

East 14th Street Corridor Improvement Project

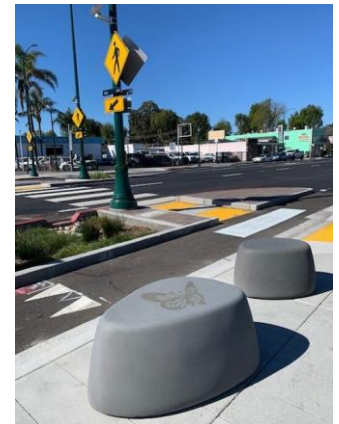


The Alameda County Arts Commission manages the County's Public Art Program which presents artworks in County buildings and in outdoor spaces throughout the unincorporated areas of Alameda County. The goal of the Public Art Program is to provide positive, uplifting art experiences for the community.

The Public Artwork for the East 14th Street Corridor Improvement Project was managed by the Alameda County Arts Commission in partnership with the Alameda County Public Works Agency. The funds are provided through the "Percent for Art" Ordinance established by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

The East 14th Corridor Improvement Project extends from 162nd Avenue to Interstate 238 in the Ashland community in unincorporated Alameda County. Motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and residents in the Ashland community will enjoy a revitalized, safe, and accessible commercial corridor. Artist Miriam Klein Stahl was selected through an open, competitive process by a Selection Committee of community members who live or work in Ashland plus one local artist.

The overall theme of the artwork is "Keep Close to Nature." The artwork is about the beauty of the natural world, resilience, and a sustainable future for communities. The imagery explores how all the living things in the neighborhood live together and are interdependent. The original artworks are handmade paper cuts. The paper cuts were digitized and the designs were laser cut into metal panels, sandblasted on seating, and featured on street banners and utility boxes.



Cut Metal Art Panels

A total of 17 artwork designs were created for the metal panels that are placed in the street medians. The designs feature plants as food and medicine as well as animals that are pollinators. The images illustrate the interdependent cycle of life and celebrate the diversity of our local ecosystems.

The designs include a variety of local flora and fauna found in and around the Ashland community. Designs include pairings such as a scrub-jay flying over lavender, a monarch butterfly with milkweed, a hummingbird and bottlebrush bush, a squirrel with tomatillo plants, succulents, and a Stellar's jay with plants.

Additionally, the Ash Tree leaf served as inspiration for the artwork design for the laser cut panels along the sidewalks to improve pedestrian safety.



"I believe that art in public space enhances and enriches our sense of place. With the artwork on East 14th Street, I wanted to highlight images of the natural ecosystems of our region, especially those in Ashland, as a way of celebrating the environment around us."

– Miriam Klein Stahl, Artist



Seating

'Pebble seats' can be found throughout the project site and feature designs that are connected to the imagery on the cut metal panels. The designs are sandblasted onto the tops of the seats. Community members will find a variety of images including Ash Tree leaves, butterflies, hummingbirds, sunflowers, apples, lemons, plums, and a bee pollinating a flower amongst other designs.



Art Banners & Utility Box Wraps

The street light pole banners and the utility box wraps feature a series of designs depicting activities that many people in Ashland enjoy and value. The designs were developed with feedback from community members serving on the Artist Selection Committee.

The Arts Commission partnered with the Alameda County Economic & Civic Development Department to fabricate and install the banners as part of the ECD's Banner Program in unincorporated Alameda County.

The Arts Commission partnered with the Alameda County Public Works Agency to fabricate and install the utility box wraps as part of the Utility Box Art Program in unincorporated Alameda County.



Community Involvement & Artist Selection Process

Community involvement and engagement are at the core of this project. Community members were involved in the project by contributing to a community survey about Ashland, participating in a community roundtable and community meetings, providing comments about the artists' proposal designs, serving on the artist selection committee, and providing feedback during the design development.

Artist Miriam Klein Stahl was chosen by a Selection Committee of community members who live and/or work in Ashland plus one local artist. The Artist Selection Committee members are:

Sharon Bohoman (Community Representative)
 Stella Chui (Community Representative)
 Celeste Johnson (Community Representative)
 Saleen Moreno (Community Representative)

Erik Sakamoto (REACH Ashland Youth Center Director)
 Barisha Spriggs (Community Representative)
 Nico Berry (Bay Area Artist who created the Ashland and Cherryland Community Identifier Mural)

Public Art Project Team

Arts Commission Project Management Team: Rachel Osajima, Director; Amy Stimmel, Project Coordinator; Rosa Valdez, Project Coordinator; and Violet Harlo, Arts Education Program Coordinator. Graphic Design and Technical Support: Malik Johnson. Graphic Design Assistance: Masami Chin. Leadership Team: Alameda County Arts Commissioners, Alameda County Public Art Advisory Committee Members, and Melissa Wilk, Alameda County Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder.



Image of the Ashland Community Identifier Mural. Artwork by Nico Berry. Photo by Paul Kuroda.

Alameda County Arts Commission

The Alameda County Arts Commission is dedicated to improving the quality of life in Alameda County by nurturing a thriving environment for the arts; promoting economic opportunities for Alameda County's artists and arts organizations through services such as arts funding, public art, and arts education; encouraging public participation in the arts; and actively advocating for the arts. The Arts Commission supports all art forms including visual, performing, literary, traditional, and media arts. All of the Arts Commission's programs are based on the belief that arts and creativity are an essential part of every successful and thriving community. The Office of the Alameda County Arts Commission manages the County's Public Art Program which presents artworks in County buildings and in outdoor public spaces throughout the unincorporated areas.

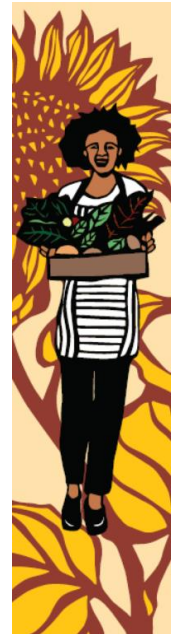
Other Public Art Projects Managed by the Alameda County Arts Commission in Ashland

Ashland and Cherryland Community Identifier Mural

Artist Nico Berry painted the Ashland and Cherryland Community Identifier Mural on both sides of the Interstate 238 Highway overpass above East 14th Street and Mission Blvd. Nico Berry's design includes the word "Ashland" with vibrant images of leaves from the Oregon ash tree on one side of the overpass and the word "Cherryland" with colorful images of cherry blossoms on the other side.

REACH Ashland Youth Center

There are artworks throughout REACH Ashland Youth Center. Local youth had the initial vision for a youth center and played a pivotal role in planning and making it a reality. Part of that process included their contribution to the public art program and their voices are present in the finished artworks. Artworks at REACH include the exterior building tile design by Amy Trachtenberg and architect Mallory Scott Cusenbery, artworks integrated in to outdoor amphitheater and interior courtyard by Eduardo Pineda and Joaquin A. Newman, and framed artworks inside the center by Miranda Bergman, Marion Coleman, James E. Gayles Jr., and Joyce Hsu.



Stay Informed

To learn more about the Alameda County Arts Commission's programs and services, please visit: www.acgov.org/arts. For the latest news and updates, follow the Alameda County Arts Commission on Facebook and Instagram.



www.acgov.org/arts

The artwork for the East 14th Street Corridor Improvement Project is part of the Alameda County Public Art Collection. The artwork was commissioned by the Alameda County Arts Commission on behalf of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

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