



**Commission for Arts and Culture
Public Art Committee
Hybrid Meeting Notice and Agenda**

Thursday, February 12, 2026

9:00-10:00 am

City Administration Building **Conference Room B**

202 C Street, 12th Floor

San Diego, CA 92101

Zoom Link:

<https://sandiego.zoomgov.com/j/1611924886?pwd=obViap41R4UbStOSA3AZUpOGi1BOmM.1>

Chair: Fritz Friedman

Vice Chair: Abe Hughes

Committee Members: Fritz Friedman, Abe Hughes, Andrew Alcasid, Dennis Doan, Francisco Eme, Wayne Holtan, Rachel Jans, Keith Opstad, Imani Robinson, Amy Sanchez Arteaga

Staff Liaison: Charles "Chuck" G. Miller

Public Comment on an Agenda Item: If you wish to address the Public Art Committee (PAC) on an item for today's agenda, please complete and submit a speaker form before the PAC 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 PAC 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 PAC to discuss or take any action on the matter at today's meeting. At its discretion, the PAC 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 | Fritz Friedman, Chair

- Item 2: Non-Agenda Public Comment

- Item 3: Chair’s Reports
 - a. Commission Business
 - b. **ACTION** – January 8, 2026 Minutes
 - c. Other Reports

- Item 4: **ACTION** – Final Artwork Proposal for Ward Canyon Park by Christopher Fennell | Lara Bullock Ph.D., Cultural Affairs Staff, Economic Development Department

- Item 5: Reports
 - a. Staff Reports – Charles G. Miller, Cultural Affairs Staff, Economic Development Department
 - b. Committee Member Reports

- Item 6: Adjourn



Commission for Arts and Culture

City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture
PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE (PAC)

MINUTES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Members Present

Fritz Friedman, Chair
Abe Hughes, Vice Chair
Dennis Doan
Francisco Eme
Keith Opstad
Imani Robinson
Amy Sanchez Arteaga
Alessandra Moctezuma, Ex Officio

Members Absent

Andrew Alcasid
Wayne Holtan
Rachel Jans
Denise Rogers

Staff Present

Lara Bullock
Charles G. Miller
Christie Marcella

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 9:03 a.m. at Council Chambers – 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** – December 11, 2025, Minutes | [View Here](#) – Commissioner Fritz Friedman introduced the item. **Amy Sanchez Arteaga made a motion to approve the PAC minutes of December 11, 2025. Commissioner Keith Opstad seconded the motion. The vote was 6-0-0; the motion passed.**

Yea: Doan, Eme, Friedman, Hughes, Opstad, and Sanchez Arteaga (6)

Nay: (0)

Abstention: (0)

Recusal: (0)

C. Other Reports – None

Commissioner Imani Robinson arrived at 9:08 a.m.

Commissioner Alessandra Moctezuma arrived at 9:10 a.m.

IV. Presentation – Schematic Artwork Proposal for Ward Canyon Park by Christopher Fennell | [View Here](#)

V. Reports

A. Staff Reports – [View Here](#)

B. Committee Member Reports – [View Here](#)

VI. Adjourn – Commissioner Fritz Friedman adjourned the meeting at 9:54 a.m.

DRAFT



STAFF REPORT

DATE ISSUED: February 6, 2026

ATTENTION: Public Art Committee

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend to the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture (Commission) 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. In addition to PAC's feedback, the final artwork proposal is informed by suggestions from the public, the City's Parks and Recreation Department, the project design team, 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



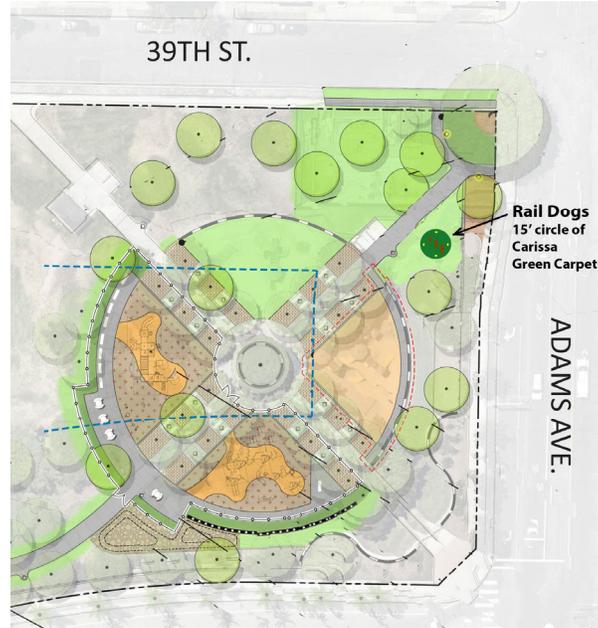
1

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.



6

Images of Concept:

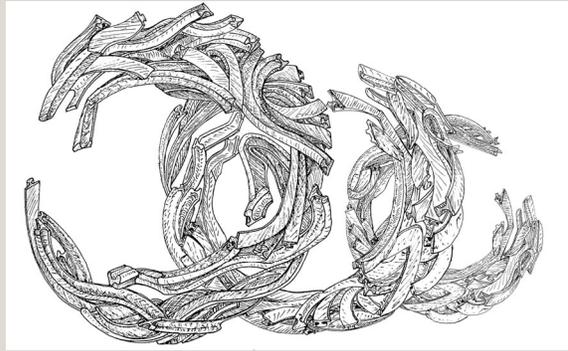
Material: Used twisted train rails.
Form: 3 rings that are dogs.
Size: 3 rings. 8'-6'-4' tall. All of them 2.5' wide and 1' thick.
Arrangement: Placed parallel 2' apart.



Front View



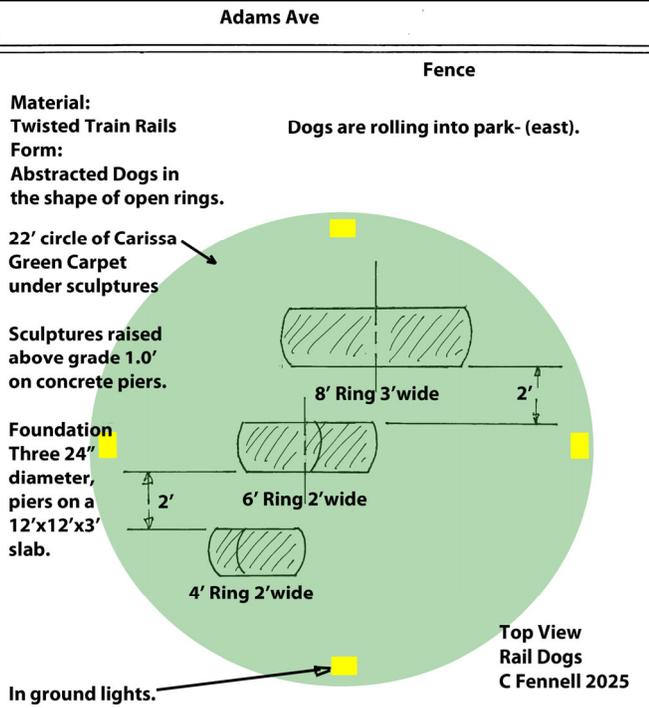
Side View of Singular Sculpture



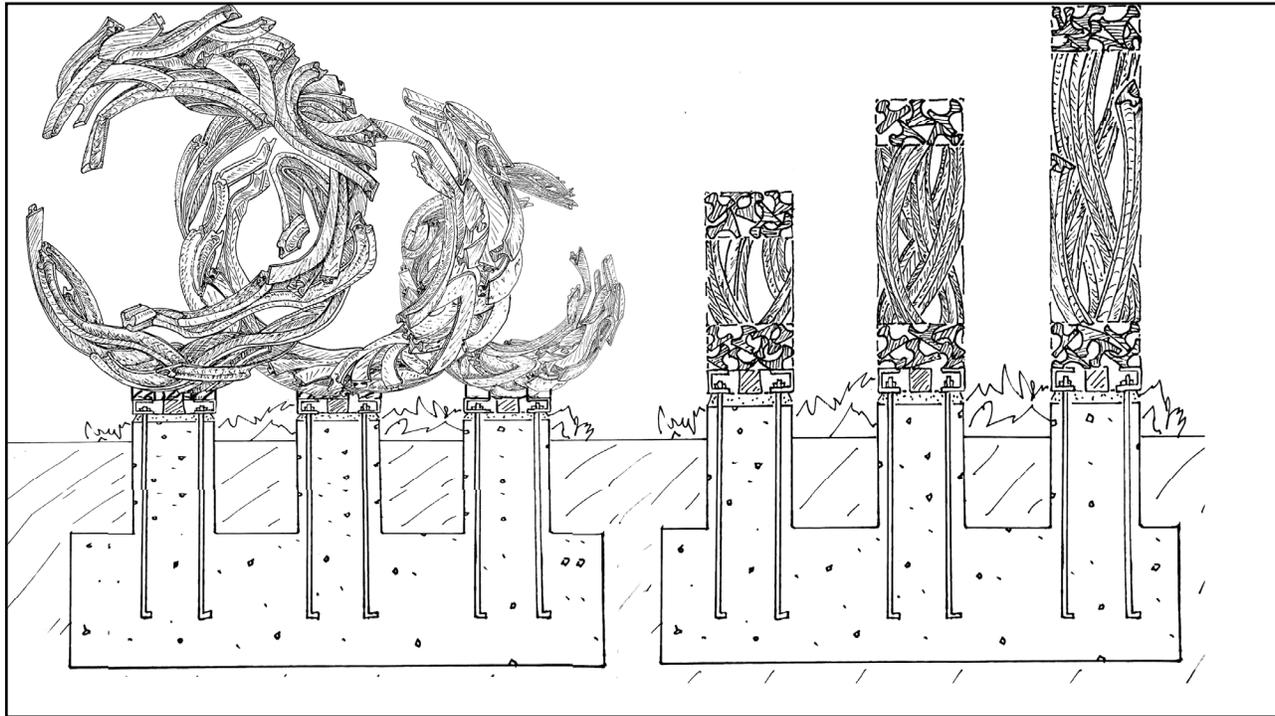
Side View of Three Sculptures Juxtaposed

7

Foot Print



8



9

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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