



# Memorandum

TO: RULES AND OPEN  
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: Councilmember Ortiz

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: September 25, 2025

Approved:

Date: 9/25/25

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF DIRECT ARTIST SELECTION AND CMO SUPPORT FOR  
FORMER HILLVIEW LIBRARY SITE MURAL PROJECT**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1) Direct the City Manager's Office (CMO) to assist with the review and approval of the proposed mural at the former Hillview Library site - 2255 Ocala Ave, San Jose, CA 95122 (City property), including providing staff support to facilitate review by the Public Art Committee and the Arts Commission to ensure compliance with City standards, guidelines, and processes for public artwork located on City property including site preparation and future maintenance.
- 2) Approve the use of a direct artist selection process, rather than a competitive call for artists, for the former Hillview Library site mural project.
- 3) Place the item on the October 21, 2025 City Council Agenda for action.

## **BACKGROUND**

The former San José Hillview Library building is currently closed and no longer serving its original purpose. Without an active use, the building risks becoming an eyesore or feeling disconnected from the neighborhood. A mural on this site would reinvigorate the space, creating a visual landmark that celebrates local stories and cultural richness while preventing blight. Its proximity to nearby schools and community centers still makes it a natural point of visibility and connection, even if the building itself is no longer in use.

D5 Decides Participatory Budget dollars will be used for this project. This process promotes community engagement, transparency, and accountability by allowing neighborhoods to identify priorities and propose projects that address local needs. It ensures resources are distributed

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equitably across districts while fostering trust and encouraging innovative, community-driven solutions.