

Accepted by Presiding Officer
Pursuant to Rule 11(c)
Distributed
10:03AM ITEM (ID 24-1622)







December 13, 2023

Fresno Arts Council
1245 Van Ness Avenue
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Public Art Project: SR41 Sculpture Selection Committee:

I am excited to hear about the "Call to Artists" for the Fresno Arts Council Public Art Project for State Route 41 in Fresno, California. Local murals near on/off-ramps of freeways connect a person to the spirit and essence of the community it represents. I am thrilled to write a letter of recommendation for what I think fits your project perfectly.

I am the Superintendent/Principal of University High School, a nationally recognized charter high school on the campus of Fresno State. We offer rigorous, college prep curriculum, along with dual enrollment courses at Fresno State. An additional part to our program is our Elective Intersessions. The classes that are offered during these two annual intersessions are to provide enrichment, added academics, activities, and community involvement. Last year, one of the classes offered was a ceramics class intended to create a mural that could be posted somewhere in Fresno County. My students, along with local artist, David Roberts, created a beautiful Blue Heron holding a California Poppy against a marsh background. This vibrant and creative mural is the epitome of our magnificent Central Valley.

David Roberts is no stranger to the creation and completion of artistic murals in the Fresno area. He created four ceramic murals that are installed in the Old Fig Garden neighborhood, as well as custom address plaques. He is a strong advocate for arts in the Central Valley, and has made it his mission to promote locally inspired arts and craftsmanship for public appreciation.

The Blue Heron mural was created by high school students for the community to enjoy and appreciate. This 8' x 8' mural is graffiti proof and appropriate for exterior installations. It is already created and just needs a place to call home. Thank you for this opportunity to provide a public space for passing drivers to view a symbol of the natural beauty and bounty of the Central Valley.

If you need any further information, please contact me at anytime. I am happy to provide more assistance for this exciting project.

Sincerely,

Jeffie Esparza Hickman,
Superintendent/Principal, University High School
jhickman@mail.fresnostate.edu
559-278-8263

University High School
2611 E. Motaian Way
M/S UH134
Fresno, CA 93740

Phone: (559) 278-8263
Fax: (559) 278-0447
www.uhsfresno.com

UHS Administration
Jeffie Esparza Hickman, Superintendent/Principal
Aaron Morgan, Vice Principal
Geni Bird, Counselor
Rocio Fernandez, Counselor

Board Members
Nancy Akhavan, Ed.D., Chair
Xuanning Fu, Ph.D., Vice Chair
Dominic Dizon, M.D., Secretary
Rajee Amarasinghe, Ph.D., Treasurer
Saul Jimenez-Sandoval, Ph.D.
Brent Woodward, J.D.
Nichole Walsh, Ed.D.