



Albuquerque Public Art Program

Department of Arts & Culture

Albuquerque Arts Board

Members in attendance:

- Olivia Amaya Ortiz, Vice Chair, District 2
- Christopher Baca, District 3
- Teisha Holloway, District 9
- Holly Barnet-Sanchez, At-Large
- Dennis Gromelski, At-Large (Zoom)

Vacancies:

- Vacant, District 1
- Vacant, District 5
- Vacant, District 8

Members not in attendance:

- Gabe Gomez, District 4
- Welly Fletcher, District 6
- Caleb Ferganchick, Chair, District 7

Others in Attendance:

- Michael Ogilvie, Division Manager
- Matthew Carter, Collections Manager

- Robyne Robinson, Public Art Planner
- Mandolen Sanchez, Outreach Coordinator
- Noel Begay, Associate Public Art Project Coordinator
- Kristopher Sterling, New Mexico RailRunner Express, Rio Metro
- Erick Corona, SMART49
- Chuck Lees, SMART49
- Katrina Stevens, IMOD
- Benjamin Nelson, IMOD
- Gabriel C-Gonzales, IMOD
- Jaqueline De La Cruz, ALMA
- Margarita Paz Pedro, ALMA
- Jacquelyn Yepa, ALMA
- Shundiin Nakai, ALMA
- Nan Masland, Balloon Museum
- JP, Artist
- Christine West
- Nancy Abruzzo (Zoom), Balloon Museum

Minutes

Wednesday, March 18th, 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** – O. Amaya Ortiz called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.
- II. **Land, Lives, and Peoples Acknowledgement** was read aloud by O. Amaya Ortiz. At this time, C. Baca arrived.
- III. **Approval of the Agenda** – T. Holloway moved to approve the agenda, C. Baca seconded. (Vote: 5 approved)

For: T. Holloway, C. Baca, D. Gromelski, H. Barnet-Sanchez, O. Amaya Ortiz
- IV. **Approval of the Minutes for February 18th, 2026 Meeting** – H. Barnet-Sanchez. moved to approve the minutes, T. Holloway seconded. (Vote: 5 approved)

For: H. Barnet-Sanchez, T. Holloway, D. Gromelski, C. Baca, O. Amaya Ortiz,
- V. **Public Comment – Limited to 3 Minutes:** Kristopher Sterling introduced himself as a representative of New Mexico RailRunner Express, Rio Metro.
- VI. **Approvals**

A. Smart 49 Final Design: T. Holloway moved to approve the final design, O. Amaya Ortiz seconded. (Vote: 5 approved)

For: T. Holloway, O. Amaya Ortiz, C. Baca, D. Gromelski, H. Barnet-Sanchez

B. Rail Yard Tender Repair Mural Project – Artist Selection: T. Holloway moved to approve the artist selection of Shepard Fairey’s studio, C. Baca seconded. (Vote: 5 approved)

For: T. Holloway, C. Baca, O. Amaya Ortiz, H. Barnet-Sanchez, D. Gromelski

C. Adoption of David Santiago’s “Paige”: H. Barnet-Sanchez moved to approve the Adoption, T. Holloway seconded. (Vote: 5 approved) At this time, R. Robinson left the meeting.

For: H. Barnet-Sanchez, T. Holloway, C. Baca, O. Amaya Ortiz, D. Gromelski

D. ALMA 2026 Civic Mosaics Plan – Year 2 Design: T. Holloway moved to approve the design and continuation of year 2, C. Baca seconded. (Vote: 5 approved)

For: T. Holloway, C. Baca, D. Gromelski, H. Barnet-Sanchez, O. Amaya Ortiz

VII. Introductions and Reports

A. Balloon Museum Adventure Mural Project: No motion was made.

B. Tijeras Mural: No motion was made.

C. SawMural! Creative Industries Grant Pre-Application: No motion was made.

D. Unsolicited Proposals Committee Report – Cyclical-Artistic Mentorship Program (CAMP):

H. Barnet-Sanchez moved to approve the proposal from the International Museum of Dance, T. Holloway seconded. (Vote: 5 approved)

For: H. Barnet-Sanchez, T. Holloway, D. Gromelski, C. Baca, O. Amaya Ortiz

VIII. Announcements/Ongoing Project Updates

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

B. Board Announcements: There were no announcements.

C. Project Updates: D. Gromelski and C. Baca inquired about Alebrijes and Tierra Pintada Roundabout

D. Events/Dedications: Opening of the newest gallery exhibition, “Native Voices”, as well as a screening of “She Cried That Day” on April 12th.

IX. New Business: There was no new business.

X. Next Regular Meeting – Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 4:30 to 6:30 P.M.

XI. Adjourn: O. Amaya Ortiz adjourned the meeting at 5:52 p.m.



Agenda Item Number: VI. A
Albuquerque Arts Board
March 19, 2026 Meeting

Title: Smart 49: Rooted in steel: 363 Years of Growing Together

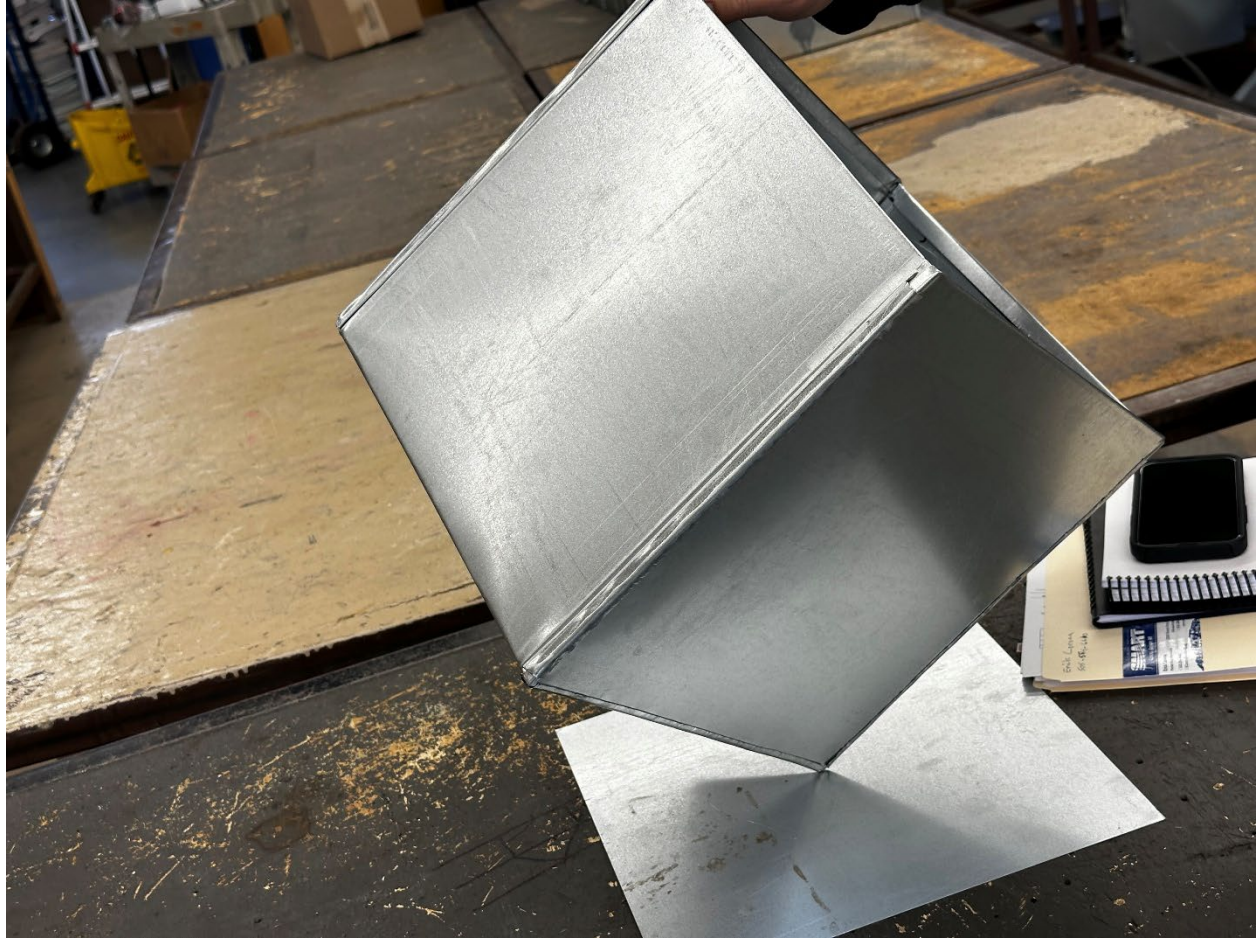
Action: Final design Approval

Project Background: The City of Albuquerque Economic Development Department collaborates with various organizations to promote Job Training Assistance (JTA). The SMART Local Union 49 launched new programs for professional development opportunities in the sheet metal fields. It was suggested that this field would benefit from a public art partnership in order to provide professional development opportunities for welder and metal worker as fabricators that can collaborate with artists.

In order to understand how best such collaborations can be built, the Public Art Program proposes to set up an initial meeting with the local union leadership and identify how artistic projects flow from individual member of their group and how to partner with artistic/artist designers.

Rooted in Steel" is a proposed public art sculpture featuring a **rotated metal cube on a 45- degree axis**, installed at the historic **Rail Yards** in Albuquerque, NM. The sculpture honors **363years of community growth, labor, and love** through etched imagery and welded metalwork, created in collaboration with local fabricators and residents. The cube will serve as a visual tribute to the area's **agricultural roots, industrial legacy, and shared cultural history**.

Budget: 50,000





Agenda Item Number: VI.B.
Albuquerque Arts Board
March 18, 2026 Meeting

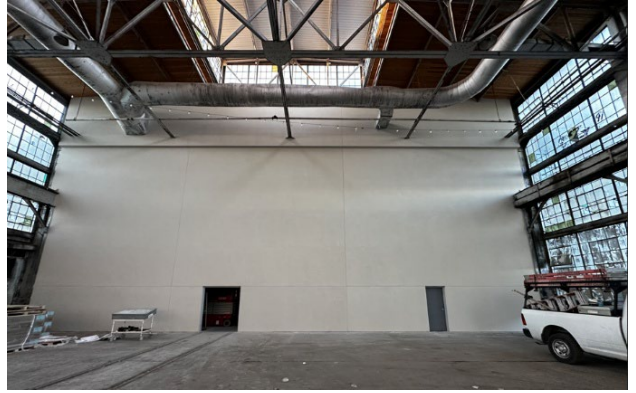
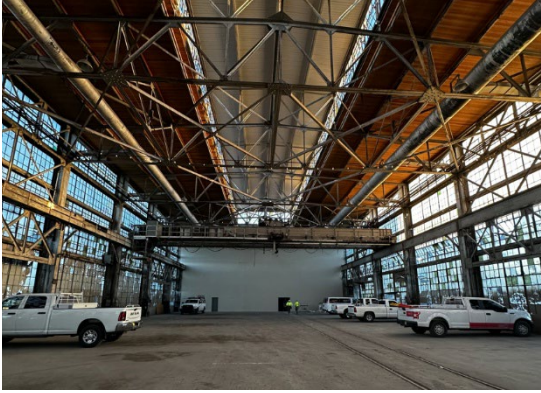
Title: Rail Yard Tender Repair Mural Project Artist Selection

Action: Recommend artist selection

Project Background: At the request of the mayor’s office staff visited the location on November 13, 2025 to do a site evaluation for a mural. The wall is 84’ wide x 40’ high, or 3360 square feet (images below). The first 8ft at the bottom, and 8ft at the top may be excluded to frame the mural in a widescreen format (complementing the idea of the film school which the mural is to go on) and reduce the long-term maintenance burden as most tags occur within the first 8’ from the ground on a wall. The Railyards towering industrial architecture offers the scale and dramatic backdrop ideally suited for a bold visual language. Because of the roofing/canopy the location also offers protection from direct sunlight and inclement weather, giving the mural the added bonus of prospective longevity. The semi-exterior wall that the mural is proposed to be on is now being transformed into the new CNM Film School—a training ground for the next generation of filmmakers, storytellers, and visual innovators. At the December 17, 2025 Arts Board meeting the budget was unanimously recommended by the Arts Board and approved by the mayor. At the January 21, 2026 an update was provided by staff that they were in discussion with Shepard Fairey’s studio regarding the project. Shepard Fairy has agreed to project, with work slated to commence in June/July 2026.

Artist Background: Shepard Fairey is a contemporary street artist, graphic designer, activist, and founder of OBEY Clothing and creative agency Studio Number One. In 1989, while at Rhode Island School of Design studying for his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration, Shepard Fairey created the “Andre the Giant has a Posse” sticker that later evolved into the OBEY GIANT art campaign. In 2008, his portrait of then-Democratic candidate Barack Obama became an internationally recognized emblem of hope. He is known for the “We The People” campaign, which debuted during the 2017 Women’s Marches worldwide. Fairey has painted more than 140 public murals, become one of the most sought-after and provocative artists globally, and changed the way people converse about art and view the urban landscape.

Budget: \$100,000





Agenda Item Number: VI.C.
Albuquerque Arts Board
March 18, 2026 Meeting

Title: Adoption of Artist David Santiago’s work “Paige”

Action: Approval of adoption

Project Background: “Paige” – an illuminated image of a woman reading, was a commissioned work for City Brights II by artist David Santiago, and is installed at the Main Library. Mr. Santiago is offering to donate this artwork to the City of Albuquerque Public Art collection.

Originally intended as a temporary installation, “Paige” is much admired by library staff and visitors and enjoyed from both outside the front entrance and on the second floor. It is well constructed and would work well as a permanent addition at the Main Library. Library leadership is supportive of this adoption.

Formally adopting it into the collection would enhance the collection, and also allow for maintenance/conservation funding down the road for the artwork should that ever be needed.





Agenda Item Number: VI.D
Albuquerque Arts Board
March 19, 2026 Meeting

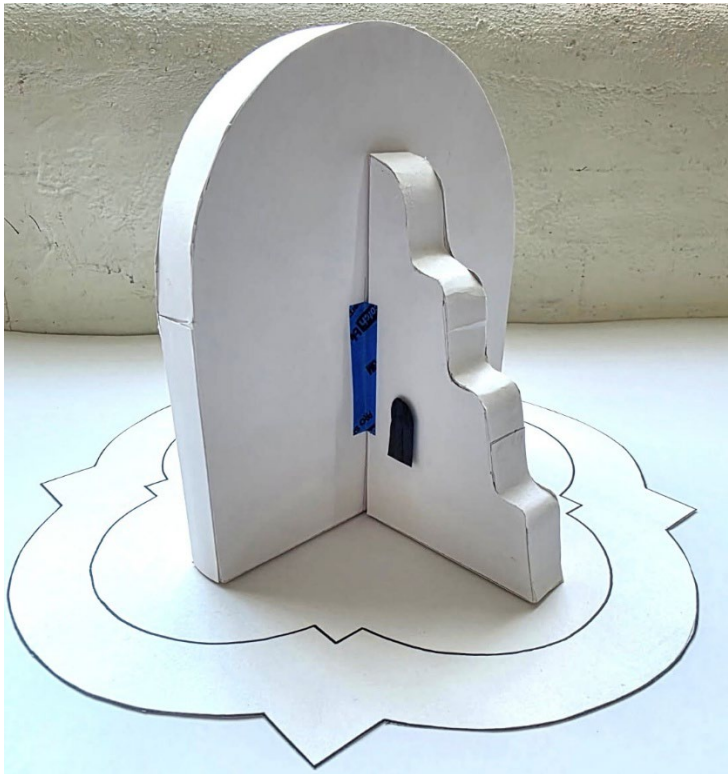
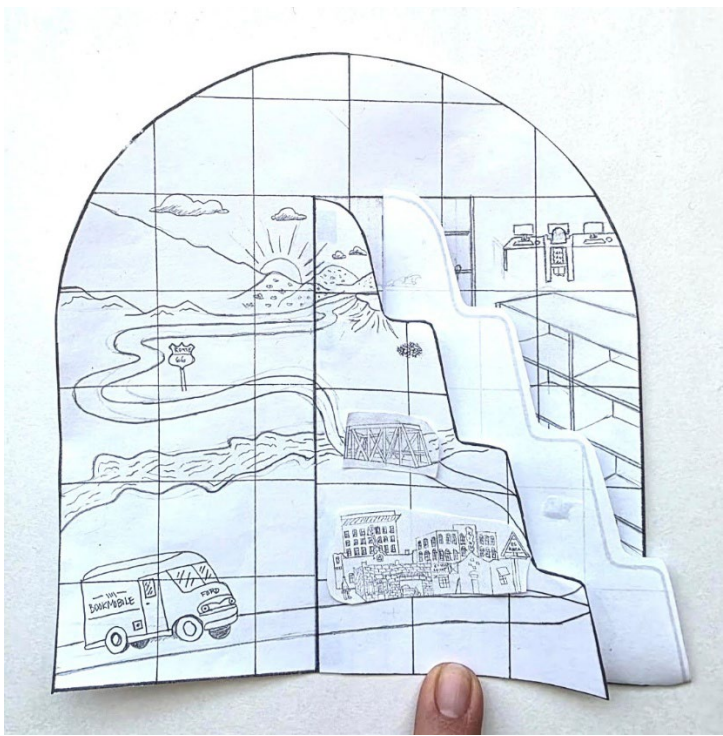
Title: ALMA 2026 Civic Mosaics: Special Collections Library

Action: Approval of Design and Year 2 budget

Project Background: The Civic Mosaic project with ALMA has been a multi-year commitment from the Albuquerque Arts Board. City Leadership requested that the project be moved from the original location along the Rail Trail to an alternative location. ALMA has been working with the Public Art team to identify a new location for this second phase of the project. The new location is the exterior courtyard of the Special Collections Library.

Artist Background: ALMA stands for Apprenticeships for Leaders in Mosaic Arts and was founded in spring 2015 by the leadership team from the Mayor's Art Institute. ALMA is now the administrator for The ALMA Summer Institute (ASI) formally known as Mayor's Art Institute (MAI). MAI had a few different homes in the past; the City of Albuquerque from 1999 - 2005 and the Harwood Art Center from 2006 - 2015. ALMA provides mentorship and training to youth through our apprenticeship model, creates world-class handmade tile mosaic artworks, and provides opportunities for the community to engage with the mosaic process.

Budget: \$75,000







Agenda Item Number: VII.A.
Albuquerque Arts Board
March 18, 2026 Meeting

Title: Balloon Museum Outdoor Balloon Adventure Mural

Action: Introduction of project and budget recommendation

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. Support from the Arts Board for the mural ensures 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.

Artist Background: City administration is in the process of identifying five (5) local artists that that will be invited to submit mural proposals for another mural project at the Balloon Fiesta Restroom Facility for review and consideration. To streamline administrative process, the goal is to pull from that existing process, and provide this opportunity to one of the artists that is not selected for the Balloon Fiesta mural.

Budget: \$50,000





Agenda Item Number: VII. B
Albuquerque Arts Board
March 19, 2026 Meeting

Title: Tijeras Mural Project

Action: Introduction

Project Background: City leadership within the Department of Arts and Culture has requested the creation of a complementary mural across from the existing mural “*Mountain Top*” by Noé Barnett. The proposed mural site is located along Tijeras Drive on the north side of the street when traveling east. The location features a serpentine wall that provides an ideal surface for a new mural installation.

To ensure a cohesive visual relationship with the existing artwork, a **direct artist selection** process has been requested for this project.

Artist Background: Noé Barnett a muralist and painter, infuses the streets with life through his vibrant creations. A native of Albuquerque, NM, Barnett's roots have shaped his approach to art.

Budget: \$45,000





Agenda Item Number: VII.C.
Albuquerque Arts Board
March 18, 2026 Meeting

Title: SawMural! Creative Industries Grant Pre-Application

Action: Introduction of project

Project Background: The east side of the Sawmill Segment Trail—an uninterrupted 1,000-foot stretch of decomposed granite—offers a rare blank canvas within the city’s landscape. With minimal infrastructure and wide-open sightlines, this corridor is perfectly suited for a bold artistic intervention. SawMural! Mini-Mural Festival would transform the trail into a dynamic open-air gallery by installing up to thirty durable Taycar exhibition frames, spaced along the path to create a vibrant sequence of mini-murals. Commissioned local artists would each produce a 48” x 72” panel, bringing diverse styles, stories, and community networks into the project. The result would be a visually striking cultural experience—an accessible, walkable celebration of local creativity that activates the trail, attracts visitors, and culminates in a lively public opening with music, food trucks, vendors, and community engagement. Once the exhibition concludes, the artworks would enter the city’s permanent collection, extending the festival’s impact far beyond the trail. To help augment the initiative, the project could be submitted to the State’s Creative Industries Public Development Projects pre-application—a strong match for the program’s goals and a promising opportunity to build momentum, secure future funding, and elevate the festival’s visibility as it grows.

Artist Background: no artist selected

Budget: \$150,000





Agenda Item Number: VII. D

Albuquerque Arts Board

March 18th 2026 Meeting

Title: International Museum of Dance (I.M.O.D.) Cyclical-Artistic Mentorship Program with the Son of Picasso

Action: Board Approval of Unsolicited Committee Recommendation

Project Background: The International Museum of Dance (I.M.O.D.) submitted an Unsolicited Proposal centered on the Cyclical Artistic Mentorship Program (CAMP), a youth-focused initiative combining mentorship, textile-based art practices, and community programming led by artist The Son of Picasso (SoP).

The proposal primarily describes a community mentorship program and public events, including youth workshops and fashion presentations. Because the City of Albuquerque’s Unsolicited Proposal process is funded by the Capital Improvements Program and expenditures are restricted per ordinance, the acquisition of specific tangible artworks as defined by the ordinance rather than program funding is required. The committee focused on identifying tangible artworks within the proposal that could be considered for inclusion in the City’s Public Art Collection.

One artwork identified for acquisition is “Stitched in Tradition,” a proposed 60” x 48” mixed-media painting on denim fabric canvas by The Son of Picasso. The work incorporates ledger imagery, acrylic painting, screen-printing, and Japanese boro stitching techniques. The artwork explores themes of ancestral resilience and cultural storytelling through contemporary textile-based art practices.

Additional collection items include two textile-based garments created through the mentorship process, which the applicant proposes to present as framed works derived from the themes of the primary painting. Which would be a Triptych of TEXTILE + PAINTING + TEXTILE. The proposal also references a documentary or art film documenting the mentorship program and community engagement process.

The broader CAMP program proposes four youth workshops across Albuquerque and two public fashion presentations aligned with cultural heritage celebrations. These programmatic elements provide context for the artwork development but would not be funded directly through the Unsolicited Proposal process.

Artist Background: The Son of Picasso (SoP) is a multidisciplinary Indigenous artist of Kiowa, Diné, and Taos Pueblo descent known for blending traditional cultural imagery with contemporary textile and mixed-media practices. His work frequently incorporates ledger-style imagery, fashion design, and textile techniques, connecting ancestral storytelling with modern artistic expression. SoP has received multiple first-place awards and “Best of Show” recognitions at the Santa Fe Indian Market (SWAIA), making him one of the youngest artists to achieve repeated top placements at the event. In addition to his studio practice,

he leads community-based workshops and mentorship programs, guiding youth artists in textile, painting, and fashion-based creative processes. His work emphasizes cultural resilience, intergenerational mentorship, and Indigenous identity through contemporary art forms.

Budget: \$30,000.00

March 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: The Gallery One Committee has identified group exhibitions for late 2026 and early 2027. Staff are confirming exhibition schedules for announcement in March 2026. The next exhibition is *Native Voices: Celebrating Native Artistry*, an exhibition curated by Cameron Ward of Art Off the Rails featuring 22 artists. *Native Voices* opens on Thursday, March 19, 2026 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Art Vault: Staff have met with the 4 selected artists and are working finalizing the contracts. The first installation will be on view in May 2026.

No District/Multiple Districts Projects

Public Art Podcast – Take Another Look: The Public Art Podcast, *Take Another Look*, now has 27 episodes. Learn more at <https://cabq.gov/publicart/podcast>. The upcoming podcast episodes will focus on the centennial of Route 66.

Conservation/Maintenance: Ongoing conservation and maintenance projects include *Numbe Whaghe*, *Flyway*, and *Camera Man*.

Larger conservation and maintenance projects include:

- *Bosque Rio Sunset (Montaño Bridge)* – Staff are working with artist Dave Decker and paint company on getting a final estimate for complete restoration of the piece in District 5 with a potential start date slated for May 2026.
- *Nob Hill Gateways* – Staff are working with Zeon signs to restore the neon. The estimated completion date is March 2026.
- *Revivir* – Staff are working on the restoration and reinstallation of *Revivir* to the Route 66 Visitor Center, with install slated for March 2026.
- *Tri-Centennial Towers* – Staff are working to procure quotes from electrical contractors for major electrical and lighting repairs.

2-D Call for Art: In February 2026, the Arts Board approved the purchase of 27 works. Staff are working on finalizing the individual purchase agreements.

Multi-Year ALMA Project: ALMA is working on the first phase of the multi-year project including infrastructure planning and community engagement to develop mosaic tiles for installations at multiple sites throughout the city. Staff are working with ALMA to identify locations.

Terra Prime: The 13 Terra Prime artists are working on their artwork for the Gallery One exhibition in late Summer 2026.

2026 Juneteenth Annual Exhibition: Staff are working to identify members for the Juneteenth Selection Committee.

Avanyu Azul – Sean Rising Sun Flanagan: In February 2026, the Arts Board approved the purchase of Sean’s stylized steel sculpture *Avanyu Azul*. Staff are working on finalizing the purchase agreement and will work with the artist to identify a suitable location for display.

District 1

Tierra-Pintada and Mirehaven Roundabout Sculpture – Edgar Cruz: Staff are working with Edgar to further develop the design to be brought back to the Board for approval.

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 with a potential satellite raft location at Elena Gallegos Open Space in District 8. This location will require extensive community outreach and possibly 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.

Naomi is also working with staff to coordinate a collaborative installation in Gallery One to help inform her public art work and Artist at Work project with El Centro and Keshet. The gallery installation is slated for late 2026.

District 2

ACC Fresco – Frederico Vigil: Staff have identified an additional apprentice to support Vigil in completing the 2,500+ square foot Buon fresco project in the stairwell of the Albuquerque Convention Center by December 2026.

City Brights III: Three of the nine City Brights III installations have launched. More installations will launch in April 2026 during ArtWalk.

City Brights IV: In January, the Arts Board approved the fourth iteration of City Brights featuring *Fantastic Animals from Mexico: Alebrijes and Nahuales*, a temporary touring exhibit of sculptures. The contract has been routed for signature.

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

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 designs. There is no funding for fabrication or installation.

Rooted in Steel – SMART49: Staff are coordinating a meeting with SMART49 to check on progress of the final design. The final design will be presented to the Arts Board in March 2026. The expected completion date for the project is May 2026.

NMFMA Rail Yards Mural – Jade Cruz: The wall has been prepped and Jade is expected to begin painting the week of March 16, 2026. The mural is expected to be completed by May or June 2026.

Rail Yard Tender Repair Mural Project: Staff are recommending Shepard Fairey’s studio for the mural project for Arts Board approval in March 2026.

Barelas Park – Working Classroom: The Arts Board approved lead artist, PAZ’s design for the alebrije sculpture with ceramic elements for Barelas Park and the second year of the project in November. Staff are working with Working Classroom on the contract for the second phase or year of the project.

South Broadway Mural Redo and AR – Mike Ipiotis and Akilah Martinez: Staff are finalizing agreements for the redo of the South Broadway Mural and Augmented Reality components.

District 3

Southwest Safety Call: A total of 56 artist qualifications were submitted. The Committee is on the second round of review to identify up to five finalists to develop proposals for the large-scale sculpture project.

District 4

Spirit of Balloon Fiesta Mural: The Selection Committee will identify artists to invite to submit designs for the project, mural timeline, and future meeting dates.

Del Norte Neighborhood Mural – David Santiago: In February 2026, the Arts Board approved David Santiago’s mural *Seasons of New Mexico* for the long cinder block wall on San Pedro Drive NE within the Del Norte Neighborhood. Staff are working on finalizing the contract. The project is expected to be complete by June 2026.

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.

Morning Glory Adoption – Billy Joe Miller: Staff are working with Billy Joe and Parks & Recreation on the conservation and relocation of *Morning Glory* to the International District Park in late Spring/Summer 2026.

Phil Chacon Park – Harwood Art Center: Through Fall 2025 and Summer 2026, Harwood Art Center is working 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.

District 7

Uptown Sculpture Call: The updated call for artists is live. Staff have notified artists who submitted to the original call.

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 is putting together a final proposal and budget to be presented to the Arts Board. The updated design and contract will then be submitted to City Council for approval.