



Commission for Arts and Culture Hybrid Meeting Notice and Agenda

Thursday, February 26, 2026

1:30-3:30pm

City Administration Building

202 C Street, 12th Floor

San Diego, CA 92101

Zoom Link: <https://sandiego.zoomgov.com/j/1602524998>

Chair: Alessandra Moctezuma

Vice Chair: Keith Opstad

Commissioners: Dajahn Blevins, Chris Chalupsky, Vanessa Ybarra Davis, Dennis Doan, Fritz Friedman, Cathy Hasson, Abe Hughes, Kamaal Martin, Becky Phillipott, Alberto Pulido, Imani Robinson, Jean Walcher

Staff Liaison: Bell Reza

Public Comment on an Agenda Item: If you wish to address the Commission on an item for today's agenda, please complete and submit a speaker form before the Commission hears the agenda item. You will be called at the time the item is heard.

Written Comment through Webform: In lieu of in-person attendance, members of the public may submit their comments using the [webform](#). When using the web form, indicate the agenda item number for which you are submitting a comment. Instructions regarding word limits and submission deadlines are provided on the form. On the web form, members of the public should select Commission for Arts and Culture.

Virtual Public Comment: During Non-Agenda Public Comment, after the Chair opens the comment period, raise your hand by tapping the "Raise Your Hand" button on your computer, tablet, or smartphone, or by dialing *9 on your phone. Speakers will be called in the order hands are raised. Each person may speak only once on a particular item. When staff calls on you, unmute your device by following the on-screen prompt or by dialing *6 on your phone.

Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda: You may address the Commission on any matter not listed on today's agenda. Please complete and submit a speaker form. California's open meeting laws do not allow the Commission to discuss or take any action on the matter at today's meeting. At its discretion, the Commission may add the item to a future agenda or refer it to staff or a committee. Individual comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. If a large number of people wish to speak on the same item, the Chair may limit the time for each speaker or for the item.

Requests for Accessibility Modifications or Accommodations:

This information will be made available in alternative formats upon request, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). 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, as well as requests for auxiliary aids, services, interpreters, or translation services to offer public comment, may be made by contacting Bell Reza at 619-559-7776 or Breza@sandiego.gov. Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations required to facilitate meeting participation require different lead times, ranging from five business days to two weeks. Please keep this in mind and provide as much advance notice as possible in order to ensure availability. The City is committed to resolving accessibility requests swiftly in order to maximize accessibility and public participation.

Agenda:

Item 1: Call to Order & Statement of Purpose+Vision | Alessandra Moctezuma, Chair

Item 2: Non-Agenda Public Comment | Alessandra Moctezuma, Chair

Item 3: Chair's Reports

- a. **ACTION** – January 22, 2026 Commission Meeting Minutes
- b. **ACTION** - Approve the temporary suspension of the Funding Committee, including suspension of regular meetings, pending further action by the Commission
- c. Other Reports

Item 4: Presentation: Black Arts and Culture District Update

Item 5: Committee Reports

- a. Funding Committee
- b. Public Art Committee – **ACTION** - Final Artwork Proposal for Ward Canyon Park by Christopher Fennell
- c. Advocacy & Outreach Committee
- d. Creative City Ad hoc Committee

Item 6: Staff Reports

Item 7: New Business for Future Agendas

Item 8: Adjourn



Commission for Arts and Culture

City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture

MINUTES

January 22, 2026

Hyperlink to view full meeting available [here](#).

Commissioners Present

Alessandra Moctezuma
Keith Opstad
Chris Chalupsky
Dajahn Blevins
Cathy Hasson
Abe Hughes
Kamaal Martin
Imani Robinson
Jean Walcher

Commissioners Absent

Vanessa Davis
Fritz Friedman
Becky Phillpott
Alberto Pulido
Dennis Doan

Staff Present

Rachel Laing
Christine E. Jones
Charles Miller
Lara Bullock
Olivia Jones
Gabrielle Romberger

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1. **Call to Order & Statement of Purpose & Vision** | [View Here](#) – Chair Alessandra Moctezuma called the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture online meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.
 2. **Non-agenda Public Comment** | [View Here](#)
The Chair called on Bell Reza. Bell Reza opened the floor for public comment. No public comment was received in person, virtually, or in writing, and the public comment period was closed.
 3. **Chair's Reports** | [View Here](#)
 - A. **ACTION** – December 17, 2025 Commission Meeting Minutes
Commissioner made Imani Robinson made a motion to approve, Commissioner Dajahn Blevins seconded the motion. The motion passed.
 - B. Other Reports
 4. **Presentation: World Design Capital San Diego Tijuana Impact Report** | [View Here](#)
 5. **Presentation: Economic Development Department Overview** | [View Here](#)
 6. **Committee Reports** | [View Here](#)
 - A. Funding Committee | Committee Chair Alberto Pulido not in attendance
 - B. Public Art Committee -Action- Slate of Commission Advisory Panelist Candidates to Evaluate Proposals Submitted in Response to the Fiscal Year 2027 Organizational Support Program (OSP) and Creative Communities San Diego (CCSD) Application, Part 2
Commissioner made Chris Chalupsky made a motion to approve, Commissioner Jean Walcher seconded the motion. The motion passed.
Conflict of interest disclosures: no conflicts stated.
 - C. Advocacy & Outreach Committee
 - D. Creative City Ad hoc Committee
 7. **Adjourn** – Meeting was adjourned at 3:34pm



COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE ISSUED: February 25, 2026

ATTENTION: Commission for Arts and Culture

SUBJECT: Final Artwork Proposal by Christopher Fennell: Ward Canyon Park

REFERENCES: 1) [Commission for Arts and Culture Department Instruction 1.00 – Collection Management Policy for the Civic Art Collection](#)
2) Final Artwork Proposal Package

STAFF CONTACT: Lara Bullock, Ph.D., Civic Art Project Manager

PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that Cultural Affairs accept the Final Artwork Proposal by Christopher Fennell in fulfillment of the City of San Diego’s (City) collecting mission, collection scope and accession criteria as established in Section 5 – Collecting Mission, Section 6 – Scope of the Collection and Section 8.2 – Accession Criteria of the Commission for Arts and Culture Department Instruction 1.00 – *Collection Management Policy for the Civic Art Collection*.

SUMMARY:

Artist Christopher Fennell was commissioned to design, fabricate and transport permanent, site-specific artwork for Ward Canyon Park Improvements and consult during installation of artwork at the site by the City. The Ward Canyon Park improvement project includes an expansion of the existing five-acre park site to an approximately six-acre park. Proposed improvements also include: a dog off leash area, community garden, sports courts, recreation center, shade structures, exercise stations, security lighting, site furnishings, and new paved walkways, and public art. The artist has collaborated with Parks and Recreation Department and KTUA Planning and Landscape Architects.

On November 13, 2025, Fennell presented his preliminary artwork idea to the Public Art Committee (PAC) for feedback. The PAC also provided feedback on the artist’s schematic artwork proposal on January 8, 2026. On February 12, 2026, the artist’s final artwork proposal was presented to the PAC. At the meeting, the PAC voted (6-0-0) to recommend to the Commission that Cultural Affairs accept the final artwork proposal by the artist in the fulfillment of the City’s collecting mission, collection scope, and accession criteria. In addition to PAC’s feedback, the final artwork proposal is informed by suggestions from the public, the City’s Parks and Recreation Department, and other various City departments.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

This project is funded by the City as set forth in *City of San Diego Council Policy 900-11 – Inclusion of Public Art in Selected Capital Improvements program Projects*.

Ward Canyon Public Art Project



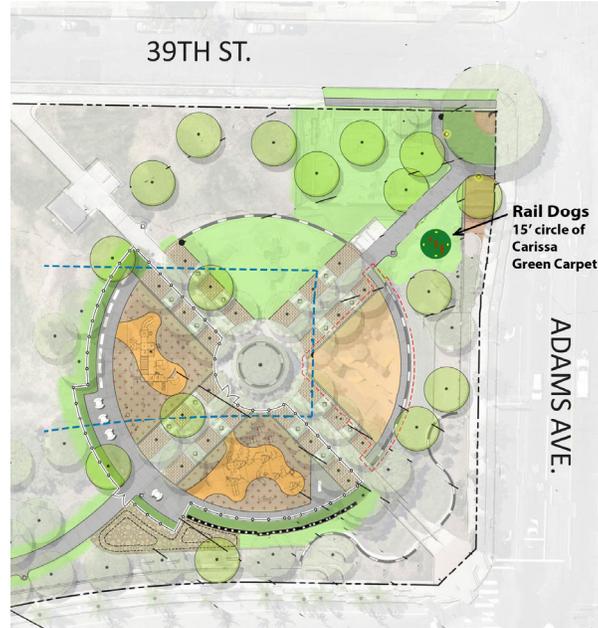
1

Ward Canyon Park



2

Installation Site



3

Corner of Adams and 39th Street



4

Rail Dogs shown on site.



5

Rail Dogs

8', 6' and 4' in diameter.



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Images of Concept:

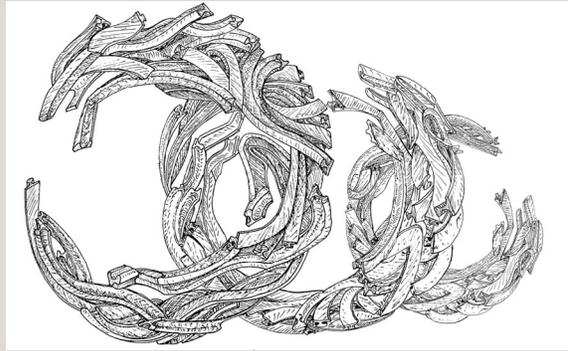
Material: Used twisted train rails.
 Form: 3 rings that are dogs.
 Size: 3 rings. 8'-6'-4' tall. All of them 2.5' wide and 1' thick.
 Arrangement: Placed parallel 2' apart.



Front View



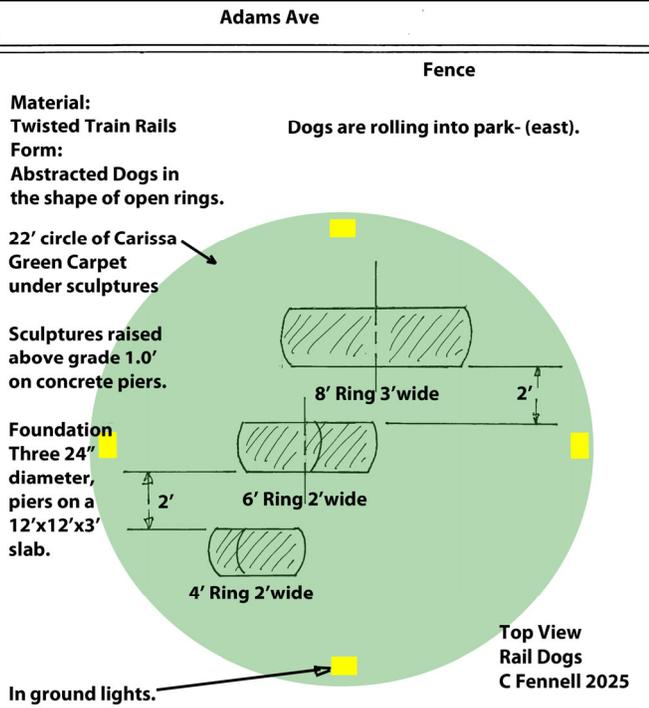
Side View of Singular Sculpture



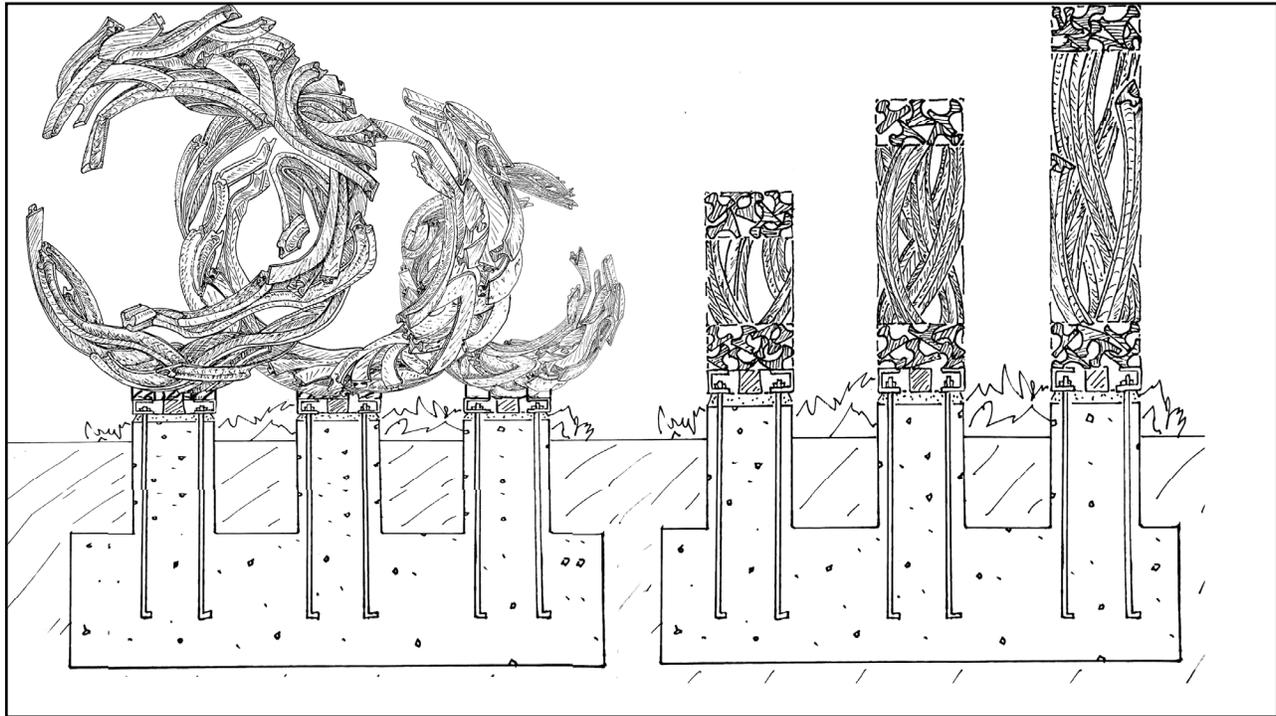
Side View of Three Sculptures Juxtaposed

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Foot Print



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Documentation of community and design team input, feedback, and outcomes

Meet artist event at the Adams Music Festival : Date Saturday September 20 at 2pm

Specific feedback: Kim Emerson introduced me to Paul Coogan who told me the history of Normal Heights- the fire of 85 and the Adams revolt of 1929, where they fought to keep their trolley rail.

How addressed by artist: I used this inspiration to come up with a concept for Rail Dogs.

PAC meeting: Date Nov 13 at 9am

Comments from panel: Too abstract- not abstract enough- all others thumbs up. Very short.

PAC meeting : Date Thursday Jan 8 9:00 am (where we went over schematic)

feedback: They wanted us to use lighting we have used before. Asked if we could use a different ground cover in the center of planting

how addressed: Look up stats on light.

Artist open house: Date Saturday Jan 10 at 3pm on Adams Ave sidewalk in front of mosaic parking lot at market.

Feed back: Strengths- I like that it ties in the history of the needs of Adams Avenue along with the current needs. Further Development? Maybe a plaque describing the history behind the sculpture?

More? Being a dog owner and Normal Heights resident , I really like this design.

How addressed: We are including a plaque.

Strengths: It is highly textured and it's animalistic motif is complicated by its curvature.

Future development: the render of the frontage of the piece doesn't seem to accurately represent the three layers of rings in the piece.

Addressed: More drawings.

Strengths: beautiful

Further development: Missed the Open house if you get to have another one please let me know.

Addressed: Will do.

Written survey:

Strengths: bold, suggest movement, beautiful

Further Development: I would love to see some element reflecting the community garden in the Ward Canyon Park. I suggested this informally but I would like to formally suggest this element as a replacement for the surround since it would be lower maintenance (happy face)

Further: I enjoy the range of meanings that community members can associate with the piece. I think it will be a very exciting addition to our community. More of this please!

Addressed: Discussed with community about different plantings that could be below the sculptures.

Written survey #2

Strengths: Strong an resilient like the denizens of Normal Heights. Motion and cyclic nature indication change and time.

Further Development: include smaller elements showing the larger work to be either "discovery" or way finding (how to get to the community garden, para course, or urban trail.

Further: Indicate on the ground where the solstice sun will strike.

Addressed: There is no supplementary budget to add smaller elements throughout the park.

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