



**Civic Arts Commission
Public Art Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday, June 4, 2026
4:00 PM**

To attend this meeting by computer or smart device, join via Zoom at: <https://cityofberkeley-info.zoomgov.com/j/1616125937>. To provide public comment during the meeting, click the **Raise Hand** icon (located under **Reactions**) and wait to be recognized by the Committee Chair. To attend by phone, dial **1-669-254-5252** and enter Meeting ID: **161 612 5937**. To submit public comment by email, send your comments to civicarts@berkeleyca.gov with the subject line: **“PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM #”** (replace # with the applicable agenda item number). Please limit comments to **150 words**. Time limits apply to all public comments.

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 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’S REPORT

5. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- a) **Action Item:** Cube Space exhibition proposal by Abian Alvarez, July – October 2026. (20 minutes).
Introduced by Mark Salinas, Public Art Program Lead. Presented by Cube Space Curator Kevin Chen and Abiam Alvarez. (Attachment 1).
Recommendation: Approval of Cube Space exhibition by Abiam Alvarez, July – October 2026.
Public Comment
- b) **Action Item:** Finalize Public Art Subcommittee FY 27 Workplan (40 minutes).
Introduced by Mark Salinas, Public Art Program Lead. (Attachment 2).
Recommendation: Approval of Public Art Subcommittee FY 27 Workplan.
Public Comment
- c) **Discussion Item:** Civic Arts Budget (20 minutes)
Introduced by Eduardo Pineda, Public Art Subcommittee Chair
Public Comment

6. STAFF REPORT

7. ADJOURNMENT

Attachments:

1. Cube Space exhibition proposal by Abian Alvarez, July – October 2026.
2. Public Art Subcommittee FY 27 Workplan

Staff Contact:

Mark Salinas, Public Art Program Lead
msalinas@berkeleyca.gov / 510.981.7538

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**Cube Space July - October 2026
Artist: Abiam Alvarez | Curator: Kevin B. Chen**

Abiam Alvarez is a ceramicist based in Gilroy, California. He spent the first nine years of his life in Leon Guanajuato, Mexico, before immigrating to California in 1999, where he settled in the small farming town of Firebaugh. In Firebaugh, he was inspired by his experience in the agricultural industry, where he spent his summers working in the fields. Abiam's artwork is rooted in the Central Valley, and speaks of the labors and political issues surrounding agriculture, consumerism, and immigrant workers.

A first-generation college graduate, Abiam earned his B.A. in art and design with an emphasis in ceramics and sculpture from California State University, Fresno, and later completed his MFA in Spatial Art at San Jose State University in 2019. With 19 years of experience in ceramics, he has been teaching the subject at both the high school and collegiate levels for 13 years. He continues to expand his knowledge of contemporary and historical ceramic processes.

Abiam is passionate about both pottery and sculpture. His work focuses on creating representational ceramic sculptures of produce, juxtaposed with elements such as vessels, chunks of soil, and tools—symbols of the labor involved in fieldwork. His sculptures honor farm workers by showcasing the fruits of their labor. Most recently, Abiam has been exploring ceramic 3D printing, crafting vessels that emphasize patterns and how glazes interact with those designs. Abiam was the 2025 Content Emerging Artist Award recipient, and his work has been exhibited extensively in the West Coast, including the Santa Paula Art Museum and Palo Alto Art Center.

Previous Works

Abundance:
Abiam Alvarez



















































San Jose State University MFA Thesis Exhibition

curated by Brent B. Chan

Revolving Machine

Michael S. Brown

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Public Art Subcommittee FY 27 Workplan

Strategic Planning and Program Direction

- Collaborate with Civic Arts staff and Dyson/Womack to develop a Public Art Strategic Plan for the City of Berkeley. The Plan will identify the steps, strategies, and actions needed to shape, strengthen, and evolve the Civic Arts Program. It will include recommendations to stabilize and sustain the Public Art Program in service of the community, including best practices, policy updates, and guidance on project prioritization and discontinuation. The Plan will build upon previous policy achievements and planning efforts adopted by the City Council.
- Review and approve the FY27 Work Plan for projects funded through Funds 148 and 150.

Project Prioritization and Backlog Management

- Continue the pause on new staff-implemented public art projects until the existing backlog of projects is addressed and the Public Art Strategic Plan is completed, consistent with prior Civic Arts Commission direction from April 26, 2023.
- Permit Civic Arts staff to honor the mission, spirit, and community intent of “not started” projects through projects currently in progress, ongoing initiatives, and staff-proposed solutions until the Public Art Strategic Plan is completed and approved.

Public Art Project Review and Artist Selection

- Review and approve public art projects at key development milestones presented by staff.
- Actively promote and distribute public art RFQs through professional networks, artist communities, and relevant community channels.
- Represent the Public Art Subcommittee on RFQ selection panels when possible.

Public Engagement and Civic Arts Programming

- Support the development, visibility, and public engagement of Civic Arts programming and public art platforms, including Cube Space, the Downtown Berkeley BART Plaza Sound Art Program, and other current or emerging initiatives that support artists, inspire collaboration, and connect audiences with Berkeley’s public art ecosystem.