



Salt Lake City Public Art Program

Salt Lake City Arts Council

Renato Olmedo-González | Public Art Program Manager



Public Art in Salt Lake City

Our Purpose

- Enhance the natural and built environment through high-quality, site-specific public art
- Create meaningful aesthetic experiences in public spaces
- Contribute to the social and economic vitality of Salt Lake City

Our Commitment

- Reflect the rich diversity of Salt Lake City's communities
- Commission local and national artists
- Steward work that is enduring, thought-provoking, fiscally responsible, and contextually appropriate

Our Collection

- 160+ permanent public artworks across parks, civic buildings, streets, plazas, recreation centers, libraries, fire stations, and sports courts
- 120+ artworks in the City & County Building Fine Art Collection
 - The Mayoral Portrait Collection, dating back to **Brigham Young**



The Strategic Plan & Public Art

Vision Statement We envision a connected and vibrant Salt Lake City where artists and culture-makers thrive, diverse voices shape the city, and the arts are integral to our community fabric.

Geographic Reach

- Art Design Board Members represent the seven districts
- Careful attention is given to creating new projects occur in each district. Special attention has been given to the westside for the past three years.

Expand Diversity and Representation

- This is achieved through supporting emerging artists, working with communities to design artwork that is appropriate to the community, such as Japantown.

Cultivate and Build Partnerships

- The Public Art Department has close, active working relationships with many other City Departments.
 - Ongoing collaboration with Grafitti Abatement & MySLC App to report vandalism, theft, etc.



How the Public Art Program Works

Funding Structure

- Established in 1984 through Salt Lake City's Percent-for-Art Ordinance
- 1.5% of eligible City capital project funds allocated to public art (since 2021)
- 10–20% of annual funds dedicated to maintenance and conservation

What It Funds

- Artist services for new and existing City-owned buildings and public spaces
- Site-specific, integrated artwork as part of capital construction projects

Governance & Oversight

- The Salt Lake Art Design Board (7-member citizen advisory body)
- Reviews artist qualifications and proposals
- Recommends artists to the Mayor
- Final approval by the Mayor of Salt Lake City



Matt Monsoon's *What We Build Together*

500 North 1300 West



Site Selection: Winter 2023

- Worked with Transportation (designer) and Engineering (construction) to understand site & propose it to Board for public art funding.
- Art Design Board selected site for public art funding in Winter 2022. As part of their decision, Board asked for further community engagement as part of the artwork development process.

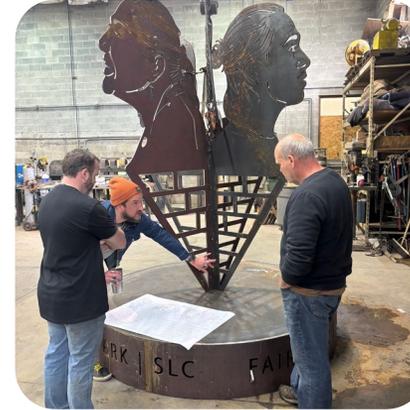
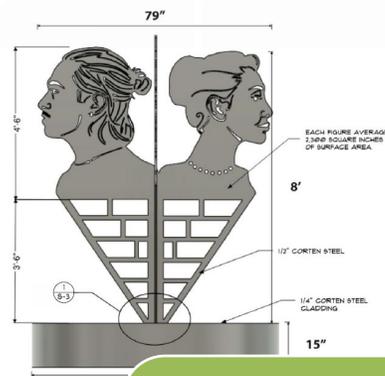
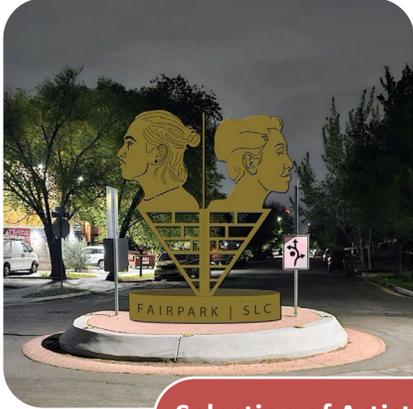
Community Engagement: Summer 2023

- Working with City and external stakeholders, the Public Art Program conducted project-specific engagement to better understand community wishes for public art in that location.
- A Bilingual (English/Spanish) Survey was conducted.
- An Engagement Report was produced, which informed community's desires for types of art and artist selection.

Call for Artists: Late Summer & Fall 2023

- Using the findings from the Engagement Report, a RFQ for Utah artists was drafted and published in late summer 2023
- Call for Artists was Utah-specific, with a \$55,000 commission
- Fall 2023: Three artists developed site-specific proposals (paid) that were presented to the Art Design Board for consideration.

Matt Monsoon's *What We Build Together* 500 North 1300 West



Selection of Artist for Commission: Winter 2024-2024

- Using findings from Engagement Report, Art Design Board recommended Matt Monsoon, a local neighborhood artist, for commission. Mayor approved commission in December 2023.
- Matt's design honors the working class, everyday heroes of the neighborhood, with two sides (youth and elders/wisdom) representing neighborhood diversity.

Early 2024: Artist contracting, commission announcement, engineering and site integration

- Artwork commission was announced in April 2024
- Throughout the process, the Public Art Program has provided support and guided the artist through the process of bringing his artwork to life, including connections to art fabricators and further engagement introducing artwork to community

Late 2024 – Early 2025 Artwork Fabrication

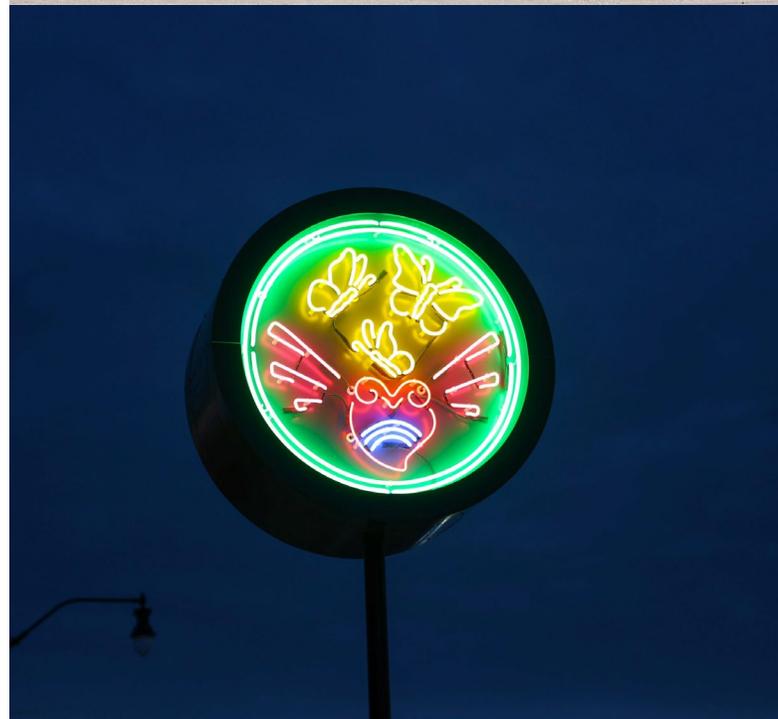
- Throughout winter 2024-2025, artist worked with Metal Arts Foundry to fabricate his artwork.
- The Public Art Program worked closely with the artist to best integrate and install artwork on site.

May 2024: Artwork Installation

What We build Together was installed in late May 2025!

2025 Recently Completed Projects

- ***What We Build Together*** by Matt Monsoon
 - Celebration of unsung heroes in a working-class neighborhood
- ***Sidewalk Poetry*** by 20 local writers
 - Poems celebrating SLC by artist without previous public art experience
- ***Life on State*** by 8 local artists
 - Neon artworks celebrating State Street visual culture and made by artists without previous public art experience
- ***Foothills Trailheads: Bike Rack Murals*** by 10 local artists
 - Artworks by painters & muralists across two Public Lands' sites with a utilitarian function



2025 Recently Completed Projects

- **2026-2028 Pre-Qualified Artist Pool** featuring 62 Utah-based artists
 - Refreshed every three years, the *Pool* is both a community resource and an effective way to commission Public Art Projects
- **Seven Canyons Refuge** by Stephen Goldsmith
 - Reimagined a legacy artwork with the original artist & converted it into a dry feature
- **Ballpark Neighborhood Murals** by 10 *Pool* artists
 - Implemented with our colleagues in the CRA, this project aimed to celebrate the Ballpark neighborhood and place murals in businesses throughout the area



2026 Upcoming Projects

- **400 South Viaduct Trail** by Haddad | Drugan (March)
 - Installation in progress. Artists were imbedded into engineering design team & shaped aesthetics of major infrastructure project
- **Japantown Mural** (May/June)
 - Implemented in coordination with CRA, a mural for the MESH Building is currently being commissioned
- **Poplar Grove Park** by Roots Art Collective (Summer)
 - Sports court murals by the RAK for tennis/pickleball & basketball court
- **North Temple Mural Project** (Late Spring)
 - Implemented in coordination with the CRA, we aim to commission 5 – 7 murals along North Temple. Call for Walls currently underway!





2026 Upcoming Projects

- ***Kosmo the Dinosaur*** by Garth Franklin (Spring)
 - Currently working with artist to accept artwork as a donation to SLC & place it on 700 South 1000 West roundabout
- ***Common Roots*** by James Shen & Jennifer Tran (September)
 - Pioneer Park's first public art installation, honoring the neighborhood's multicultural history
- ***Journey Lines*** by Adam Kuby (early Summer)
 - Landscape integrated artwork for Donner Trail Park
- ***A new mural for Out of the Blue*** (late Summer)
 - Finalists were recently selected by the Salt Lake Art Design Board to develop proposals for a new mural

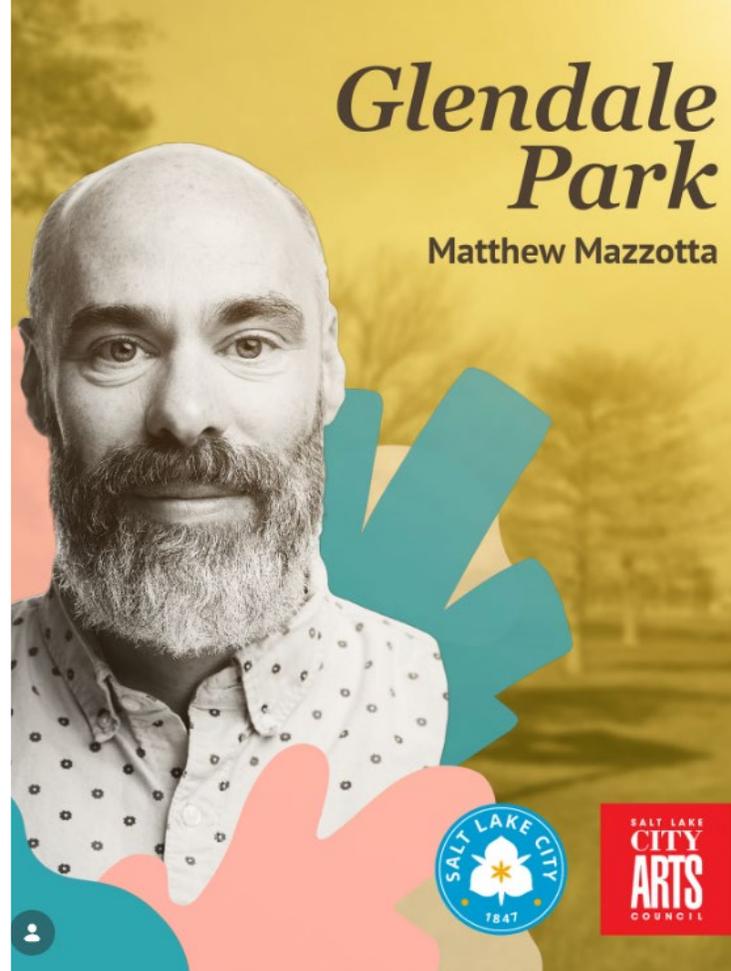


2026 Upcoming Projects

- ***The Gulls of Salt Lake City* by Tom Van Sant** (November)
 - Formerly at the Prudential Building in downtown SLC, the artwork will be reinstalled in the Eccles Theater for its 10th Anniversary
- ***Unifying Artworks for Parks, Trails, and Open Space General Obligation Bond*** by four *Pool* artists (ongoing – 2030+)
 - Four artists created unique sculpture models that will be casted into 20 sculptures to be placed at each of the GO Bond Sites
- ***A symphony of disappearing sounds for the Great Salt Lake*** by Olafur Eliasson (March 26 – April 4)
 - To take place at Memory Grove as part of the *Wake the Great Salt Lake* Bloomberg Philanthropies' Public Art Challenge

2027 & beyond What's Ahead

- **Glendale Park** by Matthew Mazzotta (2027 – 28)
 - Commissioned as part of Mayor Mendenhall's initiative to create "iconic" artworks for the West Side, Mazzotta's artwork is being developed to be integrated into this major new regional park
- **Fairmont Park & McClelland Shared Street** (2027 – 28)
 - In coordination with Public Lands & Transportation, these two sites will be "unified" under a single artist commission & multi-site artwork
- **Jordan River Murals** (Spring 2027)
 - Funded by Public Utilities and in coordination with Public Lands, we will commission four to five murals along the Jordan River's Rose Park section



CALL FOR ARTISTS

Request for Qualifications

**Fairmont Park &
McClelland Shared Street**
A Public Art Installation

Deadline to Apply:
Dec 9, 2025



apply today | publicart.slcc.gov



2027 & beyond What's Ahead

- ***Fleet Block Open Space (2027)***
 - Currently in the artist selection process by the Salt Lake Art Design Board, this commission will honor the social justice legacy of this site
- ***9-Line Trail (2027 – 28)***
 - Funded by the CRA & developed as part of Mayor Mendenhall's initiative for "iconic" artworks for the West Side, finalists will be presenting their proposals to the Salt Lake Art Design Board in early March and one will be recommended to the Mayor for commission
- ***Warm Springs & North Gateway Parks (TBD)***
 - GO Bond-funded commission that will aim to honor the Indigenous presence in the area

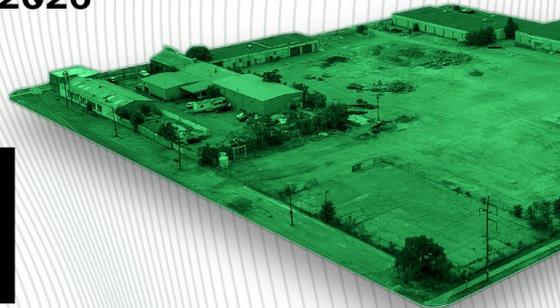
CALL FOR ARTISTS

Request for Qualifications

Fleet Block Open Space

A Public Art Installation

Deadline to Apply:
Feb 17, 2026



apply today | publicart.slcc.gov

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Request for Qualifications

9-Line Trail

*A Public Art Installation for
Salt Lake City's West Side*

Deadline to Apply:
Nov 18, 2025



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