

Casa de Oro
Library Public Art

Artists' Concepts



Community Engagement



**Friday, October 17 – Monday, November 3, 2025
at 11:59 p.m.**

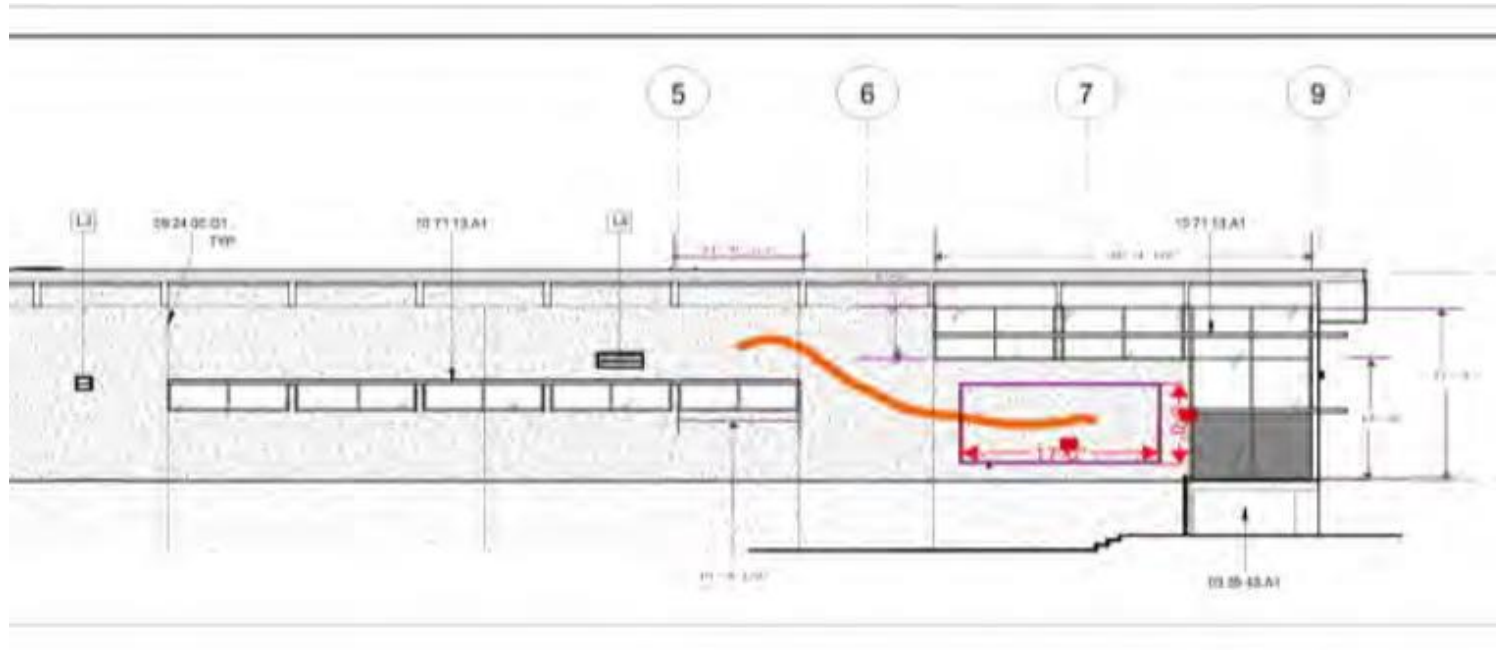
Review Artists' Concepts and Share Feedback



Casa de Oro Library



Areas for Artwork — Exterior Wall Feature



There is an area that is 17 feet wide by 8 feet tall on the exterior wall of the building where an iconic art element that serves to identify the library entrance from the street is desired to provide a welcome to all who enter.

The team considered artists who work in ceramics, mosaics, tile, metal, glass or other multi-dimensional materials to create a large custom artwork.





Jean Cornwell Wheat

Jean Cornwell Wheat is the recipient of many grants, commissions and awards over her 40-year career as a professional artist and art educator. Her work has been exhibited and sold in the United States and throughout the world.

Exterior Wall Feature — 17' wide x 8' high



Jean Cornwell Wheat



Design 1: Nine Bookworms — This large mosaic mural celebrates imagination, scholarship, and joy of reading. Nine towering bookworms are draped in flowing robes of vibrant color and intricate patterns. They rise from a stack of books, suggesting wisdom and playful curiosity. Crafted from glass tiles and ceramic tesserae, the mural is alive with shimmering golds, luminous greens, and deep jewel tones. The bookworms' robes catch the light, revealing subtle details: spiraling patterns, delicate folds, and hints of stories tucked into the design, honoring the enduring magic of libraries—where knowledge and wonder live side by side.

Exterior Wall Feature — 17' wide x 8' high



Jean Cornwell Wheat



Design 2: Golden Valley— This large mosaic mural celebrates light, landscape, and learning. Gold, amber, and honey-colored tiles shimmer and shift as the sunlight moves, creating a living surface. A radiant sun rises above a serene valley, casting streams of warmth across rolling hills and quiet homes. Two figures sit atop a small stack of books and smooth rocks, gazing toward the horizon—they are keepers of knowledge and wonder, curiosity and reflection. The gold surface echoes the beauty of the natural world while honoring the community's love of learning.



Wendell Kling

Wendell Kling is an artist and educator who has shown his artwork locally and nationally. He is a professor at San Diego Mesa College. His work is grounded in contemporary interdisciplinary practice and includes sculpture, two-dimensional media, installation, performance, film, and video.

Exterior Wall Feature — 17' wide x 8' high



Wendell Kling



Design 3: Coast Live Oak —

This Coast Live Oak takes inspiration from Japanese panel art and its relationship to 20th century abstraction. The image is hand cut out of black paper with a backing of colored polycarbonate lighting gel material. This graphic image will be digitized, scaled up and cut out of aluminum using a water-jet process. The resulting aluminum panels are then mounted against colored acrylic panels. I suggest subtly backlighting the panels during evening hours.

Exterior Wall Feature — 17' wide x 8' high



Wendell Kling



Design 4: Gateway — Casa de Oro is known as the “gateway to Mt. Helix.” This is a loose interpretation of an actual gate found on a private property near the new library. The rustic wooden gate with adobe-esque pillars framed by variegated agave plants is a nod to the community’s rural roots. The open gate beckons, a fitting symbol for a library as a gateway to knowledge and opportunity open to all. Fabrication is the same process as Coast Live Oak.

Casa de Oro Library



Areas for Artwork — Main Entrance Mobile



The entrance to the library has an overarching terrace over the main doors, that will be enhanced and inspired by a mobile that identifies the entryway and provides a focal point for the building. The total area dimension is 27 feet wide, 16 feet 6 inches high, and 18 feet deep. A lightweight metal or glass element, attached to the ceiling trellis will inspire visitors and tell the story of the library and community.

Selected artists interpreted the essence of Casa de Oro through creative expression, drawing from the area's natural beauty, the rhythm of daily life, and the collective hopes of the residents. This is a chance to contribute to a significant civic destination—where art, learning, and nature are in harmony.

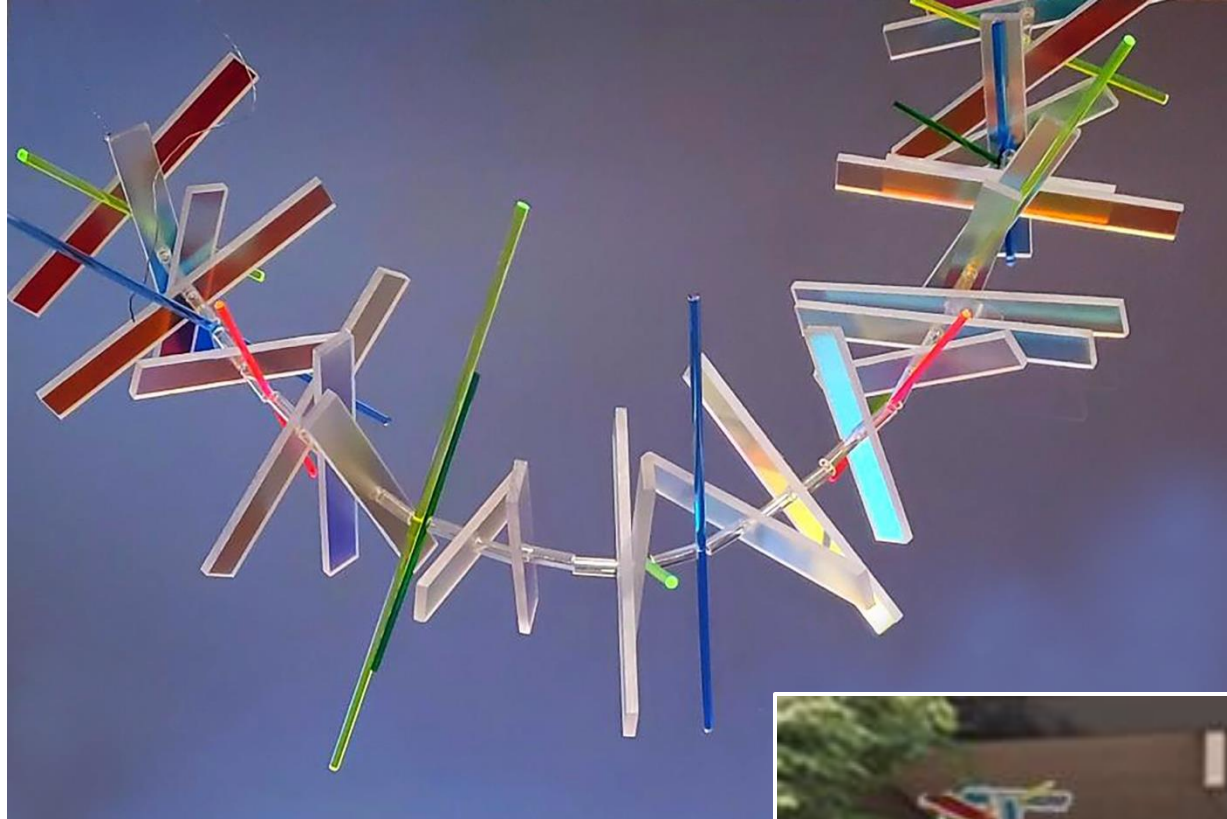




Vicki Leon

Vicki Leon is a mixed-media sculptor whose focus is the magic and beauty of light. Her techniques include a unique combination of skills, methods and processes including mosaic, stainless steel plasma cutting, wood carving, glass carving and the use of an array of light interactive materials and solar lighting.

Main Entrance Mobile — 8' wide x 10' deep x 6' high



Vicki Leon

Design 1: Sunlight in the Valley — This mobile is an exploration of light, color and movement in its purest form. It is suspended by cable on a bearing; the valley shape rotates in natural breezes with unique elements also spinning gently. Glass, acrylic and metal elements will change color, shimmer, sparkle, radiate and amplify while refracting, reflecting and transmitting. Moving parts and effects will be subtle and intriguing; night lighting will take on a more dramatic character. When the sun's angle fills the space with direct light the sculpture will explode with color! It is like a giant necklace strung on stainless steel cable. The steel bar in the ceiling rafter allows the whole sculpture to rotate.

Main Entrance Mobile — 8' wide x 10' deep x 6' high



Vicki Leon

Design 2: La Entrada — Landmark mountains under a golden roof (house of gold) ground us to Earth. The two-sided design is viewed with different effects upon entering (dazzle and inspire with brightness) and exiting (silhouette of shapes). An interconnected, hanging “quilt” has each element suspended from the one above, floating with a sense of lightness and movement, in gold-mirrored glass tile mosaic. A carved redwood beam honors the history of the original people. The resin sky produces effects of sunrises and sunsets in the most magical way. The pyramid speaks to the quest of higher learning throughout history and into the future.



Terri Hughes-Oelrich

Terri Hughes-Oelrich has an art practice that is deeply rooted in environmental themes, exploring sustainability, ecology, and material reuse. She has taught art at San Diego City College for 20 years.

Main Entrance Mobile – 8' wide x 10' deep x 6' high



Terri Hughes-Oelrich

Design 3: Meadow (MED-oh) — MED-oh evokes the calmness one feels while walking through a meadow, inspired by grasslands. About 1,600 small (6-inch) aluminum disks are suspended overhead, swaying and flickering like tall grasses in the wind. Exterior high quality spray paint is on one side of the disks, with the other side shiny to reflect colors. Laser cut into some of the disks are silhouettes of animals, insects, flowers, and birds. Soft sounds of birds, insects, animals and the wind recorded in the Sweetwater River meadow will gently fill the space, enhancing calm and curiosity. MED-oh invites visitors to pause, wonder, and enter with a sense of openness and peace.

These disks show sample images.

Main Entrance Mobile – 8' wide x 10' deep x 6' high



Terri Hughes-Oelrich

Design 4: Free as a Bird — Similar in design to Meadow, Free as a Bird represents beauty, calmness, peacefulness, and freedom, and is inspired by the awe of birds in flight and their morning songs. Within this floating expanse of blue, photographs of birds, printed directly on the disks, intermingle with the colored disks. Visitors can engage with the work by identifying different species of birds. Sound recordings of local birds will be played. The gentle play of light, motion, and sound will create a sense of calm and curiosity, preparing the community to enter with openness, focus, and imagination.

These disks show sample images.



Janelle Despot

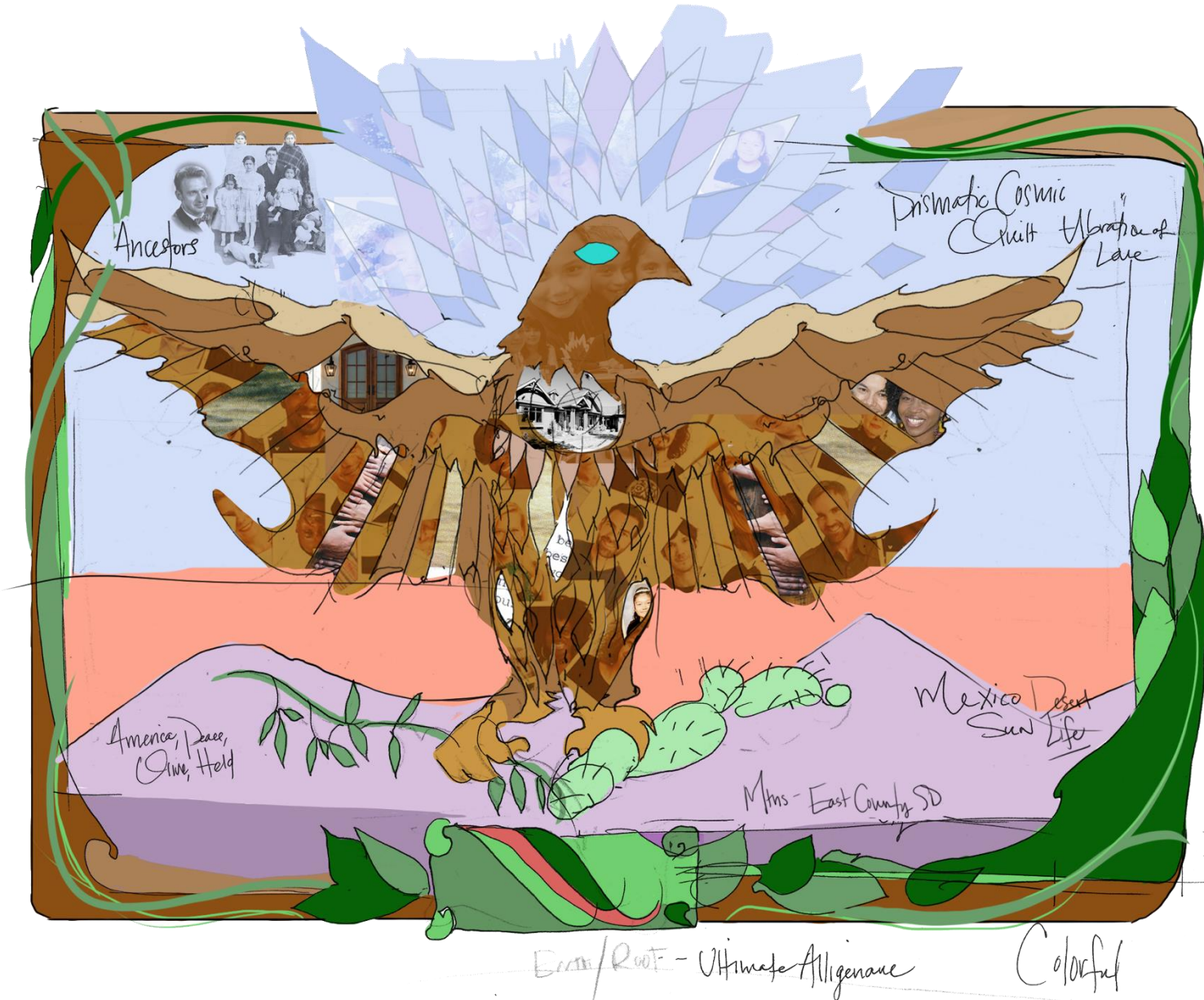
Janelle Despot is a multidisciplinary artist, designer, and creative director based in San Diego. Her work blends beauty, soul, and intention—whether she’s creating intimate personal pieces, immersive environments, or collaborating with clients.

Interior Wall (Landmark) Art – 6' wide x 5' high

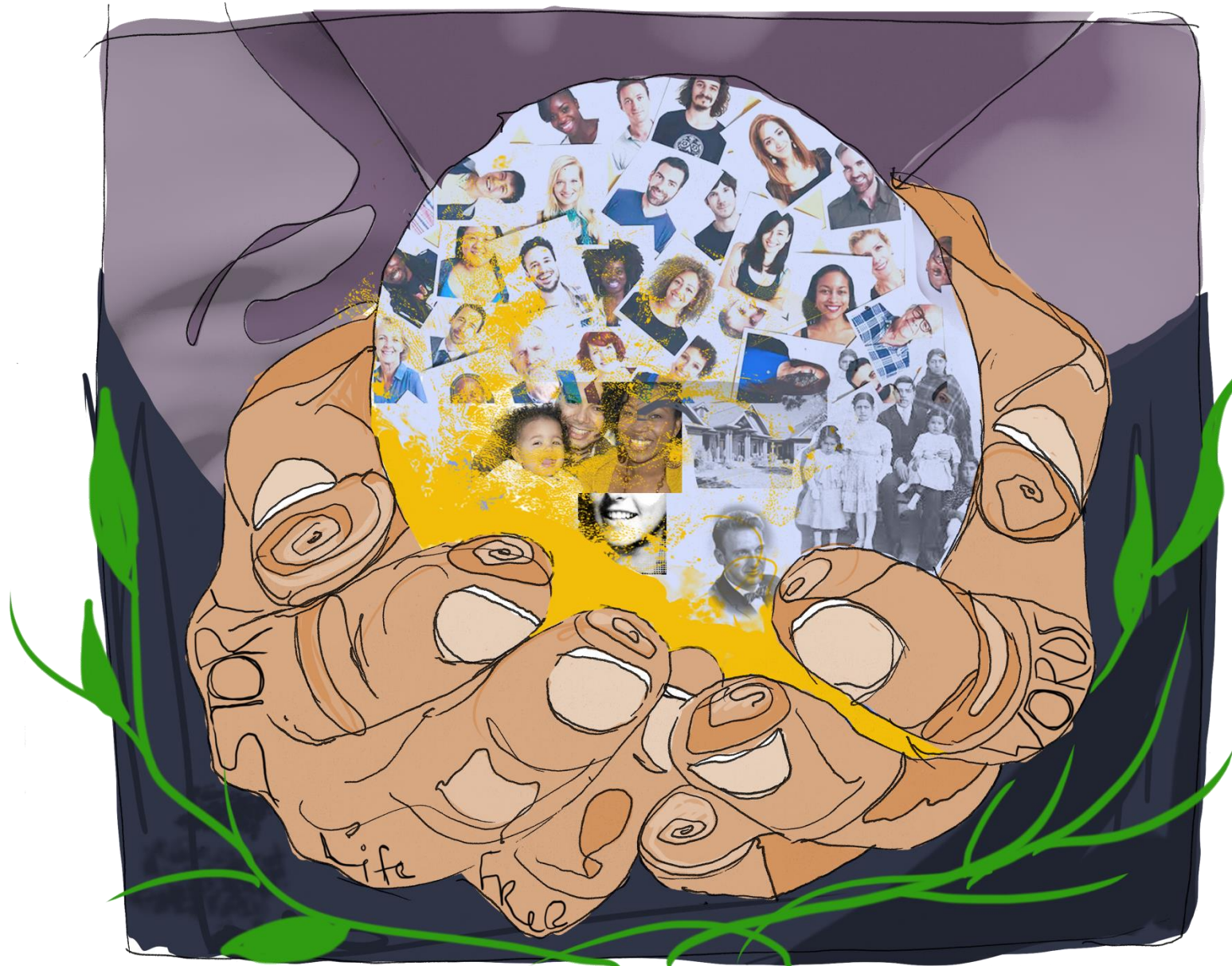


Janelle Despot

Design 1: Gathered Under One Sky
— This mixed media collage on wood shows the eagle as a powerful symbol (such as in the Mexican and American national flags). The eagle's body and wings hold a collage of images and ephemera that will be gathered from residents—family photographs, stories, and artifacts woven into a living portrait of the community. Ancestors are honored while a radiant sky ripples in prismatic color, symbolizing love, connection, and shared slices of everyday life. The eagle carries an olive branch and a cactus representing balance, peace, and cultural harmony. The mountains ground the work in the local landscape.



Interior Wall (Landmark) Art— 6' wide x 5' high



Janelle Despot

Design 2: Manos de Oro — This exploratory collage on a wood panel honors both ancestry and the future. My grandfather (who recently passed away) was a man of warmth and love, with hands that tended the earth and nurtured life. In Manos de Oro (Hands of Gold), a pair of hands—lined with stories, creases, and memory—hold a golden orb of light. Within the orb, collaged photographs and images form a tapestry, representing the people of Casa de Oro. These images and ephemera will be collected and scanned from residents—symbolizing the community’s collective wisdom, resilience, and joy.



Beliz Iristay

Beliz Iristay is a San Diego-based Turkish American artist with roots on both sides of the Mexico-USA border. Her work reflects her search for personal identity in the realms that she comes from and lives in. Her artwork has been in museums, community colleges and private galleries in the United States, Mexico and Europe.

Interior Wall (Landmark) Art— 6' wide x 5' high



Beliz Iristay

Design 3: Native California Clay Forms — Red clay soil and clay mixture from the California area will be used to create solid cast forms. The individual cast forms will have white clay slabs inset in them and the white canvas slabs will be hand-painted and some fired with ceramic paints and glazes. On the white clay slab forms we will see some local Spring Valley species. On the contrast color dark shaded slab forms, the species and plants that are endangered will be cast into the clay.

Interior Wall (Landmark) Art— 6' wide x 5' high



Beliz Iristay

Design 4: 3D Brick Panel — The panel will have a series of red clay brick elements collected from the region. The bricks will be sliced in different sizes and thicknesses to create an organic wall design. The surface texture of the sliced brick will offer rich, earthy textural patterns that represent Spring Valley's landscape. The surface design of the panel will be hand painted with a design composition of local landscape and fauna of the Casa De Oro region. The design will be painted with low-fired colored ceramic underglazes.



Maxx Moses

Maxx Moses is an international muralist who has travelled to over 21 countries making art and leading workshops. His art is rooted within the illegal art form of graffiti. Breaking rules, taking risks, and relying on his intuition expanded his boundaries way beyond his degree in business with a minor in fine art.

Interior Wall (Landmark) Art— 6' wide x 5' high



Maxx Moses

Design 5: Nature and Imagination
— This vibrant painting is about the journey of life, imagination, and adventure through the joy of books. It highlights the beauty of nature's essence—magical, playful, and alluring—to entice the viewer to become enchanted with the power of story and how nature ignites our imagination to dream, create, and build the world we want to live in, internally and externally. This dreamscape is where books float in the sky, open, and another reality appears.



Interior Wall (Landmark) Art— 6' wide x 5' high



Maxx Moses





Design 6: Escape the Page — Through transcendence, a mother and daughter are burning off their old ways of being and expanding into new frontiers of life. They traverse out of a pop-up book that is in front of a graffiti mural on a wall. The energy from this mural inspired these two to take the risk and “escape the pages” of a story that was written by someone else. The blue goddess from the ancient future spoke to them of fluidity and adaptability. The arrows symbolize choices and direction.

Share Feedback at the Library (paper form)






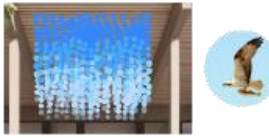
Share Feedback About Public Art Design Concepts at the New Casa de Oro Library Friday, October 17 – Monday, November 3, 2025

EXTERIOR WALL FEATURE (17' wide x 8' high) — CHOOSE ONE DESIGN

<p>Jean Cornwell Wheat</p>	 <p><input type="radio"/> Design 1: Nine Bookworms</p>	 <p><input type="radio"/> Design 2: Golden Valley</p>
<p>Wendell Kling</p>	 <p><input type="radio"/> Design 3: Coast Live Oak</p>	 <p><input type="radio"/> Design 4: Gateway</p>

COMMENTS: _____

MAIN ENTRANCE MOBILE (8' wide x 10' deep x 6' high) — CHOOSE ONE DESIGN

<p>Vicki Leon</p>	 <p><input type="radio"/> Design 1: Sunlight in the Valley</p>	 <p><input type="radio"/> Design 2: La Entrada</p>
<p>Terri Hughes-Oelrich</p>	 <p><input type="radio"/> Design 3: Meadow (MED-Oh)</p>	 <p><input type="radio"/> Design 4: Free as a Bird</p>

COMMENTS: _____

INTERIOR WALL ART (6' wide x 5' high) — CHOOSE THREE DESIGNS

<p>Janelle Despot</p>	 <p><input type="radio"/> Design 1: Gathered Under One Sky</p>	 <p><input type="radio"/> Design 2: Manos de Oro</p>
<p>Beliz Iristay</p>	 <p><input type="radio"/> Design 3: Native California Clay Forms</p>	 <p><input type="radio"/> Design 4: 3D Brick Panel</p>
<p>Maxx Moses</p>	 <p><input type="radio"/> Design 5: Nature and Imagination</p>	 <p><input type="radio"/> Design 6: Escape the Page</p>

COMMENTS: _____



For more detailed information
OR an online feedback form:
leahscreations.com/casadeoroart

Please turn this form in at the front desk.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION.

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Share Feedback



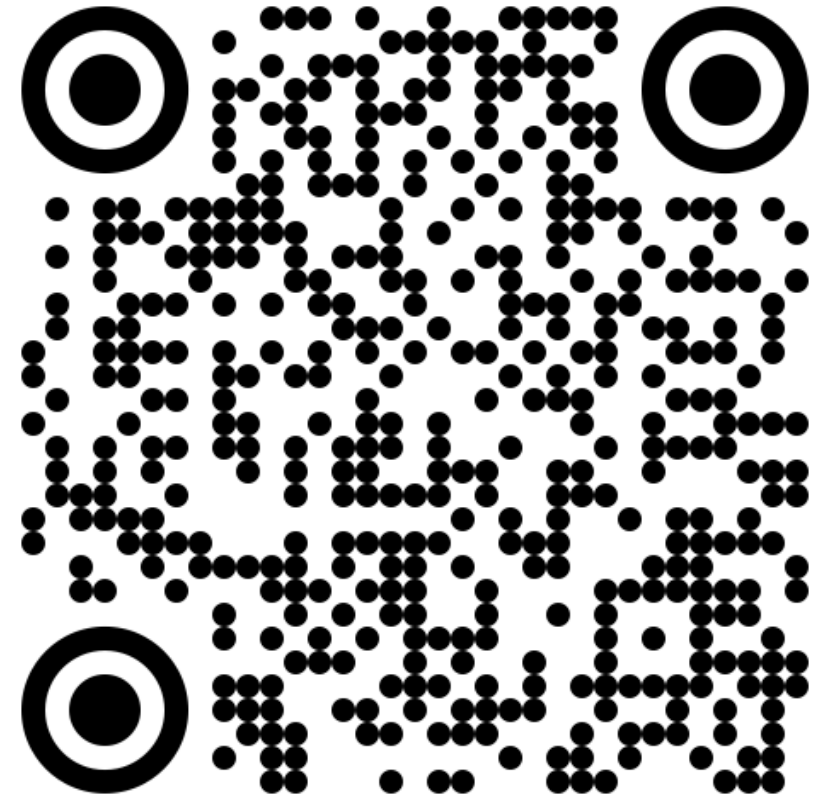
View Artists' Concepts

- Tour Art Boards at the Library
- Online Web Page

Share Feedback

- Share Feedback is now closed.
- Thank You for your participation!

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Thank You for Participating

