

**PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
November 17, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.  
Padua Room  
1700 Danbury Road, Claremont CA 91711

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Pearsall called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: BENNETT, PEARSALL,  
SPECTOR, WHEELER

**ABSENT**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: ACOCK, BAKER

**ALSO PRESENT**

Bevin Handel, Public Information Officer  
Melanie Martinez, Administrative Assistant

**CEREMONIAL MATTERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** - None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Pearsall invited public comment.

There were no requests to speak.

Chair Pearsall closed public comment.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM**

**El Barrio Park Public Art Project Artist Selection**

Bevin Handel, Public Information Officer, gave a brief overview of the history of the El Barrio Park Public Art Project and key dates that have had an impact on the timeline. PIO Handel gave a detailed accounting of the project's artist selection process and numerous community engagement events. PIO Handel discussed the meeting's agenda and provided information on how the public could provide feedback to the Committee.

PIO Handel then invited artist Jose Antonio Aguirre to present his design concept proposal to the Public Art Committee.

Artist Antonio Aguirre gave a detailed presentation of an art concept and provided visuals of how the potential layout will be at El Barrio. During the presentation, Artist Antonio Aguirre expressed his interest of working with the community and neighborhood more when choosing the images for his art piece. He stressed that the photos in the

presentation were examples and that the final photos selected for the final project would be selected by the community. The proposal consists of tile and mosaic on the back of the existing park monument sign, NeoSteles, and an art piece covering each of the exterior walls of the restroom. Mr. Aguirre discussed how the community would be a part of the mosaic setting process. The total cost of the proposal is \$70,000. He added that two mosaic pieces worth \$22,000 for the restroom walls would be donated pieces from his collection and donors.

The Committee asked questions of Mr. Aguirre regarding the timeline, materials, and budget.

Chair Pearsall invited public comment.

Tony Baltierra asked questions on the photo selection. He grew up in west barrio and would like to see representation from both barrios.

Al Villeneuve expressed his support in Jose Antonio Aguirre's proposal and how it will be a great choice for the park. He gave a history of the park and its founding. The mural idea came from discussions when the park renovation was being planned. Arbol Verde Preservation Committee was the driving factor for park and this public art project.

David Shearer gave history of the neighborhood and significance of the project.

Chair Pearsall closed public comment.

PIO Handel invited the artist group of Alba Cisneros, Cathy Garcia, and Athena Hahn to present their proposal to the Public Art Committee. The group presented an art mural and three mosaic pillars that will have mosaic titling. The group expressed interest in collaborating with the community when choosing the final photos and imagery that would be used on the pillars and in the mural. The total cost of the proposal is \$115,000.

Chair Pearsall invited public comment.

Al Villeneuve expressed his concerns regarding having both sides of the neighborhood shown in the mural.

Lena Serrato provided information on a petition from the neighborhood with support for Jose Antonio Aguirre's proposal. Copies of the petition were provided to the Committee.

Anonymous – Would like to know where the photos in the proposal are from and would they be changed? Additionally, would QR codes be added to the pillars and mural?

Anonymous – Why were certain icons and images used to represent the park rather than using factual documents/pictures?

Lydia Henry requested wording added to the art pieces for individuals not comfortable with technology and QR codes. Also expressed concern on allowing more time for the community to review the proposals. Requested the item be continued.

David Shearer provide clarification on the options for the Committee moving forward.

Anonymous – Did not see the history of racism depicted and would like to make sure it is addressed.

Additional questions and comments were provided to the Committee.

Chair Pearsall closed public comment.

The Public Art Committee discussed their concerns with each project proposal, the project budget, and voted to have staff bring the item back at the next meeting for a final decision to allow for more review time for the community and Committee.

***Committee Member Pearsall moved to bring back the item to the Public Art Committee at the next meeting to allow for more community review and discussion, Second by Committee Member Wheeler and carried on the following vote:***

***AYES: Committee Member – Bennett, Pearsall, Spector, Wheeler***

***NOES: Committee Member - None***

***ABSENT: Committee Member – Acock, Baker***

### **CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMENT**

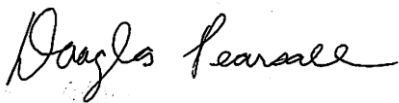
Chair Pearsall asked for public comment.

There were no additional requests to speak.

Chair Pearsall closed public comment.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.



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Douglas Pearsall  
Chair

ATTEST:

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Melanie Martinez  
Recording Secretary