



**Civic Arts Commission
Public Art Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday, May 1, 2025
3:30 PM**

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

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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)

Office of Economic Development - Civic Arts | 2180 Milvia St, Berkeley, CA 94704 | civicsarts@berkeleyca.gov

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

5. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- a) **Action Item:** Proposal for Cube Space Exhibition, July 2025 – September 2025 (20 min.)

Introduction: Mark Salinas, Public Art Program Lead. Presented by William Hernández Luege, Cube Space Curator. (Attachment 1)

Recommendation: Approval of Cube Space Exhibition, July 2025 – September 2025

Public Comment

- b) **Action Item:** Review Public Art Subcommittee FY25 Work Plan and draft FY26 Work Plan (25 minutes)

Recommendation: Approval of draft FY26 Work Plan. (Attachment 2)

Public Comment

6. STAFF REPORT

7. COMMUNICATIONS

8. ADJOURNMENT

Attachments:

1. Proposal for Cube Space Exhibition, July 2025 – September 2025
2. Public Art Subcommittee FY25 Work Plan

Staff Contact:

Mark Salinas, Public Art Program Lead

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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.

July – September 2025

Cube Space

Artist: Carolina Cuevas

Curator: William Hernandez Luege

About the artist

Artistic Practice and Thematic Focus

- Carolina Cuevas is an interdisciplinary artist whose work explores altar-making, ritual, and language as evolving cultural forms rooted in both American and Caribbean traditions.
- She combines textiles, clay, and foraged materials to investigate oral history, community building, and the interplay between interior and exterior worlds.
- Her practice centers on material storytelling, using processes like weaving and assemblage to reflect on spiritual inheritance, place, and cultural adaptation.

Education

- Based partly in the Bay Area, she received her MFA from California College of the Arts and her BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute.
- Her work has been exhibited at ICA San Francisco, Berkeley Art Center, Minnesota Street Project, and internationally in Hungary.
- She has received awards from the Knight Foundation, Cultura Power Fellowship, Barclay Simpson Award, and Cadogan Contemporary Art Award; her work is in the permanent collection of the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles.



Impact of the Cube Space

Curatorial Overview

- Selected Carolina Cuevas as the final artist to unify the themes presented throughout the program.
- Her emphasis on textile acts as a conceptual and material bridge between ideas of interiority and exteriority.
- Textile functions as both boundary and medium; weaving becomes the generative act that constructs or challenges these divisions.

For the City of Berkeley

- Reinforces Cube Space's role in connecting regional material traditions with contemporary artistic practices.
- Strengthens relationships with other Bay Area arts organizations that have exhibited Cuevas's work.
- Carries personal significance as a Cuban curator—opportunity to share underrepresented aspects of Caribbean culture in a region with a small Caribbean community.

Recognition and Future Growth

- Cuevas's work has drawn growing local attention and enthusiasm.
- With her time now split between the Bay Area and East Coast, this project responds to the broader challenge of retaining artists in the region.
- Serves as a form of advocacy for supporting emerging artists to establish and sustain practices within the Bay Area's increasingly inaccessible landscape.





Carolina Cuevas
La distancia no importa cuando el amor es verdadero, 2023
Raw clay, plants, cotton yarn

Carolina Cuevas
Mezcla con Tierra, 2023
fiber, clay, madder root





Carolina Cuevas
Ones That Receive, 2022
fiber, heddle, dowel,
backstrap, varies in size



Key Themes

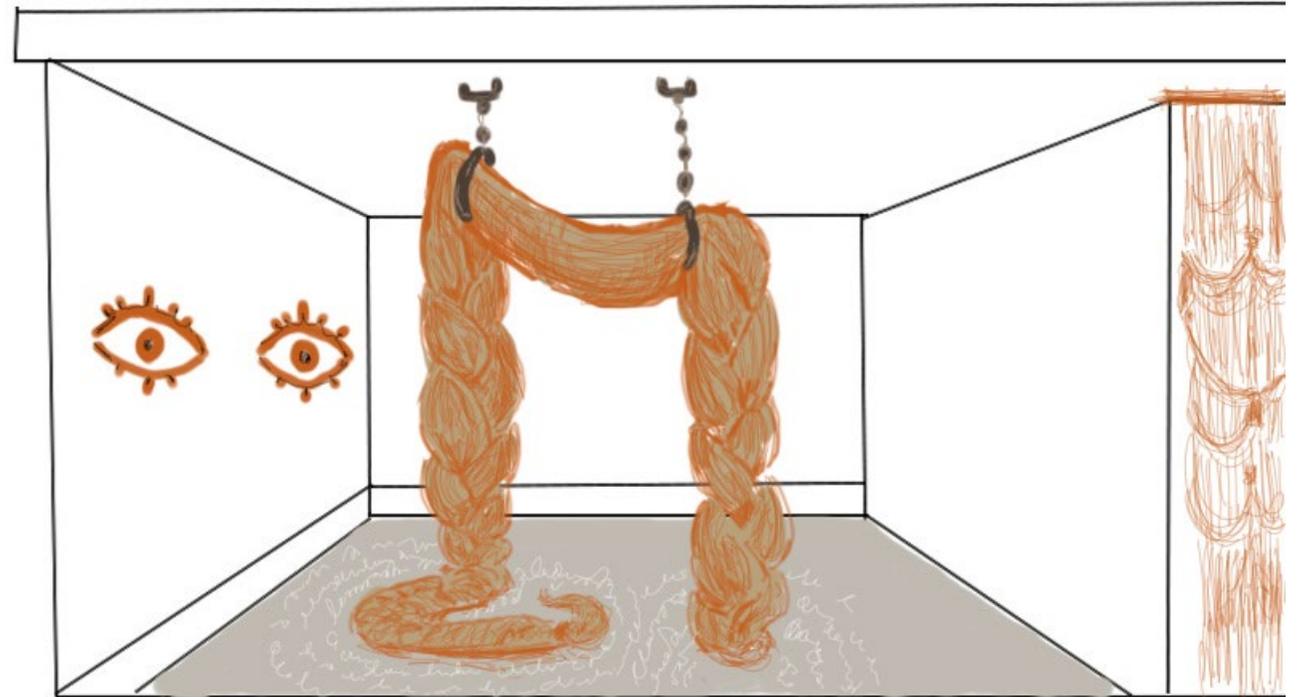
Embodied Devotion and Material Ritual

The Language of Textile:

- A woven textile made to resemble hair becomes a symbolic stand-in for the body, invoking the intimacy and tactility of personal offering.
- Inspired by the Caribbean practice of *promesas*—devotional commitments often involving hair—the work reframes the body as an altar, evoking time through ritual and transformation.

Temporal Fragility and Spiritual Traces:

- Incorporates written elements in chalk that are designed to wash away over time, emphasizing impermanence and spiritual transience.
- Painted eyes on the windows (window-friendly paint) reference their role as potent symbols in Caribbean spirituality, infusing the site with quiet, watchful presence.
- Through ephemeral and devotional materials, the work becomes a meditation on timekeeping, faith, and the intersection of personal and collective memory.



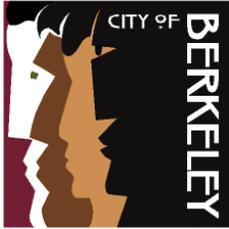
Supplemental Images:



Proposed hook mechanism for hanging the work



The artist's bother braiding her hair, the inspiration for the work.



Civic Arts Commission

Final Civic Arts Commission FY25 Work Plan

Approved September 25, 2024 Civic Arts Commission

Policy Subcommittee

1. Continue participation with staff and in consultation with the Housing Advisory Commission to advise on the development of policies and initiatives to create affordable housing for Artists and Cultural Workers in the City of Berkeley culminating in a referral response to City Council and advocacy to fund resulting affordable housing programs.
2. Advocate for the designation of an arts district in West Berkeley.

Grants Subcommittee

1. Advocate year-round to Council for increased funding allocations for the Community Festivals Grants and the Capital Projects Grants.
2. Pending approval of a potential Arts Funding Ballot Measure, participate with staff in development of new Arts Funding Grant categories and provide oversight on the implementation of that program.

Public Art Subcommittee

1. Participate with staff and a consultant in the development of a Public Art Strategic Plan for the City of Berkeley with input from the community and other stakeholders, which will provide a framework for developing new public art projects, funding for community-initiated public art projects, and evaluation of Council referrals for public art, as well as updating the Public Art Guidelines and other City Policies to reflect best practices.
2. Complete backlog of public art projects identified in previous fiscal years (Attachment 1) and the Public Art Strategic Plan before initiating new public art projects for implementation by Civic Arts staff.
3. Contingent on obtaining funding, review an impact fee nexus study and evaluate possible amendments to the Public Art in Private Development Ordinance.

**Attachment 1: List of Public Art Projects Included in Previous Fiscal Years (FY19 – FY24)
Work Plans and Council Referrals**

Active (Listed Alphabetically):

1. Aquatic Park tile wall
2. BART Plaza Sound Installation (Ongoing programming and equipment repair)
3. Framed Art Purchases for City Buildings
4. Home sculpture de-installation
5. Homelessness Social Practice: Daniel Freeman Project
6. Homelessness Social Practice: Deirdre Weinberg Project
7. Homelessness Social Practice: Sue Mark Project
8. Jean LaMarr sculptural seating and grinding rock at Ohlone Park
9. Lara Kaur artwork at West Service Center
10. Measure T-1: MLK Youth Service Center
11. Measure T-1: Willard Clubhouse
12. Municipal Artists in Residence with Planning
13. Peace Wall Conservation
14. Po Shu Wang Signage and Bell
15. Re-installation of Romare Bearden artwork
16. Turtle Island Monument
17. Utility Box Mural Program (Assessment and Implementation of Recommendations)
18. William Wareham sculpture conservation and reinstallation

Not Started (Listed in Prioritized Order):

1. Eric Powell Gates Conservation
2. Santa Fe Right of Way Park
3. Dona Spring Memorial (Council Referral)
4. Measure T-1: South Berkeley Senior Center (Building project not yet started)
5. Measure T-1: African American Health Resource Center (Building project not yet started)
6. Aquatic Park sculpture
7. City Flag, Song, and Motto (Council Referral)
8. Hidden Gems: Berkeley Hills Stairways
9. Mural Commemorating Black Lives Matter Movement
10. Telegraph Avenue Public Art Project
11. Telegraph Crosswalk Murals (Council Referral)
12. Harrison Street Corridor Project
13. Replacement Mural for Center for Independent Living (Council Referral)
14. Family Friendly Art (Council Referral)