civic Art Division, Arts and Culture, at GRamirezGaston@arts.lacounty.gov or (213) 512-8784.

Respectfully submitted,



KRISTIN SAKODA, Director
KS:GRG:dgg

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
State Courts
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors