



Civic Arts Commission

Public Art Subcommittee Meeting

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

3:30 PM

PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

To attend this meeting using a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device, click:

<https://cityofberkeley-info.zoomgov.com/j/1616125937>. If you wish to participate at a Public Comment portions of the agenda, click the **Raise Hand** icon, located under **Reactions**, and wait to be recognized by the Committee Chair. Time limits on Public Comment will apply. To attend this meeting using a telephone, dial **(669) 254-5252** and when prompted enter **Meeting ID 161 612 5937**. To electronically submit Public Comment, e-mail civicarts@berkeleyca.gov. In the Subject Line type **Public Comment and Agenda Item #**. Please observe a 150-word limit.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City of Berkeley recognizes that the community we live in was built on the territory of Huchiun (*Hooch-yoon*), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo (*Cho-chen-yo*) speaking Ohlone (*Oh-low-nee*) people, the ancestors and descendants of the sovereign Verona (*Vuh-roh-nuh*) Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to all of the Ohlone Tribes and descendants of the Verona Band. We acknowledge and honor the original inhabitants of Berkeley, the documented 5,000-year history of a vibrant community at the West Berkeley Shellmound, and the Ohlone people who continue to reside in the East Bay. We recognize that Berkeley residents have and continue to benefit from the use and occupation of this unceded stolen land since the City of Berkeley incorporation in 1878. As stewards of the laws regulating the City of Berkeley, it is not only vital that we recognize the history of this land, but also recognize that the Ohlone people are present members of Berkeley and other East Bay communities today. The City of Berkeley will continue to build relationships with the Lisjan (*Lih-Shawn*) Tribe and create meaningful actions that uphold the intention of this Land Acknowledgement.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

4. CHAIR REPORT

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

- a) Discussion: Proposal for Cube Space Exhibition, April 2025 – June 2025 (20 min.) (Attachment 1)
Introduction: Mark Salinas, Public Art Program Lead. Presented by William Hernández Luege, Cube Space Curator

Possible Action: Approval of April 2025 – June 2025 Cube Space Artist
Public Comment

6. STAFF REPORT

7. COMMUNICATIONS

8. ADJOURNMENT

Attachments:

1. Proposal for Cube Space Exhibition, April 2025 – June 2025

Staff Contact:

Mark Salinas, Public Art Program Lead
msalinas@berkeleyca.gov / (510) 981-7538

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ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION: To request disability-related accommodations to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Compliance Program by phone (510) 981-6418 or by TTY (510) 981-6347 at least three business days before the meeting date.

April-June Cube Space

Artist: Joanna Keane Lopez

Curator: William Hernandez Luege

About the artist

Sculptor and Social Practice Artist

- Combines minimalist sculpture, adobe architecture, and land-based traditions to explore themes of place and identity in the American West.
- Continues the teachings of *enjarradoras* and *adoberas*, women specializing in traditional adobe craftsmanship, to honor and revitalize vernacular architectural practices.
- Has exhibited nationally at institutions including SITE Santa Fe, The Momentary of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, and the National Hispanic Cultural Center Art Museum.

Education

- Graduated with a BFA from the University of New Mexico. Graduated MFA from Stanford University.
- Studied under renowned *enjarradoras* Anita Rodríguez and Carole Crews, gaining hands-on experience in traditional adobe practices.
- Participated in artist residencies at A-Z West and Ucross Foundation and is currently at the Headlands further developing her interdisciplinary approach.



Impact of the Cube Space

Curatorial Overview

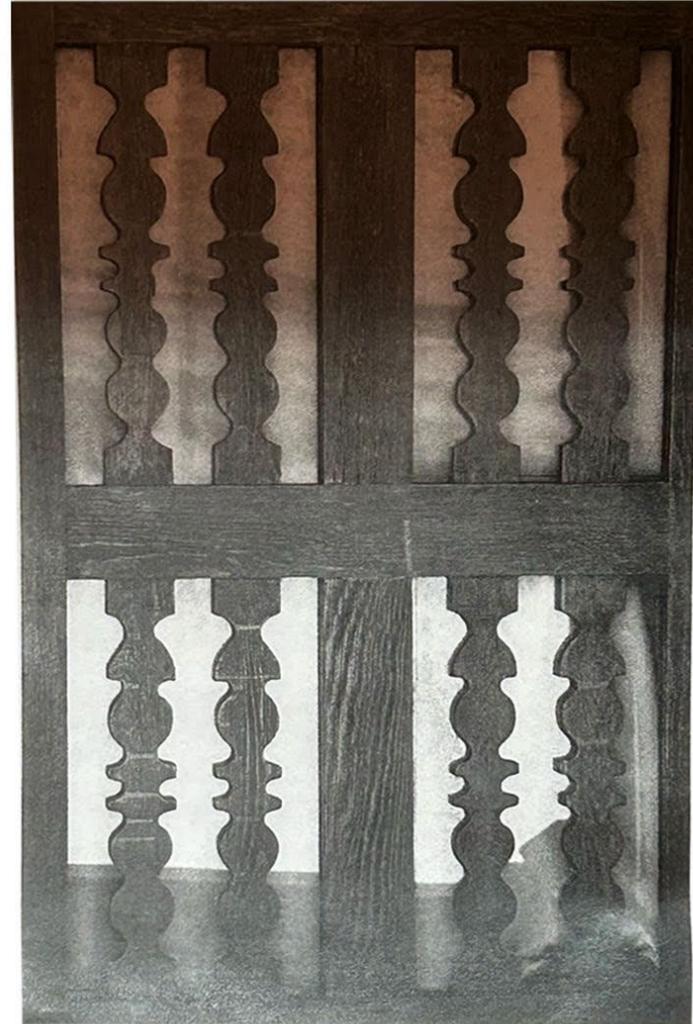
- This project provides the artist with the opportunity to expand their practice by integrating materials like adobe, ceramic, and wood to explore scale, light, and materiality in innovative ways.
- Cube Space allows the artist to move beyond traditional methods of sculptural practice, emphasizing experimentation and site-specific design within its unique setting.

For the City of Berkeley

- Cube Space enhances Berkeley's cultural landscape by fostering connections between regional material traditions and contemporary artistic innovation.
- The project strengthens ties between Cube Space and other arts organizations within the Bay Area, building on existing collaborations and encouraging deeper engagement with the local community.

Recognition and Future Growth

- Her work has attracted attention from institutions across the country, and would bolster Cube Space's visibility with an emerging artist who is making national waves.





Joanna Keane Lopez

Batter my heart, three person'd God, 2024

Adobe, ponderosa pine, colcha embroidery,
churro wool, linen, natural dye, tin, digital
print

Joanna Keane Lopez
Ghost Spell, 2023
Adobe, pine, paper, linen



Joanna Keane Lopez
A Poem for Blessing Clay, 2022
Adobe, land-sourced colored clays



Key Themes

Subjectivity and Objecthood

The Dialogue of Earthen and Architectural Forms:

- A wooden structure with intricate cutouts stands as a monumental reinterpretation of vernacular architecture, backlit to emphasize its delicate symmetry.
- The circular ceramic base, glazed soft pink, supports an adobe mud plaster fragment painted with *aliz*, connecting contemporary artistic practice to traditional material histories.

Bridging Regions and Histories:

- Combines Southwestern earthen traditions with Bay Area innovation, inviting viewers to consider the poetic potential of humble, land-based materials.
- Highlights the enduring relevance of adobe and clay as vessels of cultural memory and contemporary storytelling.

Layered Perception and Illumination:

- The backlit wooden panel creates a dynamic interplay of light and shadow, transforming its cutout patterns into ethereal, performative shapes.
- This theatrical lighting draws attention to the texture and depth of each material, inviting viewers to engage in slow, deliberate observation.

