Albuquerque Public Art Program
Department of Arts & Culture
Albuquerque Arts Board

Members in attendance:
- Caleb Ferganchick, Chair, District 7
- Olivia Amaya Ortiz, Vice Chair, District 2
- Christopher Baca, District 3
- Welly Fletcher, District 6
- Holly Barnet-Sanchez, At-Large
- Dennis Gromelski, At-Large (Zoom)

Vacancies:
- Vacant, District 1
- Vacant, District 5
- Vacant, District 8
- Vacant, District 9

Members not in attendance:
- Gabe Gomez, District 4

Others in Attendance:
- Hilma E. Chynoweth, Director Arts & Culture
- Michael Ogilvie, Division Manager
- Matthew Carter, Collections Manager
- Robyne Robinson, Public Art Planner
- Mandolen Sanchez, Fiscal Analyst II
- Noel Begay, Outreach Coordinator
- Sophie Rubeo, Harwood
- Helen Atkins, Harwood
- Jen DePaolo, Harwood
- Nan Masland, Director Balloon Museum
- Christine West
- Zoom user
- Read.ai meeting notes

Minutes

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 4:30 P.M.

Location: Room 7400 Executive Conference Room on 7th floor of City Hall at 1 Civic Plaza NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102 or Zoom at https://cabq.zoom.us/j/81467211343, +1(719) 359-4580, 81467211343

I. **Call to Order –** C. Ferganchick called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. D. Gromelski was not in attendance at the start of the meeting.

II. **Land, Lives, and Peoples Acknowledgement** was read aloud by H. Barnet-Sanchez.

III. **Approval of the Agenda –** At this time, D. Gromelski joined the meeting on Zoom. H. Barnet-Sanchez moved to approve the agenda, W. Fletcher seconded. (Vote: 6 approved)
For: C. Ferganchick, O. Amaya Ortiz, C. Baca, W. Fletcher, H. Barnet-Sanchez, and D. Gromelski

IV. **Welcome and Introduction of Hilma E. Chynoweth, Director, Department Arts & Culture** – Hilma introduced herself to the Arts Board and the Board took turns introducing themselves.

V. **Approval of the Minutes for August 19, 2026 Meeting –** W. Fletcher moved to approve the minutes, H. Barnet-Sanchez seconded. (Vote: 6 approved)
For: C. Ferganchick, O. Amaya Ortiz, C. Baca, W. Fletcher, H. Barnet-Sanchez, and D. Gromelski

VI. **Public Comment – Limited to 3 Minutes:** There was no public comment.

VII. **Approvals**

A. **Harwood – Phil Chacon Community Arc Park Project Year 2:** Sophie Rubeo, Helen Atkins, and Jen DePaolo presented the year 2 project at Phil Chacon Park, *Ground / Flight*. Year 2 will include the first phase of the public artwork, *Ground*. W. Fletcher moved to approve the budget and design for *Ground* for the year 2 phase of Community Arc at Phil Chacon Park, C. Baca seconded. (Vote: 5 approved and 1 abstention)

For: C. Ferganchick, C. Baca, W. Fletcher, H. Barnet-Sanchez, and D. Gromelski
Abstain: O. Amaya Ortiz

B. Balloon Museum Adventure Mural – Selected Artist: N. Begay shared background information on the project that was introduced in March 2026 and selection process. Jodie Herrera was identified as the artist for the Balloon Museum Adventure Mural. Jodie will present a mural design to the Arts Board for approval at a future meeting. Nan Masland also shared additional information about the construction of the Balloon Museum Adventure. H. Barnet Sanchez moved to approve the Balloon Museum Adventure Mural project and budget as well as the selection of Jodie Herrera, O. Amaya Ortiz seconded. (Vote: 6 approved)
For: C. Ferganchick, O. Amaya Ortiz, C. Baca, W. Fletcher, H. Barnet-Sanchez, and D. Gromelski

C. Bosque Rio Sunset (Montaño Bridge) Status Report Recommendation: M. Carter reviewed the status report of J. David "Dave" Dekker's *Bosque Rio Sunset (Montaño Bridge)* and recommendation from the artist to either leave the mural as it is or to repaint the jersey barriers using 4 solid colors as an homage to the artwork. The cost of repainting using 4 solid colors is $105,000 which is comparable to returning the jersey barriers to 1 solid color. C. Baca moved to recommend decommissioning *Bosque Rio Sunset* and repainting based on Dekker's recommendation, H. Barnet- Sanchez seconded. (Vote: 6 approved)
For: C. Ferganchick, O. Amaya Ortiz, C. Baca, W. Fletcher, H. Barnet-Sanchez, and D. Gromelski

VIII. Introductions and Reports

A. **Gallery One/Art Vault Call for Artists and 2027 Budget:** N. Begay and M. Sanchez shared updates regarding the Gallery One and Art Vault call for artist proposals as well as budget for mid-2027 through 2028. The call for exhibition proposals from artist groups for Gallery One will include an option to propose for the Art Vault. Shows will also rotate quarterly. N. Begay requested Arts Board members to serve on the Selection Committee and help to develop the call for artists. O. Amaya Ortiz, H. Barnet-Sanchez, and C. Ferganchick volunteered to serve on the Committee. W. Fletcher also expressed interest if a spot becomes available.

IX. Announcements/Ongoing Project Updates

A. Chair's Announcements: There were no announcements.

B. Board Announcements: D. Gromelski shared that FUSION is hosting its third annual Rising High Arts Festival and opening their second space the Cell for art as well for October 8 – 18th with weekend outdoor events.

C. Project Updates: Staff shared information about major conservation and maintenance projects and invited the Board to visit *Passage* – a public pilot for Naomi Natale's public art project *Of Grief & Dreams* – in Gallery One. It is up through October 2 and N. Begay shared dates that Natale will lead dream journeys. Additional updates for projects were shared for IMOD's Cyclical Arts Mentorship Program, Reyes Padilla's International District Library work, and the South Broadway Park Mural project.

D. Events/Dedications: Staff shared information about different events and dedications.

i. *Full Bloom* Closing Reception, September 25, 2026 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
ii. Special Collections Mosaic Sculpture Dedication, September 26, 2026 3 to 4 p.m.
iii. *Emerging Voices* Opening Reception, October 16, 2026 5 to 7 p.m.

X. New Business: There was no new business.

XI. Next Regular Meeting – Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 4:30 to 6:30 P.M.

XII. Adjourn: C. Ferganchick adjourned the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Agenda Item Number: VII.A.

Albuquerque Arts Board

September 16, 2026 Meeting

Title: Phil Chacon Community Arc Park Project Year 2: *Ground / Flight*

Action: Approval of Phase 1 of Year 2 of Multi-Year Project

Project Background: The Albuquerque Arts Board approved a multi-year, multi-phased project led by Harwood Art Center, at Phil Chacon Park at the April 16, 2025 meeting. The overarching collaborative public art framework for the park is called *Community Arc*. From 2025 to 2030, Harwood's Public Art & Community Practice program will design and co-create 4 significant artworks for Phil Chacon Park in collaboration with partnering organizations and participants.

The first sculpture, *Monument to Care* was dedicated in August 2026 and honors those who care for our land, air, water and all who depend on it.

Year 2 of the multi-year project is a proposal for the first phase of a two-year project called *Ground / Flight* which celebrates the foundations that provide stability and security to dream and vision for the future. Phase 1 – *Ground* – is tiled pillars and foundations that embody our connection to place, belonging and ecosystem. Phase 2 – *Flight* – will be presented to the Arts Board in 2027 for 2028.

Artist Background: For 35 years, Harwood Art Center has built programs at the intersection of art and community development. Harwood believes that art is a productive tool for drawing people together, to work collectively toward the good of all people. Harwood has a long tradition and standing commitment to engage people of all ages and experience in the co-creation of public artworks that celebrate and uplift our communities.

Budget: $75,000 for Phase 1: *Ground*

Agenda Item Number: VII.B.

Albuquerque Arts Board

September 16, 2026 Meeting

Title: Balloon Museum Adventure Mural

Action: Artist Selection and recommend project approval

Project Background: Currently under construction, the Outdoor Balloon Adventure will capture the history, science, and joy of ballooning in an interactive outdoor environment set under the New Mexico sky. The project is separated into two phases. Phase one is fully funded and final design is almost complete. Construction will start this summer and will include development of the eastern half of the site – to include: Sensory sky room, sky bridge with half of the overall elevated walkway, balloon tower, early ballooning area, performance area, educational nodes and more.

Part of the overall design includes a mural that serves as the tapestry for the various educational elements. The project was introduced to the Arts Board at the March 16, 2026 Arts Board meeting. A mural at this site would ensure that the project will include high-quality artwork created by a local artist who will share their unique interpretation of the subject of ballooning. The estimated square footage for the mural location is 1,720, and will provide a stunning backdrop to the Balloon Adventure.

As part of a related project at the Balloon Fiesta Park, an art selection committee was convened to review 13 local artists' work, and invited 5 local artists to submit a proposal. The committee met on Thursday, May 14, 2026 for artist presentations, and recommended local artist Jodie Herrera for the Outdoor Balloon Adventure Mural project.

Artist Background: Jodie Herrera is an Acclaimed New Mexican oil painter, muralist, and curator with deep and ancestral roots in the region. Since she could hold a crayon, Art has always been her path. Nearly 20 years ago, drawn to its scale and urgency, she began doing graffiti. She later discovered oil painting while studying at the University of New Mexico, where she earned her BFA with honors in 2013, becoming the first woman in her family to graduate from college.

Budget: $50,000

Agenda Item Number: VII. C

Albuquerque Arts Board

September 16, 2026 Meeting

Title: Bosque Rio Sunset (Montano Bridge Mural)

Action: Status Report Recommendation

Project Background: The City of Albuquerque Public Art Program completed a Conservation Report for *Bosque Rio Sunset*, the mural located on the jersey barriers along Montaño Bridge as travelers cross the bridge in both eastbound and westbound directions. The artwork was commissioned in 1996 and conceived by local architect and artist J. David "Dave" Dekker.

The Conservation Report documents the history of the bridge and the artwork, including previous conservation and restoration efforts completed in 2011, as well as minor touch-up work performed in 2014. The report also evaluated the artwork's current physical condition and considered options and recommendations for future conservation or restoration.

The Conservation Report was presented to City Administration in September 2025. Following its completion, City staff and the Public Art Program held several meetings throughout 2026 to review the artwork's condition, discuss potential restoration options, and determine an appropriate course of action for the City.

After consideration of the artwork's current condition, the scope and feasibility of potential restoration, anticipated long-term maintenance needs, and the overall circumstances surrounding the artwork's location, the City and Public Art Program staff have reached a final recommendation to **decommission *Bosque Rio Sunset***.

The following report documents the basis for this recommendation formally decommissioning the artwork in accordance with the City's Public Art Program policies and procedures.

Budget: TBD

Agenda Item Number: VIII.A.

Albuquerque Arts Board

September 16, 2026 Meeting

Title: Gallery One/Art Vault Call for Artists and 2027 Budget

Action: Introduction

Project Background: In 2024, the City of Albuquerque Public Art Urban Enhancement Division moved into new offices on the first floor of City Hall. The space included a gallery space – Gallery One – and the old City of Albuquerque Treasury vault that was converted into a small installation space – the Art Vault.

For late Summer 2027 to 2028, Public Art staff will release a combined call for artists for Gallery One and Art Vault as well as shift to a quarterly exhibition schedule for shows.

Budget: Up to $30,000

September 2026 Project Updates – Albuquerque Arts Board

This report provides some general updates on numerous current and ongoing public art and administrative projects.

Gallery One and Art Vault Exhibitions

Gallery One: *PASSAGE,* a public pilot for *Of Grief & Dreams* is on view in Gallery One through October 2. The installation creates a space for visitors to go on a dream journey; listen to the dreams of others; share their worries and wishes; and share feedback and thoughts on the project.

The next exhibition, *Emerging Voices: The Next Generation of New Mexico Artists* is curated by New Mexico Art Education Association (NMAEA) and will feature selected works by student artists across the state of New Mexico. *Emerging Voices* will be on view October 13 through December 4, with an opening reception Friday, October 16 from 5 to 7 pm.

Art Vault: *Full Bloom* is an immersive installation by Lance McGoldrick and Valery Jung Estabrook that transforms the intimacy of the Art Vault into an infinite desert garden scape. Drawing inspiration from the nocturnal flowering *Datura* plant, the installation invites viewers into a space that explores transformation, perception, and the threshold between natural and imagined worlds. The installation is on view through September 25, with a closing reception September 25 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm.

No District/Multiple Districts Projects

Public Art Podcast – *Take Another Look*: The Public Art Podcast, *Take Another Look,* now has 31 episodes.

Conservation/Maintenance: Ongoing conservation and maintenance projects include *Numbe Whaghe*, *Honey in the Heart*, and the conservation/reinstallation of *Dr. Aragon*.

Larger conservation and maintenance projects include:

- *Aluminum Yucca* – Staff have executed an agreement to restore the lighting.
- *Tricentennial Towers* – Staff are working to update the lighting.
- *Stop on the Rio Grande* – Staff are working with the artist, John Davis for a complete restoration.

2026 Juneteenth Annual Exhibition: Staff are working with artists Nina Robinson and Gwen Triay Samuels to acquire the artworks from *(Un)Bound to Boundless*.

Cyclical Artistic Mentorship Program – IMOD: In March 2026, the Arts Board approved IMOD's Cyclical Artistic Mentorship Program in partnership with Son of Picasso. The contract has been executed and Son of Picasso and IMOD are leading the CAMP workshops.

District 1

Tierra-Pintada and Mirehaven Roundabout Sculpture – Edgar Cruz: Staff are working with Edgar on an agreement to fabricate and install the sculpture.

Of Grief & Dreams – Naomi Natale: Naomi and staff have identified a prospective location for the public art installation at the San Antonio Oxbow Open Space. This location will require extensive community outreach and per city planning an amended Environmental Planning Committee review and approval before it can be finalized. The NM State Capital outlay request of $350,000 was approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor. City will be able to access those funds early 2027.

District 2

ACC Fresco – Frederico Vigil: Vigil is working with 3 assistants to complete the 2,500+ square foot Buon fresco project in the stairwell of the Albuquerque Convention Center by December 2026.

Cuckoo Clock – Evelyn Rosenberg: Evelyn is working on fabricating the sculptural elements using detonography. The expected completion date is Fall 2026.

Hollywood Ave Trail Art: This project was introduced to the Arts Board at the regularly scheduled meeting on December 17, 2025. The project is still in the planning phase, and there has been discussion about converting this portion of the trail segment with sculptural components that could help with wayfinding and ADA compliance.

Lead Ave Bridge Design Enhancement competition: District 2 has allocated $35K for an open design competition for local artists to design visual enhancements for the bridge. Up to three artists will be hired to create conceptual designs, and include an estimated budget to realize those deigns. There is no funding for fabrication or installation at this time. The call closed in June and a committee is being convened.

Barelas Park – Working Classroom: The Arts Board approved lead artist, PAZ's design for the Alebrijes sculpture with ceramic elements for Barelas Park and the second year of the project in November. The contract for the second phase or year of the project is executed. The base has been installed and Working Classroom has begun applying tile to the base. The next phase will be to create the Alebrije sculpture that will be installed on the base.

South Broadway Mural Redo and AR – Mike Ipiotis and Akilah Martinez: The agreements with Mike Ipiotis for the mural redo and Akilah Martinez for the Augmented Reality components are executed. Mike has begun prepping for the mural redo and Akilah has started developing the AR.

Multi-Year ALMA Project: In March 2026, the Albuquerque Arts Board approved ALMA's design for the second phase or year of the multi-year project. The second phase/year will include community engagement and installation of a concrete sculpture with mosaic tile in the courtyard of the Special Collections Library. The sculpture is complete and ALMA is working with staff to plan a dedication for September 26.

Tijeras Mural – Noé Barnett: In May 2026, the Arts Board approved Noé Barnett's design for the mural on the serpentine wall of Tijeras that serves as a complementary design for his existing mural *Mountain Top*. The contract is executed and staff are meeting with Noé to discuss the newspaper clippings.

SawMural! – Sawmill Art Plan: The Arts Board approved the call for artists for the SawMural! project, a mini-mural arts festival at the August 19, 2026 meeting. The Arts Board's recommendation has been routed for the Administration's approval. The call for artists will be advertised was approved by the Administration. Public Art staff have submitted the application for the Creative Industries FY2027 Public Development Projects for funding for an additional iteration of the project.

District 3

Southwest Safety Call: A total of 56 artist qualifications were submitted. The Committee completed 2 rounds of review and have identified 5 finalists who have submitted proposals for the large-scale sculpture project. The 5 finalists are: Max Baptiste and Rob Vanderslice as an artist team, Paula Castillo, Billy Joe Miller, Karen Yank, and Jeff Zischke. Staff are working with the Committee to review the finalists' proposals.

District 4

Billow Outside the Box – Balloon Fiesta Park Mural – Molly Mendenhall: In May, the Arts Board approved Molly Mendenhall's mural design for the project. The completed mural was dedicated on September 3, 2026 and staff are working with Molly on final deliverables.

Balloon Museum Outdoor Balloon Adventure Mural: In March 2026, staff introduced the Balloon Museum Outdoor Balloon Adventure Mural. The artist will be presented for approval at the September 16, 2026 Arts Board meeting with a final design to be presented at a future Arts Board meeting.

District 6

International District Library – Reyes Padilla: Due to unforeseen costs, project is pivoting in a material sense for the interior glass windows. Interior fireplace mosaic and exterior entry panel will experience no material change. This pivot will not impact overall design. The Contract Amendment for this pivot in materials has been executed. Reyes has been working with A&A Signs to finalize the vinyl element that will be installed on the interior windows of the library in mid-September 2026. The mosaic elements will be completed in a future phase of the project.

Morning Glory Adoption – Billy Joe Miller: The contract for the repair and relocation of Billy Joe Miller's *Morning Glory* to the International District Park, has been executed. Staff are working with the artist and City's Parks & Recreation to make minor changes to the site and coordinate the install at the ID Park in Fall 2026.

Monument to Care – Phil Chacon Park – Harwood Art Center: Through Summer 2026, Harwood Art Center worked with youth artists and community members to create a public art work that honors caretakers and centers stories of care gathered from local residents across the city. The sculpture has been installed and dedicated on August 15, 2026. Harwood will present the second

phase or year of the multi-year project at Phil Chacon Park to the Arts Board at the September 16, 2026 meeting.

District 7

Uptown Sculpture Call: The updated call for artists is closed. Staff are working with the Selection Committee to review the submissions.

District 9

Sandia Science & Technology Park Public Art Project – Ball-Nogues: Artist Benjamin Ball of Ball-Nogues, visited Albuquerque in December 2025 and presented to the SS&TP Advisory Committee. While in Albuquerque, Benjamin also coordinated meetings with Public Art staff and various companies at the park. Ball-Nogues developed a final proposal and budget. Staff are working on an additional design phase agreement for the engineering component of the project with Ball-Nogues. The updated design and contract will then be submitted to the Arts Board and City Council for approval.