



Welcome to *Our Palo Alto* eNewsletter, August 2016

Works of Art



The City Council returned from summer break on August 15 and quickly got down to business by passing the City's first Public Art Master Plan.

Palo Alto has supported public art since the 1970's, and has an indoor and outdoor art collection that consists of over 300 pieces. This master plan will be used to help guide public art policies for the next decade while establishing criteria for both

murals and art gifts. The master plan also includes an update to the City's deaccession policy that outlines conditions for removing a piece that is damaged or requires excessive maintenance. One of the main components of the master plan includes placing art where people gather and in unexpected places to encourage exploration.

The plan also strives to:

Calendar of Events



Palo Alto Festival of the Arts

University Avenue
August 27 & 28
10 a.m.-6 p.m.



Creative Ecology-Jenny Odell in the Gallery

Palo Alto Art Center
Sat., August 27
12 p.m.-4 p.m.



- Represent a broad variety of artistic media and forms of expression
- Enhance City infrastructure, transportation corridors and districts
- Include both permanent and temporary artworks

The City is also installing more temporary art pieces around town to incorporate art into the community. The Colin Selig benches downtown are a recent example of a temporary public art project already at work.



As part of the plan, neighborhoods could be selected for other temporary pieces in locations such as roundabouts. Additionally, the City won a National Endowment for the Arts grant that will bring Code: ART to six alleyways downtown next June. Code: ART is a new media festival that will turn alleyways into a creative laboratory of sorts, including the possibility of a virtual reality transformation.

What neighborhoods would you like to see temporary public art installed? Let us know, by clicking [here](#).

You can also learn more about the City's Public Art Program [here](#).

Council Faces Busy Fall Agenda



This fall looks to be another busy one for the Council with issues including the Transportation and Land Use elements of the Comp Plan, phase 2 of RPP, and the next steps in the Fiber to the Premise plan- just a few of the items on their agenda. Over the summer, we held the first community meetings for the expansion of RPP into the Evergreen Park and Southgate neighborhoods with more workshops to continue this fall. Council

will also consider an update to the Housing Impact Fee ordinance, and talk more about the Parks Master Plan and transportation impacts.

Smart City

Like other cities around the globe, Palo Alto is increasingly looking to apply new technologies to address urban challenges as part of becoming a Smart City. A big areas of focus is transportation. Private companies such as Ford's Research and Innovation Center in Palo Alto just announced plans to mass produce driverless cars and put them in commercial operation for a ride-hailing service by 2021. Traffic signals will be responsive to real time conditions, and the City is already putting smart technology in place.



Repair Cafe

Museum of American Heritage
Sun., August 28
11 a.m.-3 p.m.



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In July, the City rolled out new smart technology to improve traffic signal timing along Embarcadero and San Antonio roads. On Embarcadero, traffic signals will adjust based on “time of day” traffic patterns. Traffic signals along San Antonio Road will be equipped with SynchoGreen software that automatically adapts and adjusts traffic signals based on traffic flow. The software makes changes to the traffic signals in real time to smooth the flow of cars. And, the City is using “green waves” along Bryant Street to modify traffic signal timing so that bicyclists hit green lights as they pedal along the street. These are just a few examples of how Palo Alto is turning to smart technology to become a Smart City.

Nowhere to Park? Use PaloAlto 311

Have you ever ridden your bike somewhere only to find there is no place to lock it up? Now, you can have a say where future bike racks should be placed around town. All you have to do is use [PaloAlto311](#) to identify locations where you want a bike rack. As long as the spot is within the public right-of-way and on City property, there’s a good chance your request could be granted. Have you seen that bike rack in front of Peet’s Coffee & Tea on Homer Avenue? Yep, it’s there thanks to a public request via PaloAlto311. If you haven’t downloaded and installed our Palo Alto 311 app, here are the links:



iPhone Version: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/paloalto311/id639749458>

Android

Version: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.publicstuff.palo_alto

Back to the Future



This is what King Plaza outside City Hall looked like when the government offices at 250 Hamilton opened in 1970. The circular cement pavement pattern is still as is, but a fountain once stood as the plaza’s focal point. Today, it serves as one of the centers for temporary art installations. The plaza has come a long way as far as the vision for its public use. The Palo Alto Times reported in its April 16, 1970 issue that “Civic Center Plaza was designed as a visual park rather than a lounging area or a music performance arena.” Today, we are happy to say it is a popular gathering spot where

people come together to have lunch, relax on a bench, or enjoy the annual Music on the Plaza summer concert series.

Tweets of the Month

Are you following us on Twitter yet? [Connect with us](#) and tell us what's on your mind.



[Laura Anthony @LauraAnthony7](#), August 15

And the list goes on Bay Area firefighters at [#ClaytonFire](#) [@PaloAltoFire](#) [@ebrpd](#) [@CityofAlbanyCA](#) [#EICerrito](#) fire. bit.ly/2bopzZv



[City of Palo Alto @cityofpaloalto](#), August 8

Groundbreaking for San Francisquito Creek flood control plan- it's now "shovel ready". bit.ly/2aHSJEA



[Danny Sullivan @Coach_Sully_5](#), August 5

Starting off camp with community service at the Baylands [#StandTall](#) [@PalyAthletics](#) [@CalHiSportsBA](#) [@GetSportsFocus](#) bit.ly/2b27GOU

To find out how you can get involved, or more information about Our Palo Alto, go to: www.ourpaloalto.org