



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
Agenda Date: July 15, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Jesús Armas, Community Services Director
Contact: Sarah York Rubin, Executive Director, Office of Arts and Culture
SUBJECT: Acceptance of Donation of Ten Artworks for the County Collection

Initial
AM

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Accept the donation of a painting by artist Herbert Bayer from Susan R. Rose;
- b) Accept the donation of a collection of eight lithographs by Margaret Hiroko Eejima from Mary Heebner;
- c) Accept the donation of an oil pastel painting by Marge Dunlap from Mary Heebner; and
- d) Determine that the recommended actions are not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act under CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5), because they consist of administrative activities that will not result in a direct or indirect physical change to the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is before the Board for approval to accept the donations of ten artworks to the county collection. The artworks are by three regionally significant artists: Herbert Bayer, Margaret Hiroko Eejima, and Marge Dunlap. Each of these artists holds a meaningful connection to Santa Barbara County and is also recognized nationally for their contributions to the arts. With the Board's approval,

these works will be formally incorporated into the County's public art collection, where they will be preserved and displayed for the enrichment of the community.

The donors have stipulated that the only condition of the gifts is that they may not be sold or used for fundraising purposes.

Discussion:

Staff recommends accepting the works, and the Arts Commission and County Arts in Public Places Committee voted to recommend the additions to the County collection. Due to the value of the art, the donation is subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Background:

Ten artworks have been generously made available to the County for display in public spaces, representing a meaningful contribution to the County's art collection.

The acrylic painting *Chromatic Gate* by Herbert Bayer is a study for the large-scale sculpture of the same name located in Santa Barbara's Cabrillo Ballpark. This iconic work, to be donated by Susan R. Rose, is a notable example of Bayer's vibrant use of color and form in public art.

Local artist Mary Heebner has offered a series of eight lithographs by Margaret Hiroko Eejima. Eejima served as a faculty member at the University of California, Santa Barbara in the mid-1990s and contributed significantly to the region's artistic and academic communities. Heebner has also proposed the inclusion of an oil pastel by Marge Dunlap, which complements existing works by Dunlap already held in the County's collection. Dunlap is also the artist who sculpted the façade of the County Department of Social Services building on the Calle Real campus, as well as the ceramic reliefs at the County Administration Building.

The curation of public art is part of the ongoing arts and culture initiatives led by the Office of Arts and Culture. The County Arts Commission advises on acquisitions and has recommended these pieces. Maintenance and display of the County's collection are made possible through the Percent for Arts program appropriation.

Fiscal Analysis:

A budget revision to recognize the capital asset will be forthcoming in early FY 25-26.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Checklist of artworks

Contact Information:

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