



## ARTS COMMISSION

Monday, April 13, 2026

Council Chambers

505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

5:00 P.M.

### - A G E N D A -

- 1) Call to Order (Ervin)
- 2) Approval of Minutes
- 3) Chair's Announcements (Ervin)
- 4) Commissioner, Council and Staff Communications
- 5) Public Communications - *To assist the Arts Commission in the timely completion of its business, speakers are asked to limit their presentation to three minutes or less.*
- 6) Items for Discussion and Action:
  - A. **Temporary Mural Installation – 935 Laguna Canyon Road (Sawdust Art Festival)** – Discuss and approve a temporary mural installation by artist Tara Luther titled “Let the Sunshine In”. (Commissioner: Schwerner, Staff: Wood.)
  - B. **Temporary Public Art Installation – Promenade on Forest**– Discuss, review and approve/deny proposals for temporary installation at the Promenade on Forest. (Commissioner: Schwerner, Staff: Wood.)
- 7) Adjournment

*Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with a disability who require a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in a meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, may request such modification or accommodation from the Arts Manager at 949-497-0722 or email [art@lagunabeachcity.net](mailto:art@lagunabeachcity.net). Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting.*
- c: City Manager, City Clerk and Council Liaison.

Post through April 14, 2026.



## LAGUNA BEACH ARTS COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Monday, March 23, 2026

Council Chambers

505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

5:00 p.m.

### Recap of Minutes

**PRESENT:** **Commissioners:** Donna Ballard, Michael Ervin, Joan Gladstone, Pat Kollenda, Sindi Schwartz, Adam Schwerner, Carl Smith, Nicole Strathman.

**COUNCIL:** Sue Kempf.

**STAFF:** Siân Poeschl, Cultural Arts Manager, Michael McGregor, Arts Program Coordinator, Karen Wood, Public Art Coordinator

- 1) Michael Ervin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- 2) The minutes of the March 9, 2026, regular meeting were approved as presented. M/S Kollenda/Schwerner.
- 3) **Chair's Announcements:** None.
- 4) **Commissioner and Staff Communications:** Adam Schwerner read the Arts Commission's mission statement. Staff McGregor noted the awards reception for the Art That's Small at City Hall exhibit would be held on April 2, 2026, at 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Staff Wood noted that banner materials had been collected by the selected artists.
- 5) **Public Communications:** None.
- 6) Items for Discussion and Action:
  - A) **2222 Laguna Canyon Road (LCAD) Temporary Mural Installation** – Staff Poeschl provided an overview of the proposal. A motion was made to approve the mural "Fantasy Figure Study" as presented for installation for up to 5 years or based on condition. Motion: Kollenda. Second: Ballard. Yeas: Ballard, Ervin, Gladstone, Kollenda, Schwerner, Smith, Strathman. Noes: None.
  - B) **Donations to the City's Permanent Collection** – Staff Poeschl noted the City had received two proposals from private donors to contribute artwork to the City's permanent Public Art Collection. Staff acknowledged the generosity of the offers and introduced the donors. Carol Carlson presented on behalf of Waymakers Youth Shelter to donate a tile mural. Pat Kollenda noted there was no budget to cover removing and relocating the artwork. Donna Ballard suggested the organization approach the South Laguna Community Garden with their offer. A motion was made to deny accepting the donation from Waymakers Youth Shelter. Motion: Ballard. Second: Schwerner. Yeas: Ballard, Ervin, Gladstone, Kollenda, Schwerner, Smith, Strathman. Noes: None.

Ron Taybi presented his sculpture “Gracious The Beacon Of Peace” offered for donation. Donna Ballard noted concern over material durability and the likelihood of the public to climb on the artwork. Carl Smith restated the lack of budget to have the artwork installed and maintain it. A motion was made to deny accepting the donation from Ron Taybi. Motion: Smith. Second: Ballard. Yeas: Ballard, Ervin, Gladstone, Kollenda, Schwerner, Smith, Strathman. Noes: None.

C) **2026-2027 Cultural Arts Funding Grants** – Staff Poeschl provided an overview of the grant funding, noting \$300,000 in available budget. Staff also noted one organization was unable to facilitate their proposed project in 2025-2026 and returned the funding in the amount of \$23,500, which was recommended to be used for projects in 2026-2027. Staff presented the sub-committee recommendations. A motion was made to approve the grant distributions as follows and carry over the remaining \$2,600 to be added to funding in 2027-2028:

Organization	Requested 26/27	Approved 26/27	Motion/Second	Noes	Recused
Coast Film Foundation	35,000	30,000	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
Community Art Project	4,000	4,000	Schwerner/Ballard	None	Kollenda
Dance Academy Foundation	10,000	0	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
First Thursdays Art Walk	15,000	8,000	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
Friends of Hortense Miller	29,000	0	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
Keith Glassmann Dance	8,500	3,000	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
Kontrapunktus	2,400	2,400	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
Laguna Beach Alliance for the Arts	-	0	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
Laguna Beach Chamber Singers	15,000	6,500	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
Laguna Beach Cultural Arts Center	32,900	32,500	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
Laguna Beach Live	58,000	28,500	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
Laguna Beach Sister Cities	6,000	6,000	Schwerner/Ballard	None	Kollenda
Laguna College of Art + Design	11,000	0	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
Laguna Community Concert Band	20,000	15,000	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
Laguna Dance Festival	60,000	34,000	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
Laguna Plein Air Painters	30,000	20,000	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
Laguna Radio Inc.	30,000	8,000	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
LagunaTunes	5,200	5,000	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
LOCA Arts Education	33,175	25,000	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	Ballard
No Square	40,000	34,000	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
Opera Laguna	30,000	10,000	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
Philharmonic Society of OC	40,000	20,000	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
Sawdust Art Festival	30,000	20,000	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
Third Street Writers	14,075	9,000	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
Online Processing	1,000	1,000	Schwerner/Kollenda	None	
23 Applications	559,250	321,900			

- D) **2026 Sunset Serenades** – Staff Poeschl presented the recommended performers for Sunset Serenades performances on Fridays, May 1 through June 12, 2026. Staff noted the need to book an additional performer to those recommended. A motion was made to approve the performers as presented and for staff to select a performer for the remaining concert. Motion: Schwerner. Second: Kollenda. Yeas: Ballard, Ervin, Gladstone, Kollenda, Schwerner, Smith, Strathman. Noes: None.
- E) **Centenary Project** – Staff Poeschl provided a verbal update from the Centennial Committee. Staff noted obtaining a cost estimate for the recommended light installations for the Art Commission to request from the Centennial Committee. Staff noted the additional recommendation for a permanent installation and that the Centennial Committee had discussed a plaque for the planter outside the City Council Chambers with a tile mosaic installation and its estimated costs.
- 7) Adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

## Staff Report

**DATE:** April 6, 2026  
**TO:** Arts Commission  
**FROM:** Karen Wood, Public Art Coordinator  
**SUBJECT:** Temporary Mural Installation- 935 Laguna Canyon Road (Sawdust Art Festival) (item 6A)

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**Recommendation:** It is recommended by the Public Art Sub-Committee that the Arts Commission:

- 1) Review and approve a temporary mural installation by Tara Luther titled “Let the Sunshine In” on an existing exterior wall of the Sawdust Art Festival;
- 2) Approve lighting and pedestrian mitigation plans; and,
- 3) Approve the temporary mural installation for one year from May 2026 to May 2027.

### Overview

The Sawdust Art Festival, located on Laguna Canyon Road within the Civic Arts district, is proposing a temporary mural installation titled “Let the Sunshine In” by Tara Luther (Artist). The mural will be located at the rear entrance of the Sawdust Art Festival on the existing perimeter fence facing Laguna Canyon Road. This installation is an annual program featuring artists exhibiting within the Festival. The Artist concept and application, included as Attachment A notes the “design is framed in eucalyptus bark, like curtains drawing back from a stage. It invites you into a grove, alive with creativity.”

The mural which measures eight and one-half feet in height and forty-six feet in length, will be executed with professional grade latex and acrylic paint. The mural will have an anti-graffiti sealant and includes three LED photocell lights mounted above the mural to provide night-time illumination. The mural will be painted onsite in May 2026 on a perimeter fence with pedestrian mitigation measures.

At its meeting on April 14, 2025, the Arts Commissions approved the previous mural installation, and minutes are included as Attachment B.

The City’s Municipal Code, Section 25.54.024 (B) 5 notes review criteria to include:

- (a) *Visual Enhancement. The proposed mural has attributes that enhance the site;*
- (b) *Artistic Excellence. The proposed mural exemplifies high artistic quality of original artwork;*
- (c) *Public Safety. The proposed mural does not create a public safety issue.*

Per the Municipal Code, Staff will prepare a memorandum informing the City Council and Planning Commission of the Arts Commission approval and provide a period to appeal the decision. If there is no appeal of the Arts Commission decision, the mural is deemed approved.

### Fiscal Impact

None. All costs associated with the installation and maintenance shall be incurred by the Sawdust Art Festival (Sawdust Festival Corporation).

**Attachment: (A) Sawdust Art Festival Application and (B) Arts Commission Minutes 4/14/25.**

**ARTS COMMISSION APPLICATION**

Name: Sawdust Art Festival

Address: 935 Laguna Canyon Road

Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Phone/Fax: 949.228.3916

Date: March 16, 2026

Contact Person: Tom Hartmann

Art in Public Places - required by the Municipal Code

**Property Information:**

Location: 935 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Property Owner: Sawdust Festival Corporation

Description of Project: (Additional information may be attached. Please include materials, maintenance, schedule, site drawing, colored drawing of installation and photograph of location.)

**Mural**

The mural will measure 46' in length and 8.5' in height and will be located on an existing wood construction wall surrounding the rear entrance to the Festival, which houses trash containers, entrance to the Sawdust administrative office and storage area. The mural, Let the Sunshine In, will be created by Laguna Beach artist Tara Luther, a contemporary oil painter and muralist. She is a resident of Laguna Beach. The mural will be hand painted with acrylic medium and will be created on-site.

Dimension of site: \_\_\_\_\_

Dimension of proposed work: 46' in length & 8.5' in height

Estimated cost: \$3,000

Maintained by: Sawdust Art Festival

This form must be submitted to the Cultural Arts Department for consideration at an Arts Commission meeting.

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

For Cultural Arts Department Use

Date received: \_\_\_\_\_ Arts Commission agenda date: \_\_\_\_\_

Application # \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## **Arts Commission Application**

### ***Additional Information for the Submission for Mural at 935 Laguna Canyon Road***

March 16, 2026

**Lighting** – three LED photocell lights will be mounted above the mural to provide night-time illumination.

**Surface Materials** – latex and acrylic paint, along with sealant.

**Construction Materials** – the perimeter fence of the Sawdust Festival will be prepared with  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " ACX plywood sheeting to create an ideal, smooth "canvas" for paint application.

**Pedestrian Mitigation Plan** – the mural will be painted adjacent to a public sidewalk, over a 4-week period, from May '26 to June '26. The sidewalk itself will be protected with tarps and/or drop cloths, and pedestrians may be temporarily diverted around the artist's work zone with some small traffic cones. The sidewalk will not be completely blocked, and the artist will be made aware to ensure they leave enough space for people with mobility aids.

**Protectant** – the completed mural will be coated with an anti-graffiti sealant.

**Maintenance** – the Sawdust Festival Corp. will monitor and be held responsible for maintaining the mural.

## Design Concept



### Let the Sunshine In

This design is framed in eucalyptus bark, like curtains drawing back from a stage. It invites you into a grove, alive with creativity. People are drawn to Sawdust because they can, for a day, or for a lifetime, live the life of an artist.

Sawdust is warm and familiar, with its multigenerational creatives, and folks who make our little village a part of their yearly traditions. Here, things are made by hand, with intention. It's also an invitation to adventure, with artists pushing the boundaries of their imaginations. The bold creative freedom ethos is still at the core of our identity.

We may be a local show, but Sawdust magnetizes people into its orbit. The orange sun filters through the grove as you walk the grounds, giving this piece a sense of place in Orange County. As the bird songs echo in the canyon walls, in some ways, this place feels untouched by time, and yet ever-evolving with each new generation of artists.

For 60 years, Sawdust has been a gathering place for people who value hand made art and creative freedom. The original renegades, our founders, were co-creators in the 1960's cultural revolution. Every artist that joins our community becomes someone who lives these ideals in their own way. 'Let the Sunshine In' celebrates this legacy as we continue to build upon it.





## Tara Luther Artist Bio

Tara Luther is a contemporary oil painter and muralist residing in Laguna Beach California. In addition to participating annually in the Sawdust Festival, Tara has shown her work extensively at art fairs and galleries in both Chicago and Southern California.

Tara spent several years working at a women's nonprofit as a clinical art therapist in Chicago before she relocated to Laguna Beach in 2019. She frequently draws upon psychological, mythological, and fantastical archetypes to inform her work. She closely aligns with the mindset that art can be a healing experience whether you're viewing or creating it.

Tara received her undergraduate in studio art from Columbia College Chicago, and her Master's in Counseling in the Arts, from Alder University in Chicago. Her work explores themes of mysticism, allegory, cosmology, nature, multilevel awareness, and world religions. Her work is rendered in a style that fuses pop surrealism with fantastical elements.

## EXHIBITIONS

2021-present  
Sawdust Art Festival, Laguna Beach, CA

2014, 2019, 2021-present  
2023 Sawdust Winter Fantasy, Laguna Beach, CA

2024 Hive Gallery 19 year Anniversary Show, Los Angeles, CA

2023 Laguna Beach Cultural Center, Group Show

2021-2022 Hive Gallery Group Shows, Los Angeles, CA

2019 Laguna Art-A-Fair, International Juried Festival, Laguna Beach, CA

2019 Curly Tale Fine Art, Wonderfully Weird Wonders, Group Show, Chicago, IL

2019 [blnk] Haus gallery, Group Show, Chicago, IL

2018 Uncommon Ground, Solo show, Chicago, IL

2018 [blnk] Haus Gallery, Geometric Dreams, Chicago, IL

2018 Laguna Art-A-Fair, International Juried Festival, Laguna Beach, CA

2017 Bucktown Gallery, Chi-Town 12'x12' Group Show, Chicago, IL

2017 Bucktown Gallery Solo Show, Chicago, IL



## EDUCATION

2011  
Adler University - Masters of Counseling in the Arts  
summa cum laude

2000  
Columbia College Chicago Bachelor of Fine Arts  
cum laude

## CLINICAL ART THERAPY

2011-2013  
Deborah's Place Chicago

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2015-2018  
Art Lounge Lecture Series, Co-Facilitator & Featured Artist,  
Pecoff Studios, San Diego, CA



Sawdust frontage road mural  
2023 50x8ft



Swan mural. Terra Sage Merchantile  
2025 8x11ft



Sawdust selfie mural 2025  
8x8ft





Chilaga, oil painting  
5x3.5ft 2025



Holy Trinity Church  
shipping container mural  
40x9ft 2024



**LAGUNA BEACH ARTS COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting

Monday, April 14, 2025

Council Chambers

505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

5:00 p.m.

**Recap of Minutes**

**PRESENT:**       **Commissioners:** Donna Ballard, Michael Ervin, Pat Kollenda, Michael Ray and Adam Schwerner.  
**ABSENT:**       Suzi Chauvel and Carl Smith.  
**STAFF:**        Siân Poeschl, Cultural Arts Manager, Michael McGregor, Arts Program Coordinator, and Karen Wood,  
                  Public Art Coordinator  
**COUNCIL:**      Councilmember Sue Kempf

**Temporary Mural Installation – 935 Laguna Canyon Road (Sawdust Art Festival)** – Staff Poeschl provided an overview of the project and introduced artist Lovisa Kjerrgren. Ms. Kjerrgren presented her design proposal. A motion was made to approve the installation of the temporary mural “Skyblazing” by Lovisa Kjerrgren on the exterior wall of the Sawdust Art Festival at 935 Laguna Canyon Road, for a period of 12 months. Motion: Schwerner. Second: Ervin. Yeas: Ballard, Ervin, Kollenda, Ray, Schwerner. Noes: None.

## Staff Report

**DATE:** March 31, 2026  
**TO:** Arts Commission  
**FROM:** Karen Wood, Public Art Coordinator  
**SUBJECT:** **Temporary Public Art Installation- (Forest at Laguna)** (Item 6B)

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**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended by the Public Art Sub-Committee that the Arts Commission:

- 1) Review all submissions from the Call for Proposals for Temporary Public Art Installations for Forest at Laguna, and:
- 2) Deny all submissions.

### OVERVIEW:

At the Arts Commission Meeting of September 22, 2025, the Arts Commission approved a Request for Proposals (RFP) for temporary installations for Forest at Laguna. The RFP, a national call, was posted on Slideroom and shared via social media and with the California Arts Council, Coda Worx, the City website, the cultural arts newsletter and Spark OC. It requested innovative, site-specific pedestrian and large-scale art installations for a public art rotation to entice the community and visitors to Forest at Laguna several times a year to experience the unique and ever-changing installations which may be suspended or sculptural works above or in designated areas throughout the promenade. Creative lighting could be a compelling component, lending new life to Forest at Laguna by evening. These art installations are to celebrate art as a catalyst for creativity, conversation, and connection.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** \$110,000 has been allocated in the FY2026-2027 budget with \$60,000 allocated for Forest at Laguna and \$50,000 for City Hall.

### SUMMARY OF THE MATTER

The deadline for the national RFP submissions was March 2, 2026. Seven proposals were received. The Public Art Sub-Committee (Committee) consisting of Arts Commissioners Adam Schwerner, Donna Ballard and Pat Kollenda met and reviewed the seven proposals submitted. The recommendation of the sub-committee is that all proposals be denied.

Attached are proposal images, project overview, artist statement, installation method and budget.

Attachment: 1) Call for Artists and 2) Artist Proposals



**CALL FOR ARTISTS  
TEMPORARY OUTDOOR PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION  
FOREST at LAGUNA**

Nestled along the stunning Southern California coastline, Laguna Beach is renowned for its vibrant arts community, breathtaking natural beauty, and deep cultural heritage. With a population of approximately 23,000, the city is a haven for creativity and a magnet for artists and art lovers worldwide.

Laguna Beach as a community has evolved with artists at its core, from Impressionist Painter Anna Hills being instrumental in forming our local government, to artists creating the Festival of Arts in response to the Depression. Today artists are still integral and involved with shaping the city and are a key driver of its economic engine.

Temporary public art installations grant artists the opportunity to reimagine a space in our community while also allowing those of us in the community to momentarily see ourselves from a different perspective. We invite artists to share their works temporarily with residents and visitors to Laguna Beach. Installations may last from two weeks to one year, typically remaining on view for three months. Project proposals are encouraged to explore artistic excellence that goes beyond technical proficiency, that involves pushing boundaries, challenging conventions and produces work that resonates with audiences on intellectual, emotional, and aesthetic levels with a strong creative vision.

The Mission of the City of Laguna Beach's Arts Commission and Cultural Arts Department is to bring public art that challenges, inspires and engages our residents and visitors in ways that enriches the quality of life. We recognize and celebrate art as a catalyst for creativity, conversation, connection, collaboration, and community. We support artists, elevate arts organizations, and foster appreciation for the central importance of the arts to a dynamic, innovative and economically thriving city.

We value the unique character of Laguna Beach, including its history, natural beauty, and the community's deep connection to the arts. While the City's public art is respectful of these elements, the primary goal of the art sought for FOREST at LAGUNA is to create iconic imagery, unique to the setting and scale of the location that enhances the Laguna Beach experience and that moves us forward toward a new language of art making.

We understand that not all will appreciate every type of public art exhibited in the City, but might appreciate the vibe, the people, or the artist. We know that public art becomes a talking point, a meeting place, a revelation, a celebration and it is through the diversity of this art that we find the vital conversations that are the blood of an artist's community. Art is exactly what we need right now.

Through the imagination and creativity of local, national, and international artists we share a journey from which we all collectively benefit. As we invite artists to share their works, we exemplify our core values to the highest degree: As welcoming and engaged residents.

Laguna Beach has been a historic art colony since the early 20th century and continues to celebrate the arts through iconic festivals such as the *Pageant of the Masters*, *Festival of Arts*, *Sawdust Art Festival*, *Art-A-Fair*, and *Coast Film Festival*. Public art plays a central role in the city's identity, with over 100 installations enriching the landscape and fostering dialogue between residents and visitors. Other significant art organizations include the Laguna Playhouse, the Laguna College of Art and Design and the Laguna Beach Art Museum.

In addition to its arts legacy, Laguna Beach offers a picturesque setting of sandy beaches, rocky coves, and dramatic coastal bluffs. The city's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable practices further enhances its appeal as a forward-thinking and culturally rich destination.

Artists chosen for public art projects in Laguna Beach will have the unique opportunity to contribute to the city's dynamic cultural fabric and engage with a community that values artistic expression, innovation, and the celebration of natural beauty.

### **OVERVIEW: FOREST AT LAGUNA**

The Forest at Laguna will be a new permanent pedestrian plaza in Downtown Laguna Beach providing a mix of uses including outdoor dining, shopping, live music and community gathering. It will serve as a multifaceted living room for Laguna Beach, a central gathering place for residents and visitors alike. There will be a stage for music and seasonal events and an immersive setting for strolling and savoring the majesty of the sun setting over the Pacific. FOREST at LAGUNA will include a series of pedestrian oriented temporary art installations to activate the street, bring additional vibrancy and spark conversation, and add diversity to the City's permanent public art collection. The goal is to continually reinvent the space with new art experiences.

### **OPPORTUNITY:**

The Arts Commission is inviting artists to submit proposals for temporary art works for display at FOREST at LAGUNA. Works may be suspended or installed in various areas throughout the Plaza. Works will be selected by the City of Laguna Beach Arts Commission and on loan from the artist for a specified period. Installations must be durable and safe to the public and environment and withstand an unprotected display in a downtown plaza setting. The rotating temporary works must be appropriate in content for a public setting and audiences of all ages, while offering innovative and unique vision that will help to define FOREST at LAGUNA as a creative community gathering place to be savored and shared, time after time.

**SUBMISSION DATE:** Open through March 2, 2026.

**EXHIBITION TIMELINE:** From sixty days up to but not to exceed one year

**ELIGIBILITY:** Open to artist(s) or artist team with demonstrated experience in designing, creating, and installing pedestrian orientated site-responsive public art.

**BUDGET:** A rental honorarium is evaluated on the proposal to include installation, deinstallation, liability insurance and rental cost. Works remain the property of the artist.

The selected artist(s) or artist team will be required to enter a contract with the City of Laguna Beach and have liability insurance naming the City as additionally insured for installation and removal.

**APPLICATIONS:** Should include the following:

- Professional Resume (one page): include relevant public art experience.
- Material Description
- Installation method
- Renderings of the proposed artwork
- Proposed placement
- Proposed duration and exhibition period
- Artist Statement (maximum 500 words): describe your artistic vision and approach to the pedestrian orientated public art being proposed.
- Images of previous work. Include images/works that are relevant to the proposed project.
- References: Contact information for three professional references familiar with your work.

**SELECTION PROCESS:**

The Arts Commission will review the applications and make their selection based on the following:

- **Qualifications:** Artist qualifications as demonstrated by past work and the appropriateness of their concepts to the project. Of highest priority are the artistic capabilities of the artist and the inherent quality of their original artwork to enhance the City's cultural profile.
- **Artistic Excellence:** Artists and the proposal shall demonstrate excellence of creative and aesthetic ideas, a mastery of skills and techniques in the creation of original art works, communication of unique vision or perspective, and professional approaches to process and presentation. The Arts Commission will apply aesthetic and artistic judgements in their review, including those noted within this proposal narrative.
- **Appropriateness to Site:** Artwork shall be appropriate in scale, material, form, and content for the site.
- **Durability:** Highly durable and safe artwork designed to withstand the natural elements and public space.
- **Public Liability:** Safety conditions or factors that may bear on public liability.
- **Diversity:** Diversity of style, scale, media, and artists.
- **Content:** Appropriateness and relevance and should not contradict the City's values of environmental sustainability, accessibility, and cultural inclusiveness.

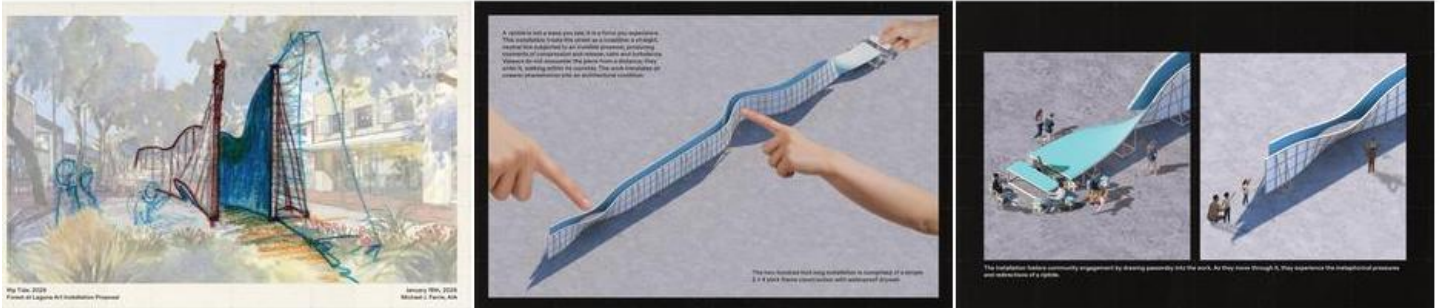
The Arts Commission may select one or multiple proposals and reserves the right to reject all proposals.

A proposal for a temporary installation is first reviewed by the Arts Commissions Public Art Sub-Committee. If the proposal is approved by the subcommittee the item will be placed on the agenda for the full Arts Commission. The Arts Commission meets on the second and fourth Monday of the month in the City Council Chambers located at 505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, CA.

Submissions and questions are accepted via email to Karen Wood, Public Art Coordinator at [kwood@lagunabeachcity.net](mailto:kwood@lagunabeachcity.net). Click [HERE](#) for further Cultural Arts Information. This program has been funded by the lodging establishments and City of Laguna Beach.

## SEVEN PROPOSALS VIA SLIDEROOM

### PROPOSAL 1, Michael Farris



#### 1. Project Title and Overview\*

Project Title: Rip Tide.

A rip tide is not a wave you see; it is a force you experience. This 200-foot-long wall brings you physically into a rip tide, experiencing the twisting, pushing, and pulling effects, all from the safety of the land. Built using standard 2 x 4 wall construction, this installation undulates along Forest Ave, weaving around trees, patio areas, and existing shops.

#### 1. Please provide an artist statement (up to 500 words).\*

This installation treats the street as a coastline: a straight, neutral line subjected to an invisible pressure, producing moments of compression and release, calm and turbulence. Viewers do not encounter the work from a distance; they enter it, moving within its currents. An oceanic phenomenon is translated into an architectural condition.

The artist, Michael J. Farris (b. 1998), grew up competitively sailing along the Pacific coast. That early immersion in tidal rhythms, navigation, and environmental forces informs the spatial logic of the work.

## Installation Method

Briefly explain the installation method and materials needed to install your artwork

#### 1. Installation Method\*

The work is situated on Forest Ave within the buildable area, with care taken not to disturb any existing trees or the restaurant dining spaces (see rendering). The two-hundred-foot-long installation is comprised of a simple 2 x 4 stick frame construction with waterproof drywall. The wall would be assembled in modules, with most of the initial construction happening off-site, with assembly reserved for Forest Ave. The proposed installation time should take roughly a team of four, two to three 8-hour days.

Please include your project budget, not to exceed \$25,000.

#### 1. Project Budget\*

The preliminary budget for the project totals \$16,400. Labor is estimated at \$7,200, based on a four-person crew working over three days, totaling approximately 96 labor hours. Materials are projected to cost \$6,800, which includes 4x8 exterior-rated drywall, 2x4 lumber for verticals, plates, and bracing, as well as fasteners, sealants, screws, and paint. A 10% contingency allowance of \$1,400 is included to account for unforeseen adjustments or conditions. An artist honorarium of \$1,000 is allocated as a fee to the artist. Ideally, the project would be completed within a 90-day window between June and August 2026.

## PROPOSAL 2, Natalie Gonzalez



### 1. Project Title and Overview\*

"TSIKURI" by Natalie Gonzalez

I propose a suspended overhead installation composed of woven plastic cord Eyes of God (Ojos de Dios) arranged in a dynamic zigzag formation across the Promenade at Forest and one 2 hours workshop for the public. The installation will transform the pedestrian corridor into a vibrant, immersive tunnel — a magical passage of color, movement, and symbolism that invites visitors to walk beneath a canopy of protection, intention, and shared humanity.

At the entrance of the corridor (front walkway), I propose a focal installation composed of Eyes of God in varying dimensions and vibrant color combinations. These larger and more diverse forms will function as a visual gateway, marking the threshold into the Art Zone and creating a powerful first impression.

The Eyes of God will be pre-fabricated offsite (plastic colorful cord and wooden rods). Each piece will be lightweight yet structurally reinforced to ensure durability in an outdoor coastal environment.

#### Material

- Plastic cord
- Wooden rods
- Rope
- Cable suspension system

#### "Tsikuri" Workshop

Workshops are a great opportunity for everyone to further develop their skills, discover something new and exciting while interacting with others. In this workshop the community will be exploring the vibrant and magical world of the Wirarika Culture by creating their own Tsikuri. This workshop will be free, materials will be included and the visitors will have the opportunity to take them home.

### 1. Please provide an artist statement (up to 500 words).\*

This proposal consists of an installation composed of woven plastic cord Eyes of God (Ojos de Dios) arranged in a dynamic zigzag formation across the Promenade at Forest, accompanied by one public workshop that invites community participation in the spirit of collective making.

This installation will transform the pedestrian corridor into a vibrant, immersive tunnel — a magical passage of color, movement, and symbolism that invites visitors to walk beneath a canopy of protection, intention, and shared humanity. The rhythmic zigzag formation will activate the full length of the promenade, guiding pedestrians through a shifting visual experience shaped by light, breeze, and perspective.

The Eye of God is a traditional Huichol (Wixárika) votive object created by wrapping yarn around crossed sticks in concentric diamond patterns. Historically, it symbolizes spiritual sight, protection, and the act of seeing and being seen. In this proposal, I reinterpret this ancestral form using durable plastic cord suitable for outdoor conditions, expanding it into an architectural-scale public artwork. The material choice ensures longevity in a coastal environment while maintaining the vibrant chromatic intensity central to the work.

At the entrance to the corridor, larger Eyes of God in varied dimensions and bold color combinations will serve as a visual gateway, marking the threshold into the Art Zone. These larger and more diverse forms will function as a welcome entrance, creating a powerful first impression.

As sunlight filters through the woven structures, color will cast subtle reflections and shadows throughout the day. The movement of air will gently animate the installation, creating a living artwork that responds to Laguna Beach's coastal climate. The zigzag configuration allows airflow between elements, minimizing wind resistance while enhancing visual dynamism.

The accompanying public workshop will offer participants the opportunity to create their own small-scale Eyes of God. This participatory element extends the meaning of the installation beyond observation, fostering connection, dialogue, and cultural exchange. By sharing the technique and history of this form, the workshop reinforces the values of accessibility, creativity, and community engagement central to Laguna Beach's artistic legacy.

Rooted in tradition yet expressed in contemporary scale, this installation honors craft as architecture and transforms a thoroughfare into a shared moment of wonder. It becomes not only a visual landmark, but a collective gesture of protection and belonging woven into the heart of the city.

#### **1. Installation Method\***

The installation will be fully pre-fabricated offsite to ensure quality control, structural reinforcement, and efficient on-site assembly. Each 12" x 12" Eye of God will be constructed using durable plastic cord woven around reinforced cross frames. Individual units will be connected by high-strength cord, these are lightweight and easy to install during the installation day.

For the entrance of the corridor (front walkway), a tensioned stainless-steel aircraft cable system will be installed across the designated Art Zone, anchored to pre-approved structural attachment points within the plaza. All anchor points will be reviewed and approved in coordination with City staff and a licensed structural professional if required.

I am proposing this suspended installation along the corridor on the Overhead Level Art Zone Blue Area minimum 10' above the ground.

#### **1. Project Budget\***

Budget

\$22,000

(Artist labor/creativity, materials, installation, de-installation, workshop, 2 monthly maintenance check schedule, assistant labor hours, insurance & traveling expenses).

Proposed Duration

60 days & one 2 hours workshop

## PROPOSAL 3, Vicki Leon



### 1. Project Title and Overview\*

#### Coastal Sunlight

Coastal Sunlight is an abstract celebration of the warm weather, natural light, beauty and creativity of Laguna Beach. It is an exploration of light in its purest form. Suspended by cable, the unique elements are strung like a necklace, and will rotate in natural breezes, spinning gently on independent bearings. It is designed to bring light, color and movement into the Forest's vibrant outdoor life.

The materials will utilize all manner of light-interactive effects for which I am known. Elements will change color, shimmer, sparkle, radiate and amplify while refracting, reflecting and transmitting into the environment. The moving parts and effects will be subtle and intriguing in the sunlight and shade, and night lighting will take on a more dramatic character. In direct sunlight, the sculpture will explode with color!

The basic geometry and ever-changing relationships of the pieces evoke a sense of sun rays, sky, mountains, water, blooming flowers, stars and architecture. When using purely abstract forms the viewer is encouraged to notice the subtle effects and wonder about ideas in their undefined beginnings.

### 1. Please provide an artist statement (up to 500 words).\*

I have been a dedicated, working artist in San Diego County for over 30 years. Over that time, I spent 10 summers in Laguna participating in the Laguna Art-A-Faire, where I have won Best Glass Artist on multiple occasions. I also participated in the Sawdust Winter Festival several times. These experiences gave me a deep affection for the city and its creative spirit. Laguna's unique blend of coastal light, artistic heritage, and natural beauty has long inspired me, and it is an honor to offer my best ideas to your community. I hope that my designs welcome you and reflect the warmth and character of this remarkable place.

As a mixed-media sculptor, my focus is the magic and beauty of light. I strive for the light, both physically and metaphorically. The ever-changing shifts and nuances of daylight inform the essence of my sensory style, inspired by those fleeting moments in nature when light reveals unexpected, awe-inspiring beauty. My techniques include a unique combination of skills, methods, and processes: mosaic, stainless-steel plasma cutting, wood carving, glass carving, and the use of light-interactive materials and solar illumination. These materials allow me to create work that responds to its environment, shifting subtly throughout the day as the light changes. For Coastal Sunlight, my artistic vision centers on creating a pedestrian-oriented experience that feels both welcoming and quietly transformative. I aim to design artwork that engages people at a human scale, inviting them to slow down, notice the shifting coastal light, and feel a sense of connection to the place. My approach emphasizes durability, safety, and long-term public enjoyment, using materials that withstand the coastal environment while maintaining their visual integrity. I consider how pedestrians move through and around the site, how the artwork reveals itself from different angles, and how changing light conditions animate the piece throughout the day. Ultimately, my goal is to create an artwork that enriches daily life, sparks curiosity, and becomes a meaningful part of Laguna's walkable landscape.

My work is rooted in the belief that public art should be both accessible and uplifting. I want people to encounter Coastal Sunlight in their everyday routines and feel a moment of brightness, something that resonates emotionally without requiring explanation. Light has the power to shift our perception, to remind us of beauty in the ordinary, and to connect us to the natural world. By shaping materials that interact with sunlight, shadow, and reflection, I hope to create an experience that feels alive and responsive to Laguna's coastal environment.

Coastal Sunlight is my way of honoring Laguna's long tradition of creativity, its deep relationship with nature, and its vibrant pedestrian culture. It is my hope that this artwork becomes a small but meaningful part of the city's ongoing story, an invitation to pause, look up, and experience the quiet magic of light.

#### **1. Installation Method\***

Coastal Sunlight is designed as a suspended, kinetic artwork ideally positioned over the main entry to the outdoor plaza. The sculpture will hang like an expansive, radiant necklace supported by a stainless-steel cable engineered for long-term exterior use.

The overall piece will be connected through a stainless steel cable that allows every element to move independently with natural breezes. Each component will be crafted from UV-stable acrylic, dichroic eco resin, and weather-resistant metal, and will have its own bearing that allows the steel cable to pass through. These materials are selected specifically for their longevity, colorfastness, and ability to interact beautifully with shifting daylight.

The stainless-steel cable will be anchored to points on both sides of the plaza's entry, creating a festive curve inviting the viewer to look up. The independent movement will animate the piece, producing dynamic reflections, color shifts, and light play as the sun's angle changes throughout the day and across the seasons.

#### **1. Project Budget\***

Total Projected Budget: \$16,400

Artist Design and Fabrication: \$9,000

(Includes creation of acrylic, and metal elements; bearings; stainless-steel cable system; structural steel bar; and weather-resistant finishes.)

Transportation: \$400

(Truck rental, packing, and delivery to the outdoor plaza site.)

Installation: \$2,000

(Lift rental if required, hardware, labor, and coordination with site staff for overhead mounting.)

Insurance: \$2,000

(Fine-art insurance covering transport, installation, and the full exhibition period.)

De-installation: \$1,000

(Labor, equipment, and safe removal of the artwork at the end of the exhibition.)

Contingency: \$1,000

(Reserved for unforeseen costs related to weather, hardware, or scheduling.)

Total: \$16,400

#### **Exhibition Duration**

The artwork is designed for outdoor conditions and can remain safely on display for the maximum time allowed, up to one full year.

## PROPOSAL 4, Jessica Levine



### 1. Project Title and Overview\*

Project title: Life Labyrinth

Dimensions: 6'5" tall x 33" wide x 22" deep; base plate is 42" diameter

Life Labyrinth is a powder coated metal sculpture composed of thousands of tiny straight pieces of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and  $\frac{3}{16}$ " steel round bar. These pieces are welded into shapes that resemble veins and arteries, which come together to create a life size human form standing at 6'5" tall.

The straight pieces of metal within Life Labyrinth are strategically formed into organic planes, creating an interesting dichotomy of hard lines against natural curves of a human body. This dichotomy correlates to the often opposing and conflicting patterns of being a human—heart vs head, love vs hate, etc. The face, feet, and hands all have circular "portals" with swirling spirals of metal, giving movement and a bit of abstraction to the ever-recognizable human form. These portals, or labyrinths, create a metaphor for the cyclical themes of being a human, such as thought loops, repeated behaviors, and ultimately the circle of life.

This sculpture is entirely handmade and free sculpted piece by piece without the use of forms or guides. It has been made over the course of years with leftover pieces of steel from other projects—a true labor of love. Life Labyrinth has been powder coated in a custom gun metal color, allowing it to withstand harsh weather conditions. It has been exhibited publicly in Downtown Reno, NV, and Midtown Sacramento, CA.

### 1. Please provide an artist statement (up to 500 words).\*

My name is Jessica Levine, and I combine my artistic vision with my metal fabrication skills to create large-scale handmade works of art. I use steel to draw in real space, free sculpting the images I see in my mind and working only from a line sketch on an eight by ten piece of paper. I am interested in the way people are influenced by society, versus their own internal feelings and thoughts. My ability to build my own works as well as design them gives me a unique position as an artist to fully execute my projects true to my artistic vision.

I have experience installing large-scale art pieces for temporary public art exhibitions. Multiple of my sculptures have been installed nationally and internationally in cities on temporary public display. In addition to the city installations, I have done countless festival installations in all types of environments, where my sculptures were interacting with tens of thousands of people over the course of a few days to multiple weeks.

Life Labyrinth is pedestrian oriented because she is a life size human form who will blend in well with the bustling activity of Forest Avenue. She is taller than most average people, though some people will match her height at 6'5" tall. The sculpture is intricately formed, giving people an opportunity to stop and observe the many details of the piece. Additionally, she has outstretched portal hands which people at previous installations have been drawn to. Children and adults alike have been observed stopping along their path to hold their hands up to the sculpture's hands. It is also a picture taking opportunity, as people pose with the sculpture imitating her gesture.

### **1. Installation Method\***

Life Labyrinth mounts to a 1/4" thick 42" diameter steel round base plate. The base plate is very heavy and can be placed on any flat surface. The sculpture and base plate can be rolled to the install site on a dolly. If the lighting component is desired for this installation, then there needs to be an electrical outlet nearby. Solar lighting options can be considered if there are no accessible electrical connections, but an outlet is best.

The sculpture installation location could work well at the far end of either side of the entrance/exits into the pedestrian area, welcoming people as they walk through. Alternatively, she could be placed in more of the center of the area five feet away from tree zones for more of a camouflaged look, where people have to happen upon her. The sculpture needs to be placed in a flat area.

### **1. Project Budget\***

Roundtrip shipping from S. Lake Tahoe, CA: \$2950.00

Insurance: \$1575.00

Artist accommodation install/de-install: \$1600.00

Labor for installation/de-install: \$1450.00

Rental fee for 3 months: \$7500.00

Total: \$15,075.00 for 3 months, additional \$1,100.00/month for additional consecutive months if a longer period is desired

## PROPOSAL 5, Adrian Litman



### Forest at Laguna Proposed Project Description.

The public art project for the Forest at Laguna temporary installations offers a beautiful opportunity for visually enhancing the selected art installation locations and reflect the culture and aesthetic values of the community.

This project presents a great interest to me because of the multiple options for materials use and creative design possibilities. The locations are adequate for Stainless Steel or Corten sculptures, possibly kinetic with elements that create an identity and a sense of place for the residents and the visitors in the community at large.

The art pieces can incorporate elements like benches and also allow for use of porcelain mosaic accents in the artwork design.

My artwork proposal includes three concept designs:

#### 1. Ancestral Juaneño Feathers

Kinetic stainless steel, painted steel and Corten sculpture, celebrating the Juaneño native people.

Laguna Beach, California, is located within the ancestral, traditional, and unceded territory of the Acjachemen (often referred to as the Juaneño) people.

These Indigenous groups have inhabited the coastal region of Orange County for thousands of years, living in organized villages and utilizing the area's rich resources.

The region around Laguna Beach is central to their ancestral territory.

Sculpture size - 14'H x 9'W x 9'D.

#### 2. Lollipop Fiesta

Corten, stainless steel and painted steel sculpture.

Whimsical visual design of happiness and celebration.

## Artist Statement

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For the past 22 years, I have been working on a variety of Public Art projects integrating art into architecture as well as designing free standing two and three dimensional pieces that create a sense of encounter and engagement through visual distinction or interaction.

As an artist, I find inspiration and fuel for creative expression by contemplating the world around me. My inspiration is enhanced by concepts introduced by contemporary science, social issues, politics and cultural diversities. I use abstract and figurative interpretations to convey messages and emotions with sensibility, combining control and passion. Depending on the scope of design, volumes, shapes and vibrant luminous colors are crafted to converge in an elegant harmony, stimulating the mind and emotions of the viewer.

Having an eclectic approach to design, I feel comfortable flowing from dramatic subjects to whimsical and humorous themes. I have a broad range of diverse artistic skills and experience of working with a variety of durable materials like stainless steel, copper, brass, bronze, porcelain and glass as appropriate for harmonious integration with the site's architectural style and environment.

In all my public art projects I had to work at various levels with government agencies, architects and structural engineers and met with members of the art commissions and community to discuss the details of design and projects implementation.

All of my public art projects involved a certain level of local code restrictions and technical constraints depending on location, materials, public safety and the structural engineering guidelines.

In regards to my artistic practice I have to say that creativity and inspiration to produce high quality innovative and timeless, meaningful artwork comes from a hard work process of research, brainstorming and cooperating with people of various skills who might be part of putting together the final art piece.

As a basic principle, I create public art designs with flexibility in order to allow the project stakeholders and community input and participation.

## Forest at Laguna Proposed Project Installation

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The Ancestral Juaneño Feathers, Lollipop Fiesta and The Wind Catcher sculptures can be installed on hard pavement surface with stainless steel anchor bolts or on custom made wood base attached to the ground with metal stakes.

Ideal duration for the sculptures temporary display is one year.

Ideal budget per sculpture including design, manufacturing, transportation, installation and liability insurance is \$8,000 to \$10,000, depending on the method of installation.

Timeline for installation from the awarded contract is 30 days.

## 1. Project Budget\*

1. Design and project coordination	\$ 2,000
2. Materials	\$ 1,800
3. Fabrication	\$ 5,000
4. Transportation and installation on hard surface with stainless steel anchor bolts	\$ 1,200
5. Liability insurance	\$ 1,100

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TOTAL \$11,100

6. Installation on a custom made wood platform attached to the ground with metal stakes is an additional	\$ 1,000
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GRAND TOTAL \$ 12,100

Timeline for installation is 30 days from awarded and signed contract.  
Duration for temporary display is one year.

## PROPOSAL 6, SMART SOCIETY/ Sevan Bolikian for Ricard Orlinski, Artist



### 1. Project Title and Overview\*

#### FORESTS OF THE WORLD AT LAGUNA BEACH

“Forest at Laguna” becomes a symbolic meeting point where iconic animal guardians represent forests and wild habitats across the world - from bamboo forests to deep wilderness, from rainforest silhouettes to mythic strength.

### 1. Please provide an artist statement (up to 500 words).\*

When I first learned that Laguna Beach was transforming Forest Avenue into a living promenade — a gathering place for residents and visitors rooted in the arts — I understood immediately why this site called for a different kind of conversation.

Laguna Beach has always known something that most cities have had to learn the hard way: that public space is not neutral. It carries meaning. It accumulates memory. It shapes the way people understand themselves and their community. An artist who places work on Forest Avenue is not filling space — they are participating in a century-long dialogue about what this city values.

My sculptures are monumental animal figures rendered in faceted geometric forms. They are immediately accessible — children recognize them as powerful creatures, adults read in their geometry a tension between wildness and order, between the natural world and human artmaking. They invite touch, conversation, photography, and return visits. They become landmarks.

For Laguna Beach specifically, I chose animals that speak to forests and wild habitats across the world: the Bear and Wolf of the northern wilderness, the Panda of the bamboo forest, the Panther of the rainforest, the Lion of the savanna, the Kong of mythic imagination. Together on Forest Avenue, they transform the promenade’s very name into a narrative — forests of the world, gathered here, in dialogue with a community that has always understood the relationship between art, nature, and place.

Laguna Beach is one of the most environmentally committed cities in California. My installation uses no invasive methods — no ground penetration, no damage to existing paving or planting, no trees touched. The sculptures are designed to coexist with the landscape, not impose upon it.

I have installed work on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, the Champs-Élysées in Paris, in Miami, Mykonos, and Bastia. Each city brought different demands. Laguna Beach brings something I find rare: a community that already knows how to live with art, that approaches public sculpture not as an amenity but as a necessity. That is the community I want to bring this work to — not to showcase what I have done elsewhere, but to offer something that becomes, genuinely, Laguna's own.

I am available to attend the opening of the installation and engage with the community, with schools, and with arts organizations throughout the exhibition period. This is not a rental. It is a collaboration.

### **1. Installation Method\***

Self-supporting weighted bases with protective rubber underlayers — no ground penetration of any kind

- 5-foot minimum clearance from all tree trunks maintained on every placement
- No attachment to trees — no disturbance to ground planting
- No damage to brick paving or decomposed granite surfaces
- Professional rigging team scheduled for low-disruption installation — 2 to 3 days total

### **1. Project Budget\***

Transport LA -> Laguna Beach (one-way)	\$7,000
Transport return Laguna Beach -> LA	\$7,000
Insurance (transport + exhibition)	\$5,500
Orlinski Team (3 experts)	\$19,000
Crane, forklift, pedestals & equipment	\$5,000
Estimated Total (4 artworks)	\$43,500

6 artworks \$48,000

8 artworks \$49,150

10 artworks \$52,460

## PROPOSAL 7, Kat Trevino



### 1. Project Title and Overview\*

Sculptures are solid steel cement bolted to base with a wind kinetic feature

#### 1. Please provide an artist statement (up to 500 words).\*

The beauty Laguna holds is limitless. To adorn such a city is a delight. My whimsical sculptures with wind kinetics are a perfect match! My art encompasses the freedom the ocean brings in an effortless coupling of the two. A treat for all pass or byers and a delight for the community.

#### 1. Installation Method\*

The base is a steel plate that can be bolted to a cement platform securing it.

#### 1. Project Budget\*

Transportation is \$500 - Insurance \$1000 Installation \$1000 De-installation \$500.  
Exhibit period May 30th to September 30th