



August 4, 2026

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The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
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Los Angeles, California 90012

Board of Supervisors

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**RECOMMENDATION TO DEACCESSION CIVIC ARTWORK *SENBAZRU* AT
AUGUSTUS HAWKINS COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER ON
MLK JR. MEDICAL CAMPUS
(SECOND DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture) recommends approval to deaccession a County owned artwork located at Augustus Hawkins Comprehensive Mental Health Center on MLK Jr. Medical Campus.

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 artwork "*Senbazru*" by Louise Griffin created for Augustus Hawkins Comprehensive Mental Health Center on MLK Jr. Medical Campus in 2013, from the County Civic Art Collection.

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.

The Department of Arts and Culture recommends the deaccession of *Senbazru* (2013) by Louise Griffin, located at the Augustus Hawkins Comprehensive Mental Health Center at 1720 East 120th St., Los Angeles, CA 90059 in the Second Supervisorial District. The artworks proposed for deaccession are two murals located in each of the outdoor, interior building courtyards.

The Department, through its Civic Art Division, administers the County's Civic Art Policy and Program, commissioning site specific artworks and maintaining the Los Angeles County Civic Art Collection. The Department commissioned Louise Griffin to create a Civic Artwork titled *Senbazru* for the adult and adolescent patients at

the Augustus Hawkins Mental Health Center in South Los Angeles. The brightly colored painting on concrete features depictions of mountains and origami cranes in red, orange, yellow, and green. Each mural spans 26' x 90.' As noted in the artist's contract, "the goal of this artwork was to beautify the interior courtyards of the buildings and to improve treatment by incorporating staff and patient participation in the process." The murals were commissioned by the Department in collaboration with the Recreation Department of then named LAC+USC Medical Center Psychiatric Rehab Services, the Department of Health Services, and the Second Supervisorial District through the National Endowment for the Art (NEA) Our Town funded initiative *Project Willowbrook: Cultivating a Healthy Community through Arts and Culture*. The civic art project went on to win a 2013 Collaboration of Design + Art Award (CoD+A) in the healthcare category and was featured in the August 2013 issue of Interior Design Magazine. The artwork was completed and accessioned into the Los Angeles County Civic Art Collection in 2013 (accession number: 2013.2).

Reason for Deaccession

In 2019, the Department of Arts and Culture was notified by the Department of Public Works that the Augustus Hawkins Comprehensive Mental Health Center was being vacated and slated for demolition. In 2025, the Health Services Department confirmed this plan and informed the Civic Art Division that the building is scheduled for decommissioning in June 2026 and demolition is expected to take place in August 2026. The artwork is permanent, site-specific murals painted directly onto the building's walls and cannot be removed or relocated. The Civic Art Division recommends that the artwork be deaccessioned from the Los Angeles County Civic Art Collection.

Actions Taken by the Department

Per the Civic Art Procedures, on March 25, 2026, the artist was notified, through email, of the artwork's removal, destruction, and deaccession. This was followed by a registered letter sent to the artist on April 7, 2026. The Department of Mental Health and Health Services were notified of the recommendation for deaccession via email on February 19, 2026 and at a site visit on March 23, 2026. County Counsel reviewed and approved the deaccession report on April 23, 2026. The artist visited the site on April 26, 2026 to document the artwork.

Deaccession Procedures

In accordance with the Civic Art Procedures, Section IX. Deaccessioning, Subsection A, Deaccessioning Conditions, the County retains the right to deaccession any Civic Art on County property if certain criteria are met. In this case, the deaccession meets the second criteria or *the site for the artwork has become inappropriate because the site is no longer accessible to the public or the physical site is to be destroyed or altered in a significant way*.

Deaccession and removal of an 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
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- c: Chief Executive Office
- County Counsel
- Health Services Department
- Public Works
- Executive Officer, Board of Supervisor

