



## Commission for Arts and Culture

### Hybrid Meeting Notice and Agenda

Thursday, July 23, 2026

1:30–3:30pm

City Administration Building

202 C Street, 12th Floor

San Diego, CA 92101

**Zoom Link:** <https://sandiego.zoomgov.com/j/1655120721>

**Chair:** Alessandra Moctezuma

**Vice Chair:** Keith Opstad

**Commissioners:** Dajahn Blevins, Chris Chalupsky, Vanessa Ybarra Davis, Dennis Doan, Yolanda Franklin, Fritz Friedman, Cathy Hasson, Abe Hughes, Kamaal Martin, Becky Phillpott, 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](mailto: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** – June 25, 2026 Commission Meeting Minutes
  - b. **ACTION** – Approval of Committee Appointments
  - c. Other Reports
- Item 4: Presentation: Arts Advocacy Update and Discussion | Bob Lehman, Executive Director, San Diego ART Matters
- Item 5: Committee Reports
  - a. Public Art Committee – **ACTION** – Final Artwork Proposals for *here comes the neighborhood: Encanto* by Kaori Fukuyama
  - b. Advocacy & Outreach Committee
  - c. Creative City Ad hoc Committee
- Item 6: Staff Reports
  - a. Funding Updates
  - b. Public Art Project Updates
- Item 7: New Business for Future Agendas | Commissioner Arts & Culture Updates
- Item 8: Adjourn



# Commission for Arts and Culture

City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture

## MINUTES

June 25, 2026

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

### Commissioners Present

Alessandra Moctezuma  
Jean Walcher  
Vanessa Davis  
Becky Phillpott  
Dennis Doan  
Fritz Friedman  
Keith Opstad  
Imani Robinson  
Yolanda Franklin  
Chris Chalupsky  
Dajahn Blevins  
Abe Hughes

### Commissioners Absent

Cathy Hasson  
Becky Phillpott  
Alberto Pulido  
Kamaal Martin

### Staff Present

Dr. Lara Bullock  
Rachel Laing  
Charles Miller  
Gabrielle Romberger  
Bell Reza

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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 meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.
  2. **ACTION - Suspend the Rule Whereby the Executive Committee Sets the Agenda for the June 25, 2026 Commission Meeting | [View Here](#)**  
Commissioner Abe Hughes made a motion to approve.  
Commissioner Fritz Friedman seconded the motion. The motion passed
  3. **Non-agenda Public Comment | [View Here](#)**  
The Chair called on Bell Reza to open the floor for non-agenda public comment.
  4. **Chair's Reports | [View Here](#)**
    - A. **ACTION – May 28, 2026 Commission Meeting Minutes**  
Commissioner Vanessa Davis made a motion to approve.  
Commissioner Dennis Doan seconded the motion. The motion passed
    - B. **FY27 Budget Status Update**
    - C. **Other Reports**
  5. **Committee Reports | [View Here](#)**
    - A. Public Art Committee
    - B. Advocacy & Outreach Committee
    - C. Creative City Ad hoc Committee
  6. **Staff Reports | [View Here](#)**
    - a. Funding Update
  7. **Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 3**

**2025 COMMISSION COMMITTEE  
ASSIGNMENTS**

| COMMITTEE                                    | OFFICERS                                                              | COMMISSIONERS                                                                              | COMMUNITY MEMBERS                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>EXECUTIVE</b><br>(Standing)               | <b>Chair:</b> Alessandra Moctezuma<br><b>Vice Chair:</b> Keith Opstad | (Min: 5 - Max: 7)<br><br>Kamaal Martin<br>Becky Phillpott<br>Fritz Friedman                | N/A                                                                                                          |
| <b>Public Art</b><br>(Standing)              | <b>Chair:</b> Fritz Friedman<br><b>Vice Chair:</b> Abe Hughes         | (Min: 3 - Max: <b>5</b> )<br><br>Imani Robinson<br>Dennis Doan<br>Keith Opstad             | (Total Req'd: 6)<br>Wayne Holtan<br>Francisco Morales<br>Denise Rogers<br>Amy Sanchez Arteaga<br>Rachel Jans |
| <b>Advocacy &amp; Outreach</b><br>(Standing) | <b>Chair:</b> Becky Phillpott<br><b>Vice Chair:</b> Dajahn Blevins    | (Min: 5 - Max: 7)<br><br>Cathy Hasson<br>Kamaal Martin<br>Imani Robinson<br>Fritz Friedman | N/A                                                                                                          |
| <b>Creative City</b><br>(Ad Hoc)             | <b>Chair:</b> Kamaal Martin<br><b>Vice Chair:</b> Imani Robinson      | (Min: 5)<br><br>Abe Hughes<br>Chris Chalupsky<br>Jean Walcher                              | (Total Allowed 4)<br><br>Linda Caballero Sotelo<br>Justine Murray<br>Rich Magale                             |

Pursuant to the Commission for Arts and Culture's *Rules and Regulations*, the Commission Chair will cause the functions, structures, memberships, and officers of the Commission's committees to be reviewed, updated, and approved by the Commission. The Commission Chair will nominate for Commission approval the members and officers of each committee. Efforts have been made to appoint each Commissioner to a committee, committees, and/or other assignments of her/his preference, including leadership positions. Each Commissioner has been assigned to at least one committee.



## COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE ISSUED: July 20, 2026

ATTENTION: Commission for Arts and Culture

SUBJECT: Final Artwork Proposals for here comes the neighborhood: Encanto by Kaori Fukuyama

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

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### PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that Cultural Affairs accept the final artwork proposal by Kaori Fukuyama 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 Kaori Fukuyama was commissioned to design, fabricate and transport permanent, site-specific artwork for here comes the neighborhood #2 – Encanto and consult during the installation of the artwork at the sites by the City. In this second iteration of the initiative, the commissioned artist explored the Encanto neighborhood of San Diego in the vicinity of the Black Arts and Culture District in the development of her proposal for artwork that responds to the neighborhood spatially and socially, as well as to the artist's individual practice. This initiative brings visually engaging and conceptually rich artworks to San Diego neighborhoods and engages the public through outreach activities.

On March 13, 2025, Kaori Fukuyama presented her preliminary artwork ideas to the Public Art Committee (PAC) for feedback. PAC also provided feedback on the artist's schematic artwork proposal on August 14, 2025. On July 9, 2026, the artist's final artwork proposal was presented to PAC. At the meeting, PAC voted (6-0-0) to recommend to the Commission for Arts and Culture that Cultural Affairs accept the final artwork proposal by the artist in fulfillment of the City's collecting mission, collection scope and accession criteria. In addition to PAC's feedback, the final artwork proposal was informed by suggestions from the general public and Encanto community, City's Parks and Recreation Department, Real Estate Assets Department, and other various City departments.

### FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The initiative is funded through the City's Public Art Fund with contributions made by developers. Developers may opt to meet their mandated Art in Private Development requirement by contributing .05 percent of their total building permit valuation to the Public Art Fund. The Fund is maintained by the City and used for the artistic enhancement of the City's public spaces.



## Final Artwork Proposal

here comes the neighborhood:

### Encanto

By Kaori Fukuyama

#### c. Documentation of Research and Findings

- Encanto is a culturally diverse community with a new San Diego Black Arts and Culture District designation.
- The neighborhood is undergoing revitalization through programs like the Chollas Creek Enhancement program.
- Encanto = “Enchantment” with rolling hills and farmland
- An ethnic enclave – one of the first communities within the City where African-Americans, Mexican- Americans, and Asian-Americans could own land, businesses, and homes.
- Diverse music, dance, and food culture with festivals, events, and educational programs.
- **Heartbeat Music and Performing Arts Academy** located in Encanto provides music and dance education to underserved youth in San Diego.



## d. Documentation of community and design team input, feedback, and outcomes

**MEET THE ARTIST** on 9/38/2024  
at The Mental Bar

Artist had the opportunity to have conversations with the residents and community members.

- **Several people mentioned how important the music is to this community.**

The artwork concept is based on the importance of music and to celebrate music activity within the Encanto Community.

- Community members emphasized their **desire to have the artwork designed through collaboration with the community.**

Artist collaborated with the Heartbeat Academy and translated their drumline performance into a visual soundwave.

**PAC MEETING** on 3/14/2025.

Artist presented my preliminary ideas and received comments and feedback as below:

- **Provide explanation for color coding**  
Artist will provide a narrative description of the concept along with the meaning of each selected colors to be included in the plaque on the building or a website with QR code.

- **Link the drumline performance video or audio using QR code**

Artist will provide the link.

- **Consider lighting for viewing the artwork at night**

Artist will provide solar light fixtures if the budget allows.

- **Simplify the quotes made of metal**  
A few words out of each sentence will be made of metal, and the rest will be painted.

- **Use more colors for Sound Wave**  
Red, Yellow, Green, and Blue will be used for the Sound Wave panels.

## d. Documentation of community and design team input, feedback, and outcomes

**PAC MEETING** on 8/14/2025.

There were no concerns or requests for changes.

**MEET THE ARTIST** on 8/15/2025  
at The Block Club

Artist had an opportunity to present my schematic design and had conversations with the residents and community members. Overall, everyone was very excited for this project.

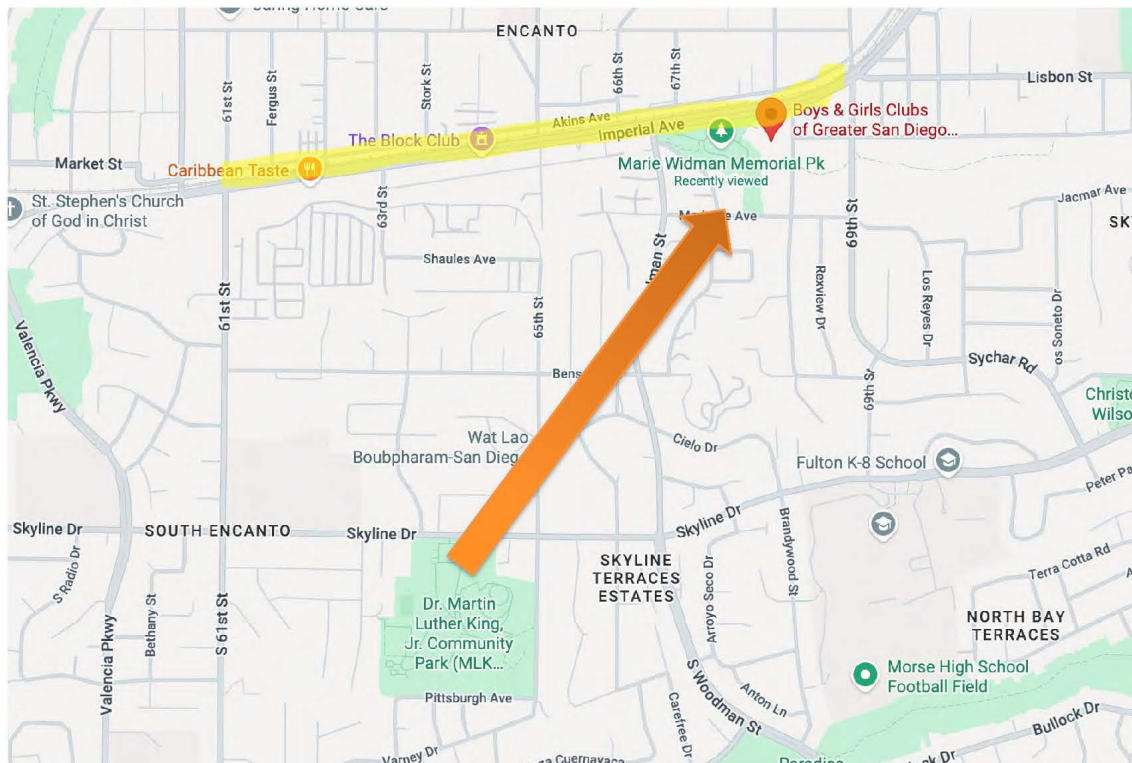
- **They loved the use of bold colors, materials that interact with light, and the connection to music.**
- **Will there be a plaque to explain the contexts of the quote? And the audio of drumline?**

Yes. Artist will provide a QR code with information and audio file or video clip.

- **More of them. Bigger placements.**

Artist will do her best to expand the concept within the budget.

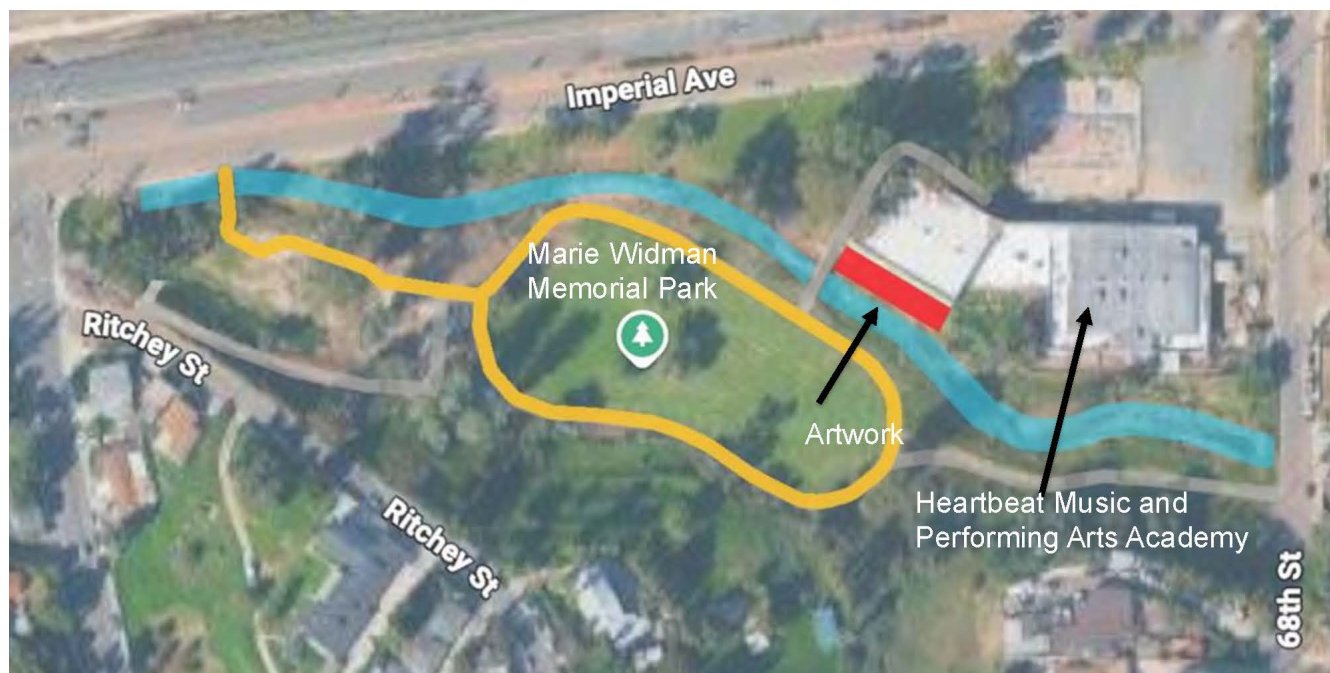
## a. Site



- Relocate to the Boys & Girls Club building from the Rec Center building at MLK Community Park
- Adjacent to the Marie Widman Memorial Park on Imperial Avenue within the SD Black Arts & Culture District.

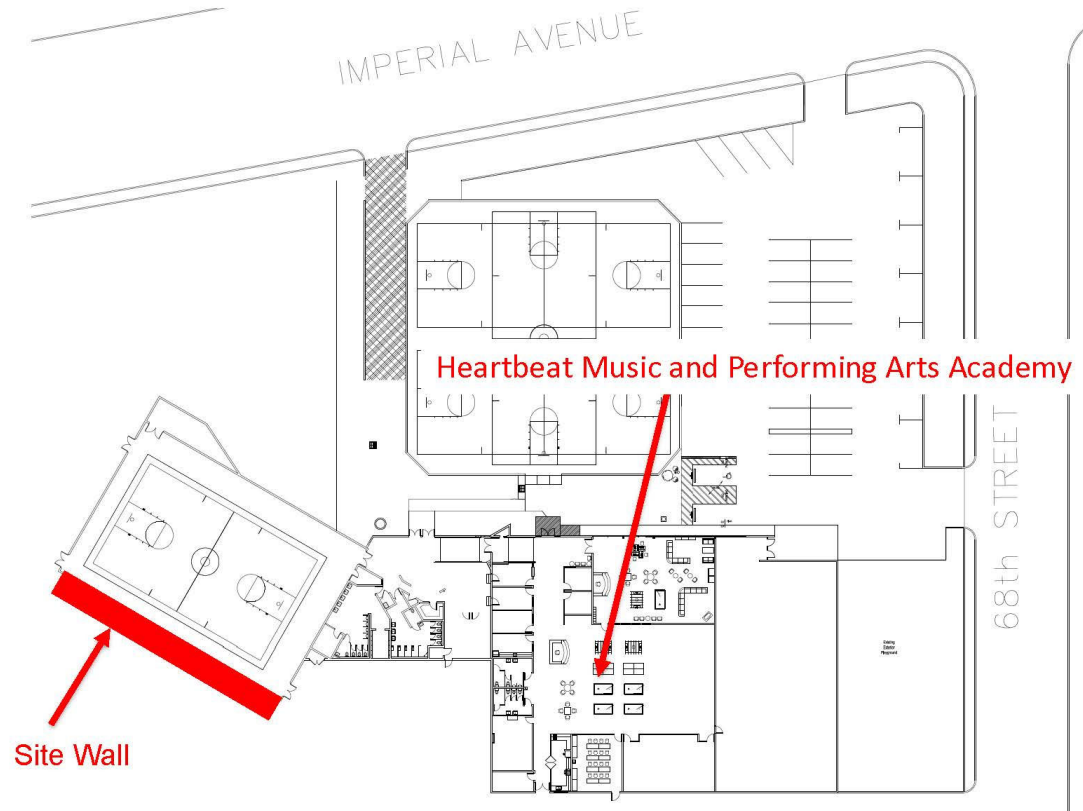
## a. Site

- Artist worked with the City staff to confirm the availability of the location.
- Artwork to be located on the southwest-facing wall of the existing Boys & Girls Club building – optimal sun angle for artwork's interaction with light.
- The site wall is facing toward the walkway and lawn area of the Marie Widman Park.



## a. Site

- Adjacent to the Heartbeat Music and Performing Arts Academy



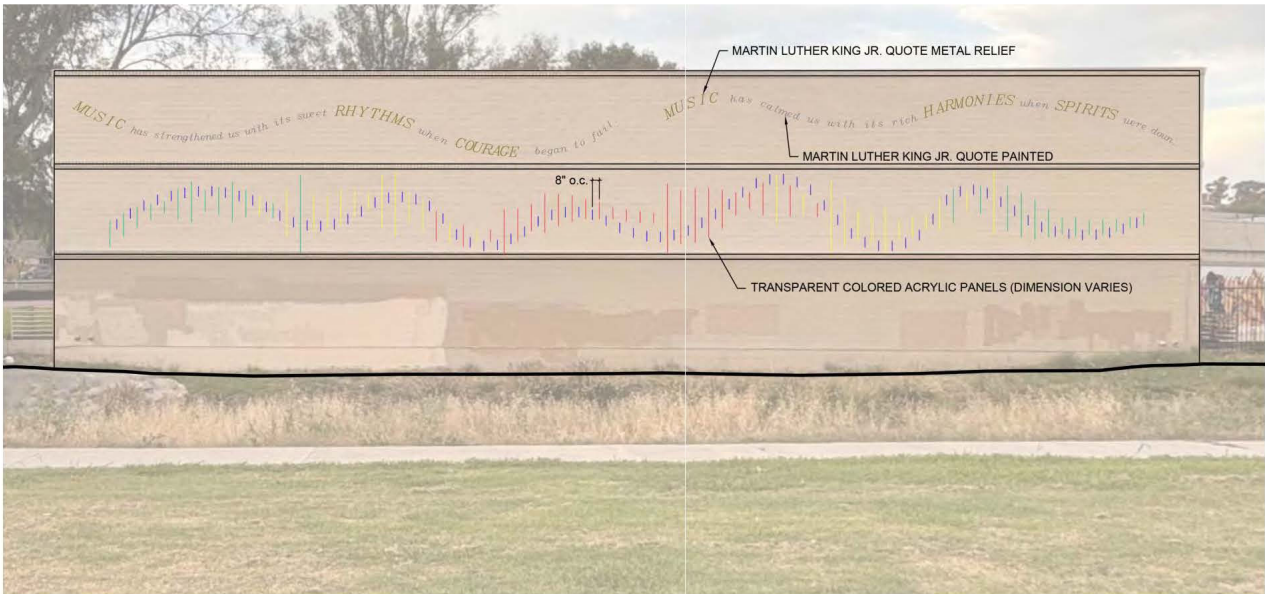
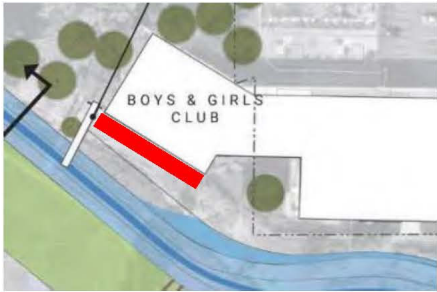
## b. Photographic Survey of Site



b. Photographic Survey of Site



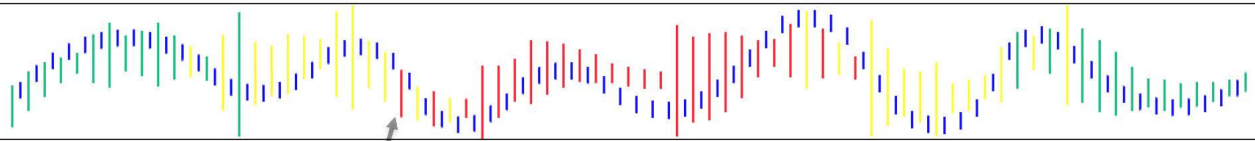
e. Artwork – Overview



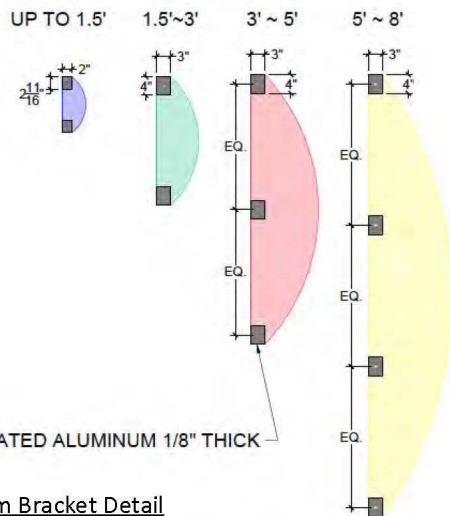
Boys & Girls Club Building Southwest Wall Elevation

0 8' 16'

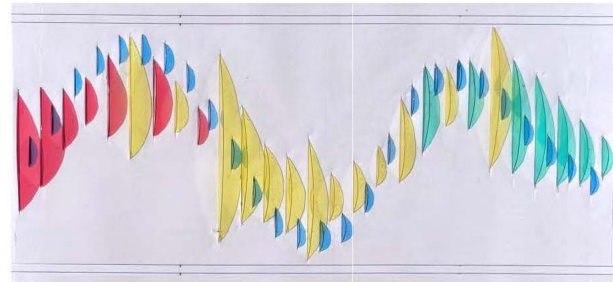
## e. Artwork – Sound Wave



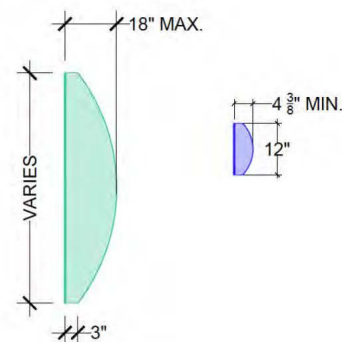
1/4" Thick Transparent colored acrylic panels at 8" O.C.  
(dimensions vary)



Aluminum Bracket Detail



Maquette



1/4" Acrylic Panel Detail

## f. Description – Sound Wave

### CONTENT

- Transparent colored acrylic panels installed perpendicular to the wall to represent sound wave.
- The panels will cast colored shadow under the sunlight.

### SCALE

- Panel length and depth varies between
- 12 ~ 96" long x 4-3/8 ~ 18" wide.

### LOCATION

- Boys & Girls Club building's southwest-facing walls at the middle section of the wall – for the exact location, see overview.

### CONTEXT

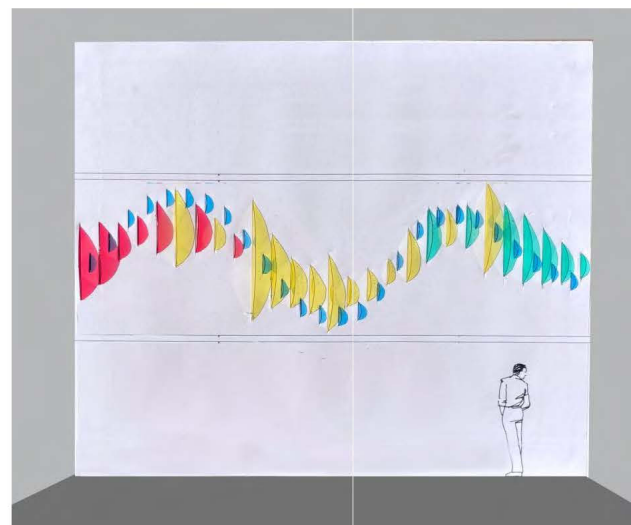
- Translating the audio recording from Heartbeat Music and Performing Arts Academy's drumline performance.
- Using Green, Yellow, and Red colors for beats, representing the African flag
- Using small Blue panels for melodic undertone.

### COMPONENT RELATIONSHIPS

- Panels of different sizes and colors represent rhythm, melody, and volume.
- Visually representing various parts working together to create harmony.

### COLOR CONSIDERATIONS:

- Red - struggle for liberation
- Green - the abundant natural beauty of Africa
- Black people of African descent
- Yellow - optimism, justice, equality
- Blue - sadness, painful history of the slave trade

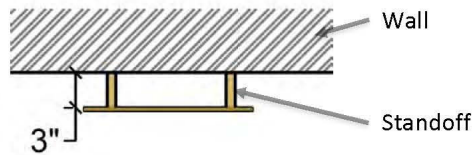


Maquette

## e. Artwork – MLK Quote



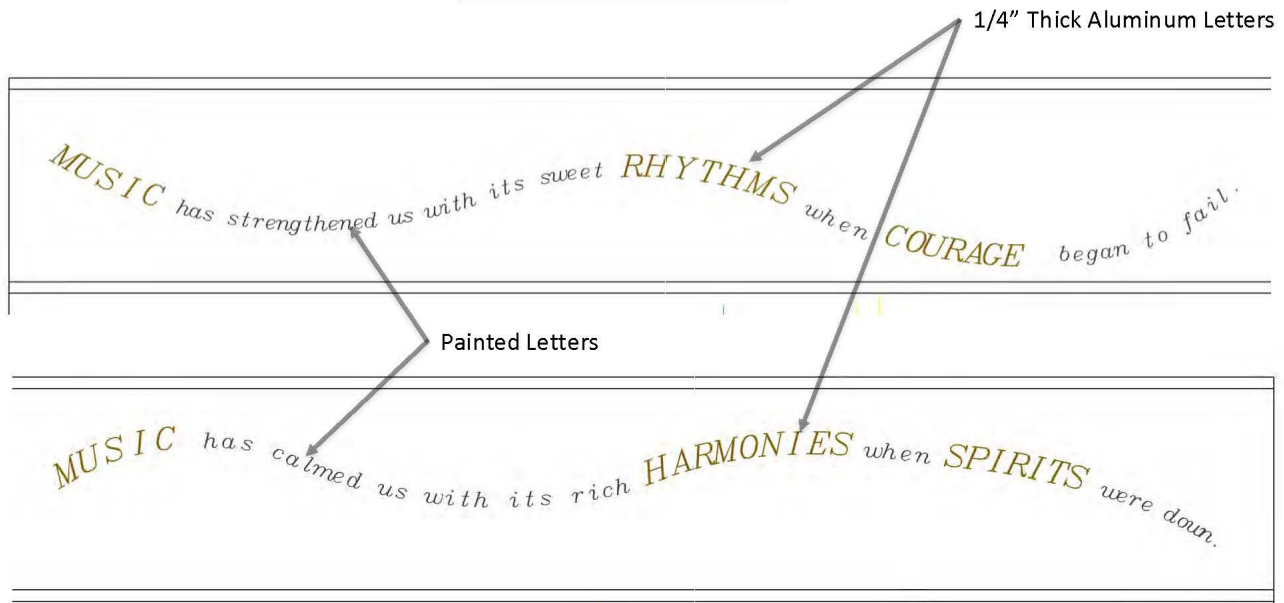
Aluminum Letter Detail



Aluminum Letter Cross Section



Aluminum Letters (1/4" thick) with Standoffs



## f. Description – MLK Quote

### CONTENT

- Two sentences will be mostly painted directly on the existing wall in black.
- The words "MUSIC," "RHYTHMS," "COURAGE," "MUSIC," "HARMONIES," and "SPIRITS" to be made of floating metal letters (in Satin Brass color) and to be mounted on the wall.
- Sentences will read "MUSIC has strengthened us with its sweet RHYTHMS when COURAGE began to fail." and "MUSIC has calmed us with its rich HARMONIES when SPIRITS were down."

### SCALE

- The metal letters will be at 11-3/4" HT.
- Painted letters will be smaller at about 6" high.

### LOCATION

- Boys & Girls Club building's southwest-facing wall at the top section of the wall – for the exact location, see overview.

### CONTEXT

- The quote honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his love of music.
- The quote will inspire local youth, HBMPAA students, musicians, and others.

### COMPONENT RELATIONSHIPS

- The quote is meant to inspire and uplift the community.
- The quote will float over the abstract artwork of sound wave and reinforce the meaning.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s address

"Much of the power of our Freedom Movement in the United States has come from this music. It has strengthened us with its sweet rhythms when courage began to fail. It has calmed us with its rich harmonies when spirits were down."  
– from 1964 Berlin Jazz Festival

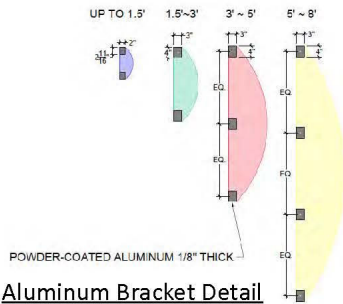
Source: MLK Jr. on Jazz: The Soundtrack of Civil Rights (San Francisco Conservatory of Music website)  
<https://sfcu.edu/discover/newsroom/mlk-jr-jazz-soundtrack-civil-rights>

**MUSIC RHYTHMS**  
**MUSIC HARMONIES**  
**COURAGE SPIRITS**

## g. Material Samples

### SOUND WAVE FINS:

- 1/4" thick transparent acrylic sheet
- CNC-cut to various lengths and arcs
- Max. 18" wide
- Install with metal L brackets



Aluminum Bracket Detail



### MLK QUOTE:

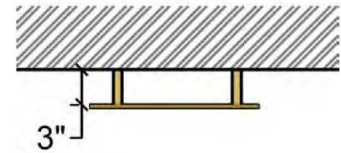
- Black exterior grade paint
- 1/4" thick aluminum
- Powder-coated (Satin Bronze)
- CNC or water-jet cut



3D Text Example



Aluminum Letter Detail



Aluminum Letter Cross Section