



City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture

PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

AGENDA

City Administration Building 12th floor Council Committee Room

202 W C Street, San Diego, CA 92101

Hyperlink to attend the meeting at its scheduled time available [here](#)

Thursday, November 13, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m.	I.	Call to Order	Fritz Friedman, Chair
9:05 a.m.	II.	Non-agenda Public Comment	
9:10 a.m.	III.	Chair's Reports	
		A. Commission Business	
		B. ACTION – October 9, 2025 Minutes	
		C. Other Reports	
		a. Introduction of Rachel Laing, Assistant Deputy Director, Cultural Affairs	
9:15 a.m.	IV.	ACTION – Artwork Acquisition Proposal: Donation of Artwork by Michael Leaf from the San Diego AIDS Memorial Task Force	Charles G. Miller, Senior Public Art Manager
9:30 a.m.	V.	Presentation – Preliminary Artwork Idea for Ward Canyon Park by Christopher Fennell	Lara Bullock Ph.D., Civic Art Project Manager
9:50 a.m.	VI.	Reports	Christine E. Jones, Chief of Civic Art Strategies
		A. Staff Reports	
		B. Committee Member Reports	
10:00 a.m.	VII.	Adjourn	

Meetings will be recorded. PUBLIC COMMENT: Any member of the public may address the Committee on any agenda item during agenda item public comment, or on any matter not presently pending or previously discussed at the Committee that is within the Committee's area of responsibility during non-agenda public comment. Each public comment speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. In addition to in-person attendance, members of the public may submit their comments via a public comment [webform](#), or they may join the meeting as a "webinar attendee" at the link provided in the [Commission or Committee meeting website](#). For members of the public wishing to address the Committee under Public Comment via the [webform](#) prior to the meeting, instructions for word limitations and deadlines will be noted on the [webform](#). As required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), requests for agenda information to be made available in alternative formats, and any requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations required to facilitate meeting participation, including requests for alternatives to observing meetings and offering public comment as noted above, may be made by contacting the City Clerk at (619) 533-4000 or <mailto:cityclerk@sandiego.gov>. The City is committed to resolving accessibility requests swiftly in order to maximize accessibility.



City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture

PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE (PAC)

MINUTES

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Members Present

Fritz Friedman, Chair
Andrew Alcasid
Francisco Eme
Wayne Holtan
Rachel Jans
Keith Opstad
Imani Robinson
Amy Sanchez Arteaga

Members Absent

Abe Hughes, Vice Chair
Dennis Doan
Denise Rogers
Alessandra Moctezuma, Ex Officio

Staff Present

Lara Bullock
Christine E. Jones
Charles G. Miller

-
- I. Call to Order | [View Here](#) – Commissioner Fritz Friedman called the City of San Diego (City) Commission for Arts and Culture’s Public Art Committee (PAC) to order at 9:07 a.m. at Conference Room B – 12th Floor, City Administration Building, 202 C Street, San Diego, California 92101.
- II. Non-agenda Public Comment – None
- III. Chair’s Reports
- A. Commission Business – [View Here](#)
- B. **ACTION** – August 14, 2025, Minutes | [View Here](#) – Commissioner Fritz Friedman introduced the item. **Commissioner Imani Robinson made a motion to approve the PAC minutes of August 14, 2025. Rachel Jans seconded the motion. The vote was 6-0-0; the motion passed.**
- Yea: Friedman, Holtan, Jans, Opstad, Robinson, and Sanchez Arteaga (6)
- Nay: (0)
- Abstention: (0)
- Recusal: (0)
- C. Other Reports – None
- IV. **ACTION** – Artist Selection Panel for the Emerald Hills Park Public Art Project | [View Here](#) – Commissioner Fritz Friedman introduced the item. **Wayne Holtan made a motion to advise the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture to recommend the following panelists for the Emerald Hills Park Public Art Project: 1) Commissioner Imani Robinson, for the seat of the Public Art Committee member, with Rachel Jans as an alternate; 2) Leah Goodwin for the seat of the Visual Art/Design Professional with recommended alternates, in no particular order, to serve as two of the five ad hoc artist selection panelists. Commissioner Keith Opstad seconded the motion.**

The vote was 6-0-0; the motion passed.

Yea: Friedman, Holtan, Jans, Opstad, Robinson, and Sanchez Arteaga (6)

Nay: (0)

Abstention: (0)

Recusal: (0)

- IV. Presentation – Schematic Artwork Proposal for Fire Station 48 Black Mountain Ranch by Nate Page | [View Here](#)

Francisco Eme arrived at 9:21 a.m.

Andrew Alcasid arrived at 9:23 a.m.

- V. Reports

A. Staff Reports – [View Here](#)

B. Committee Member Reports – None

Amy Sanchez Arteaga left at 10:00 a.m.

- VI. Adjourn – Commissioner Fritz Friedman adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.



Commission for Arts and Culture

STAFF REPORT

DATE ISSUED: November 12, 2025

ATTENTION: Public Art Committee

SUBJECT: Artwork Acquisition Proposal: Donation of Artwork by Michael Leaf from the San Diego AIDS Memorial Task Force

REFERENCES: 1) Application from the San Diego AIDS Memorial Task Force for Donation of Artwork by Michael Leaf
2) [San Diego Municipal Code 22.5901 – Control of Artworks](#)
3) [Administrative Regulation 95.00 – Management of the Civic Art Collection](#)
4) [Department Instruction 1.00 – Collection Management Policy for the Civic Art Collection](#)

STAFF CONTACT: Charles G. Miller, Senior Public Art Manager

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend to the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture (Commission) that the City of San Diego (City) Cultural Affairs accept the proposed donation of an artwork for inclusion into the Civic Art Collection and for installation on the railing of the Olive Street Park AIDS Memorial at 2772 Third Avenue in Bankers Hill upon the fulfillment of six conditions:

1. All other City Departments that are stakeholders (i.e., Parks and Recreation) indicate support/approvals for the installation and exhibition of the artwork on the railing of the Olive Street Park AIDS Memorial at 2772 Third Avenue in Bankers Hill.
2. The donor San Diego AIDS Memorial Task Force agrees to donate the artwork as a gift to the City.
3. The San Diego AIDS Memorial Task Force and Michael Leaf agree to modify fabrication, transportation and installation plans, if requested by the City, to address any safety, liability, environmental and accessibility issues.
4. Donor and artist supply the City with a maintenance instruction manual in a format to be determined by Cultural Affairs staff.
5. The artist/copyright holder agrees to grant the City a nonexclusive irrevocable and royalty-free license to reproduce the artwork for all standard City educational, public relations, tourism and arts promotional

purposes.

6. The artist agrees to the City's standard Visual Artists Rights Act (VARA) and California Art Preservation Act (CAPA) waivers.

SUMMARY:

Cultural Affairs staff received a donation application from the San Diego AIDS Memorial Task Force (Donor). The Donor is proposing a gift to the City of San Diego (City) that includes a site-specific artwork to be installed on the railings of the Olive Street Park AIDS Memorial located at 2772 Third Avenue in Bankers Hill. Cultural Affairs staff evaluated the application utilizing the artwork accession criteria and site selection criteria contained in the *City of San Diego Department Instruction - Collection Management Policy for the Civic Art Collection*. The results of the Cultural Affairs staff's analysis include:

RE: ARTWORK CRITERIA

Public Safety: If the artwork is installed properly on the railings (i.e., methods and materials safe for the public), it is unlikely to pose hazards or threats to public safety or public health and/or is unlikely to pose a potential liability for the City in any other way. The artwork components will be fabricated off-site and mechanically fastened to railing in manner allowing for de-installation if necessary.

Cost: If the donation is accepted, the Donor will be responsible for the costs of initial transportation and installation of the artwork.

Availability of Resources: Cultural Affairs staff is available to provide administrative services to the Donor in order to execute a deed of gift and/or agreement.

Relevance: *To the Collecting Mission:* The artwork demonstrates an acceptable level of creativity of the artist, thus providing an aesthetic and cultural experience for San Diego's residents and visitors. The sculpture would serve as a site-specific commemorative artworkin the presently existing Olive Street Park San Diego AIDS Memorial. The artist lives and works in San Diego County (see bio for more information). Due to the placement of the artwork on a significant feature of the park, the artwork may serve to balance urbanization and development with humanizing elements. *To the Scope of the Collection:* The artwork falls within the scope of the collection in object type as well as chronological and geographical origin. The artist is not currently represented in the Civic Art Collection.

Excellence: The artwork exemplifies a satisfactory level of aesthetic quality and workmanship.

Significance: If accepted by the City, given the importance of the site, the artwork would be a significant public commission for the artist. The artist has

gone to great lengths to collaborate with Donor and the resulting artwork should be understood in this context. The artist has completed both public and private artwork commissions throughout San Diego County.

Condition: The Donor reported that the artwork will be newly constructed and is therefore in excellent condition.

Maintenance: Upon acceptance, the City will be responsible for ordinary and extraordinary maintenance and conservation. The artwork is made of resilient materials, and the construction, scale, and location of the artwork allows for relatively simple conservation and maintenance.

Security: The City is patrolled by the San Diego Police Department. Olive Street Park is administered and closely monitored by the City's Parks and Recreation Department.

Relationship to Site: The artwork is proposed to be sited on the railings of the Olive Street Park San Diego AIDS Memorial overlook located at 2772 Third Avenue in Bankers Hill. The artwork will serve to complete the Donor's vision for the AIDS Memorial, which presently includes memorial boulders and interpretive panels placed throughout the park, containing the history of the AIDS crisis in San Diego and honoring the many people and organizations who have served those living with AIDS. Additionally, the artwork will also serve to beautify the overlook and the surrounding community.

Legal and Ethical Considerations: If the donation of artwork is approved, it will be formalized in a deed of gift and/or agreement between the Donor and the City. The Donor has indicated that the artist will provide a royalty-free license to reproduce images of the artwork for noncommercial purposes. The artist will be required to agree to the terms of the City's standard Visual Artists Rights Act (VARA) and California Art Preservation Act (CAPA) waivers.

Timing: If the Donation is accepted, the Donor and the artist have indicated that fabrication will begin as soon as a formalized in a deed of gift and/or agreement between the Donor and the City is executed. Fabrication may take several weeks, and installation may take up to a week.

Selection Process for the Artist: The Donor established an arts committee to evaluate and recommend an artist for the project. After a review process, the arts committee presented a final recommendation to the Task Force for for submission to the City. The selected artist was chosen based on the strength of their design concept, the quality and scope of their professional portfolio, and their demonstrated history of artworks commissioned or selected by the County of San Diego.

Community Feedback: The artwork will comprise the final component of a community advocacy effort spanning decades (efforts beginning no later than 1994) that lead to both the establishment of Olive Street Park and the San

Diego AIDS Memorial.

Restrictions: While not a restriction of the donation, the artwork design is specific to the design and purpose of the Olive Street Park San Diego AIDS Memorial. If it is deemed necessary for the artwork to be installed elsewhere, the Donor has designed it so that it may be easily de-installed and re-installed elsewhere.

Commemorative Significance: The Donor has indicated that the Olive Street Park San Diego AIDS Memorial and the proposed donation of artwork will together “serve as a permanent testament to the resilience, courage, and compassion of those affected by AIDS in our community—the nearly 8,000 San Diegans who have died from AIDS—and to the tireless work of those who have dedicated their lives to ending this epidemic.”

Fair Exchange: Not applicable.

Fair Purchase Price: Not applicable.

RE: SITE SELECTION CRITERIA

Ownership: The City owns the Olive Street Park San Diego AIDS Memorial, which is recommended for siting the artwork.

Public Safety: If the artwork is installed properly on the railings (i.e. methods and materials safe for the public), it is unlikely to pose hazards or threats to public safety or public health and/or is unlikely to pose a potential liability for the City in any other way. The artwork components will be fabricated off-site and mechanically fastened to railing in manner allowing for de-installation if necessary.

Security: Olive Street Park is administered and closely monitored by the City’s Parks and Recreation Department. The City is patrolled by the San Diego Police Department. However, theft and vandalism in the form of tagging still occurs from time to time.

Maintenance: Olive Street Park is managed by the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of San Diego.

Accessibility: The City complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Council Policy 100-04 Americans with Disabilities Act/City Contractors. Prior to installation, City staff will review the placement of the artwork for ADA compliance.

Context: The artwork is proposed to be sited on the railing of the Olive Street Park AIDS Memorial overlook at 2772 Third Avenue in Bankers Hill. The artwork will serve to beautify the overlook and the surrounding community.

Support of City Departments: Cultural Affairs staff will route the donation

application with the analysis and recommendation from the Commission for Arts and Culture to relevant City departments for feedback and recommendations about the proposal.

Community Support: The artwork will comprise the final component of a community advocacy effort spanning decades (efforts beginning no later than 1994) that lead to both the establishment of Olive Street Park and the San Diego AIDS Memorial.

Adherence to Relevant Plans: The City adheres to existing community plans and land use plans, such as the City's General Plan.

Evaluation criteria the Public Art Committee (PAC) will use to decide whether to recommend to the Commission that City of San Diego Cultural Affairs accept the proposed donation may include all or some of those given in the *City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture Department Instruction – Collection Management Policy for the Civic Art Collection*.

City of San Diego Cultural Affairs will consider the recommendation from other relevant City staff, the Public Art Committee, the Commission, and any other pertinent stakeholders before making the final decision on whether to accept the proposed donation.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

If the City accepts the proposed donation, the artwork will be accessioned into the Civic Art Collection after its installed and inspected at the site. The Donor is responsible for all costs, including design, fabrication, transportation and installation. Ongoing maintenance and conservation will be the responsibility of the City.



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

APPLICATION FOR DONATIONS OF ARTWORK TO THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Thank you for your interest in donating artwork to the City of San Diego. Please complete and submit this application to the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture, ATTN: Civic Art Collection, 1200 Third Avenue, Suite 924, San Diego, CA 92101. Contact City staff at (619) 236-6800 for assistance. Additional sheets may be attached as needed. The City reserves the right to request additional information in order to process a donation proposal.

DONOR

Name(s)

San Diego AIDS Memorial Task Force

Address

[REDACTED]

City	State	Zip Code	Country
San Diego	CA	[REDACTED]	United States

Phone	Fax	Email
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]

Credit Line - Provide the donor's name as it should appear in labels, publications and publicity.

San Diego AIDS Memorial Task Force

If this application is for a partial interest donation, explain the proposed terms. (Unless otherwise indicated by the donor, the City will assume that donation proposals are absolute.)

Designated to be located at the San Diego AIDS Memorial at Olive Street Park

If this application is for a restricted donation, explain the proposed terms. (Unless otherwise indicated by the donor, the City will assume that donation proposals are unrestricted.)

None

Conflict of Interest - Disclose whether the donor has any active contracts with the City or is involved in any stage of negotiations for a City contract.

None

ARTIST

Name

Michael Leaf

Alias (If applicable)

Nationality

United States

Birth Date

09/18/1984

Death Date (If applicable)

Address

[REDACTED]

City	State	Zip Code	Country
Chula Vista	CA	[REDACTED]	United States

Phone	Fax	Email
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]

Website michaellleafdesign.com

Artist Representation/Gallery Name (If applicable)

Artist Representation/Gallery Address

City	State	Zip Code	Country

Phone	Fax	Email

Website	
For donations of commissioned artwork, please explain the method for the selection of the artist. The San Diego AIDS Memorial Task Force established an Arts Committee to evaluate and recommend artists for the project. Following a thorough review process, the Committee presented a final recommendation to the Task Force for approval. The selected artist was chosen based on the strength of their design concept, the quality and scope of their professional portfolio, and their demonstrated history of artworks commissioned or selected by the County of San Diego.	
ARTWORK	
Title San Diego AIDS Memorial Commemorative Ribbon	
Artwork type (e.g. painting, sculpture, etc.) Sculpture	Medium 5052 powder-coated aluminum
Description A red aluminum ribbon weaves in and out of the deck handrail overlooking the First Avenue canyon, symbolizing continuity, remembrance, and resilience. The design draws inspiration from the original red ribbon created in 1991 by the Visual AIDS Artists Caucus to express compassion for people living with AIDS. The color red was chosen for its powerful connection to blood and passion—representing	
Period/Date 2025	Dimensions and Weight Each section of ribbon will be approximately
Finishes applied to surface Powder-coated red aluminum ribbons	
Construction technique(s) CNC high-powered laser beam cutting of ribbons, stainless bolt fixtures for mounting points.	
If this artwork is part of an edition, what is the edition number and the total number of the edition? Ribbons have been designed specifically for the space and are considered 1 of 1	
If this artwork is part of a series, what is the total number in the series? N/A	
If this artwork is part of a pair or a group, what is the total number in the pair or group? N/A	
Describe frame, if any. N/A	Describe base or pedestal, if any. N/A
Describe any accompanying accessories. Attachment bolts	
Current location of artwork Michael Leaf Design, 2585 Main Street, Chula Vista, CA 91911	
(Optional) Proposed City-owned site for placement San Diego AIDS Memorial at Olive Street Park	
For memorials, describe the person or event to be commemorated. This memorial will serve as a permanent testament to the resilience, courage, and compassion of those affected by AIDS in our community—the nearly 8,000 San Diegans who have died from AIDS—and to the tireless work of those who have dedicated their lives to ending this epidemic.	

ARTWORK HISTORY

Provenance/Past Owners – List all past owners and period of ownership for each.

None

Exhibition History – List the exhibition history including exhibition titles, venues and dates for each.

None

Publications and References – List all publications about and references to the artwork.

None

COPYRIGHT OWNERSHIP

Name of current copyright owner

San Diego AIDS Memorial Task Force

Title

AIDS Memorial Commemorative Ribbon

Address

City San Diego

State CA

Zip Code

Country United States

Phone

Fax

Email

If the donor is the current copyright owner, does the donor intend to transfer the copyright to the City of San Diego should the donation be accepted by the City? Yes

ARTWORK VALUATION

Fair Market Value \$

\$50,000

How was this fair market value determined and by whom?

Cost for design, fabrication, and installation as determined by the artist (see attached documentation).

CONDITION

Describe the current condition of the artwork noting any existing breaks, tears, scratches, abrasions, paint losses, or other insecurities or defects in the artwork.

Artwork not yet fabricated (digital renderings attached).

If the artwork has been conserved, describe the conservation treatment.

(Optional) Provide recommendations for routine maintenance of artwork. Indicate whether these recommendations were provided by a conservator.

While daily cleaning is unnecessary, occasional attention to dirt and grime will preserve the sculpture's appearance.

- Avoid abrasive cleaners, solvents, or scouring pads; use a soft cloth or sponge only.
- For routine cleaning, use warm water with a mild, non-abrasive detergent. Rinse thoroughly and dry with a soft cloth.
- For stubborn dirt or grease, apply a diluted mild dish soap solution, rinse with clean water, and wipe

(Optional) Provide recommendations for security, installation, transportation and/or storage.

For donations of commissioned artwork, please outline the installation plan.

Installation Plan:

Artwork will be delivered and installed by the artist with no need of City personnel assistance. Installation will take 1-3 days. The artist, Michael Leaf, will handle transportation and

OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS

Please submit the following materials along with this completed form.

- Artist's résumé and bio
- Digital, color images of existing artwork
- Color renderings of commissioned artwork
- For commissioned artwork, submit digital images of artist's past work.
- (Optional) Images of proposed site for artwork
- Itemized list of any costs to be borne by the City for transportation, installation, exhibition, operation, maintenance, conservation, and/or security.
- For commissioned artwork, submit an itemized budget for design, fabrication and installation.
- For commissioned artwork, submit a timeline for design, fabrication and installation.
- Exhibition catalogs, publications and/or references, if available
- Formal, written appraisal for any artwork with a fair market value of \$10,000 or more
- Condition report, if available
- Conservator's report, if applicable
- Proof of authenticity, if available
- Any other information relevant to the artwork

DONOR'S ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (OPTIONAL)

The San Diego AIDS Task Force operates as a program under Being Alive San Diego, a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN: 33-0439092). All donations and contributions to the San Diego AIDS Task Force are processed through Being Alive San Diego and are fully tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

San Diego AIDS Memorial – Digital Tribute and Story Archive

DONOR'S AUTHORIZATION TO INITIATE A DONATION REVIEW

Authorized signature

Robert A. Lehman

Title

SD AIDS Memorial Task Force Arts Chair

Print name

Robert A. Lehman

Date

10/28/2025

COMMISSION STAFF ONLY

Received by

Date

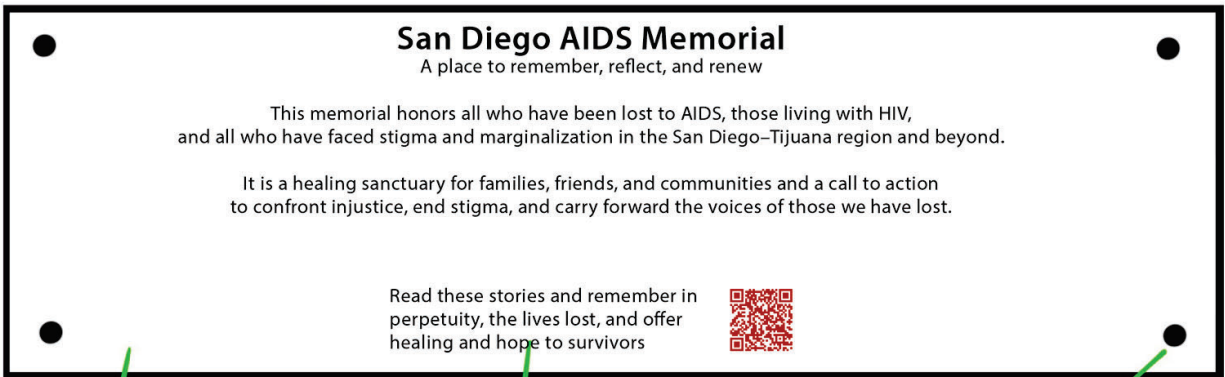




PLAQUE FOR FIRST RIBBON (SOUTHEAST)
ENTRANCE
TO DECK

26"

8"

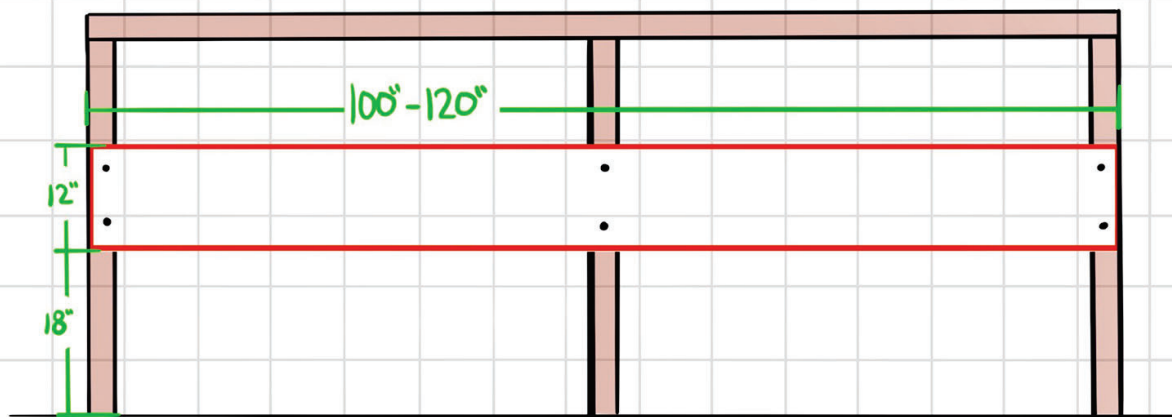


1/8" 5052
ALUMINUM
(MILL FINISH)

TEXT
CNC LAZER
CUT OUT

ALUMINUM
POP RIVETS

- ELEVATION VIEW -
(1) SECTION OF RIBBON
MAX LENGTH OF 120"

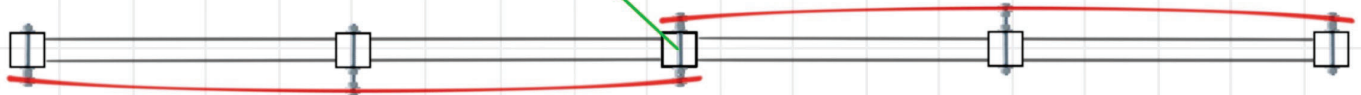


ALL RIBBONS COMPOSED OF: RED POWDER COATED
1/8" 5052 ALUMINUM.

WEIGHT PER RIBBON NOT TO EXCEED 20 LBS.
WITH (6) CONTACT POINTS THAT'S 3.3 LBS PER CONTACT.

★ PLAN VIEW CONTACT POINT BETWEEN (2) RIBBONS.

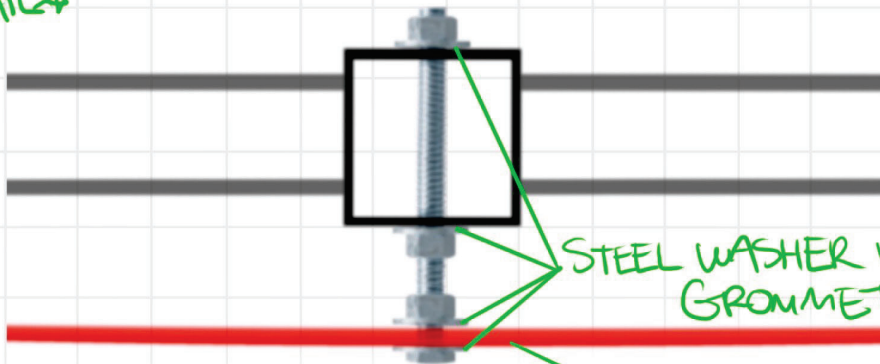
ALL THREAD WILL GO THROUGH EXISTING VERTICAL RAIL TO HOLD DECK & NON-DECK SIDE RIBBON.



★ WASHER DETAIL ★

GALVALUME

RUBBER



STEEL WASHER WITH RUBBER GROMMET TO PREVENT GALVANIC CORROSION

ALUMINUM



San Diego AIDS Memorial – Digital Tribute and Story Archive

The **San Diego AIDS Memorial** will include a **digital tribute platform** designed to honor the memory of more than **10,000 San Diego residents who have lost their lives to AIDS**. Accessible through a **QR code displayed on memorial signage**, visitors will be able to scan the code to view an evolving online archive of names, stories, and photos dedicated to those who have passed.

Each entry will serve as a personal remembrance, allowing families, friends, and community members to contribute stories, tributes, and images that celebrate the lives, courage, and legacy of loved ones. The website will also provide historical context about San Diego's response to the AIDS crisis and highlight the ongoing work of organizations supporting those affected by HIV today.

The digital memorial will function as a **living archive**, updated regularly to include new submissions and preserve existing content for future generations. It will be **maintained and curated by the San Diego AIDS Task Force** in partnership with **Being Alive San Diego**, the project's fiscal sponsor and recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN: 33-0439092).

This digital component ensures that the San Diego AIDS Memorial is not only a place of remembrance but also a platform for storytelling, education, and collective healing—keeping the memory of every life lost alive in our shared history.



Linked to a similar page for the National AIDS Memorial

Michael Leaf

Fine metal artist and multi-media designer

OBJECTIVE

I strive to create unique, never seen before artworks and public art projects with the hopes of exciting and engaging the imagination of all those who encounter them.

Experience

CEO founder, Michael Leaf Design; Chula Vista — 2008 - Present (Currently August 2024)

- Featured Artist for the San Diego Best Of event, 2009.

- Three-Month Solo Exhibition/ Featured Artist at Hotel Parisi in Down Town La Jolla, 2010.

- One Month Solo Featured Show on Paseo Drive in Down Town Palm Springs, 2011.

- Featured Artist at The Curator Event in San Diego, 2012.

- San Diego Home and Garden Magazine, 2012.

Featured 20ft tall, 5,000 lb. Metal Tree custom installation
in a private residence in Ramona, CA.

- San Diego International Film Festival 2012 & 2013.

The first person to create two consecutive years of custom sculptures/awards for the film winners and directors.

- Public Art Designer, Installer and vendor for Kilroy Realty: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018.

Roughly 25 pieces of different public artworks through out multiple A level commercial campuses.

- Featured Artist of The San Diego International Auto Show 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016.

- Featured Artist for the Las Patronas Jewel Ball 2013, 2014, 2015 & 2016.

- Featured Artist and Trophy designer for the La Jolla Concours D' Elegance show in 2014.

- Zero Degrees Exhibition, 2014.

A Michael Leaf Design Solo Art Show and event held at the Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine La Jolla CA.

- Powering The Arts Public Sculpture (A two year Government Public Works Art project from 2013 – 2015).

Commissioned by the Port of San Diego to build a sculpture commemorating the South Bay Power Plant (which provided energy for the San Diego region for over 50 years). The 28 foot sculpture called "Powering The Arts" can now be visited on the San Diego Bay Front. Michael's art installation was the first completed

project for the new 550 acre redevelopment project in South Bay on the Bay front set to be completed 2024-2025.

- Manifested Show/ Event, August 2016

Manifested was the first ever art show held at Michael Leaf Design headquarters, debuting 75 never before seen artworks.

2017: Worked with a commercial developer who commissioned an 8ft tall metal, LED internally lit pine cone that will be suspended roughly 16ft above ground from a gateway bridge in Medford Oregon 2018.

2018: Created 10 private artworks for private collectors nationally and internationally. Michael is continuing the development for public art projects in both San Francisco and Lake Tahoe.

2019: Created 15 private artworks for collectors nationally and internationally. One artwork is a 250ft linear sculpture wrapping around the collectors home in Solana Beach. Continuing development for public art projects in La Jolla, San Francisco, Lake Tahoe.

2020: Created artworks for private collectors. Redesigned and built new Michael Leaf Design headquarters. (Michael personally designed and built these buildings by hand)

2021: Shifted all focus to developing the second to scale Last Supper on Planet Earth.

2022: Continuing to build the second to scale Last Supper on Planet Earth. Michael has decided until this project is complete, he will not be accepting any other commissions or projects.

2023: Completed second to scale Last Supper rendition on planet earth and has already gained global attention. Launched a (50) piece series on the Last Supper, (50) of (50) have been acquired by national collectors in first month of launch.

EDUCATION

Hilltop High School graduate with AP honors 2002, LIFE and inherent, never-ending, curiosity.

SKILLS

Personal/Professional Skills: I am positive, professional, capable, cooperative, a problem solver, proactive and creative, with the ability/experience in working with a multitude of different types of clientele including: Commercial, Corporate, Local and State Government entities, as well as Private Collectors both foreign and domestic.

I was a professional extreme athlete, specifically pro-rollerblader from age 15-20 years old. After deciding I was done with that path, I focused my attention at becoming a yoga instructor to "undo" all of the damage I've done to my body. Three years after studying yoga, I would discover an artwork in a dream I was having and decided to wake up and learn how to make what it was I saw. That very next day, I learned to work with a torch and some metal and the rest was history.

Technical Skills:

Metal Working: Plasma cutting, metal forming and shaping.

Welding: Tig, mig, stick, brazing, soldering, mild steel, aluminum, stainless, brass and knowledge and experience in both ferrous and non-ferrous alloys.

Paint: Multiple application experience in: rolling, HVLP spraying, brushing, spray painting and powder coating finishes. Experience in both H2O and oil based finishes. Experienced in both low and high VOC finishes. Heightened knowledge in the application for a multi-layer dying process in both ferrous and non-ferrous alloys for private and commercial uses.

Polishing and finishes: Heightened knowledge on finishing and preservation processes for: matte, flat, satin, semi-gloss, gloss, and high gloss finishes in both interior and exterior uses. I am also experienced in multiple cutting and polishing compounds techniques spanning across the top three manufactures in the industry of both commercial and automotive applications with UV resistance.

Grinding and finishing steel: Extremely experienced in creating multi-dimensional patterns within ANY alloy, ferrous or non-ferrous.

Highly experienced in grinding disks from 20 grit – 5000 grit.

Highly experienced in both wet and dry sanding.

Digital Realms:

Experienced in both taking and editing photographs RAW and Jpeg formats. Can create workflows and G code for CNC machines. I am familiar with the three major camera manufactures and their platforms: Sony, Nikon and Canon.

Advanced in Photoshop, Procreate, Inkscape, vector formats, Final Cut Pro.

Built and coded my own website.

Experienced in and can create an online storefront with multiple merchant applications.

I am self taught with all of the disciplines listed above.

MICHAEL LEAF DESIGN
2585 Main Street Chula Vista CA. 91911
michael@michaelfdesign.com
619.240.4300



MICHEAL LEAF DESIGN

Digital Images of Artist Past Work

MICHEAL LEAF DESIGN

Digital Images of Artist's Past Work





The San Diego Union-Tribune

NEWS

Powerful monument set for Chula Vista

Three-piece sculpture memorializes power plant that stood for 50-plus years

Chula Vista artist Michael Leaf makes some finishing touches to the sculpture he created that memorializes the South Bay Power Plan

Serving the communities of Chula Vista and National City

THE STAR NEWS

Chula Vista's man of steel makes most of scraps

By Phillip Brents - 05/23/2015



MICHEAL LEAF DESIGN

Residential and Commercial Space Tree Sculptures



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Publications/ Press Coverage

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Artist creates his version of the 'Last Supper' in steel

Michael Leaf of Chula Vista shows his metal, creating a version of 'The Last Supper' artwork that's bigger than a school bus



Michael Leaf stands by his monumental metal artwork of "The Last Supper." It matches the size of da Vinci's masterpiece.

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2023/04/06/artist-creates-his-version-of-the-last-supper-in-steel/>

[Arts & Entertainment](#)



Sculptor Rummages Through Demolished Power Plant to Create Art

Michael Leaf plans to create a work of art out of twisted metal that used to be the South Bay Power Plant.



Khari Johnson, Patch Staff 

Posted Thu, Mar 28, 2013 at 6:10 pm PT | Updated Tue, May 7, 2013 at 12:40 pm PT



<https://patch.com/california/imperialbeach/south-bay-power-plant-michael-leaf-sculpture>

Powerful monument set for Chula Vista

Three-piece sculpture memorializes power plant that stood for 50-plus years



Chula Vista artist Michael Leaf makes some finishing touches to the sculpture he created that memorializes the South Bay Power Plant. The three-piece monument is set to be installed Friday.

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2015/07/22/powerful-monument-set-for-chula-vista/?clearUserState=true>