

Ventura will PLACE temporary public art at several sites during ArtWalk, July 18-19



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The City of Ventura Public & Local Artists Creating Environments (PLACE) program has selected four proposals – by a sculptor, graphic designer, professional dance performance troupe and artist team – to create four temporary public art projects at sites during the July 18-19 ArtWalk. Ventura ArtWalk is a two-day long self-guided walking tour throughout the Historic Downtown and Westside Cultural Districts featuring more than 200 regional artists at over 30 venues. To view concept designs and learn more about PLACE visit www.cityofventura.net/artopps.

PLACE aims to create new ways to appreciate shared environments, inspire creativity within a community and encourage conversation about the arts. “Temporary public art is powerful precisely for its non-permanence,” said Claudia Pardo, who is Chair of the Ventura Public Art Commission. “It demands that you remain present, it’s intensely personal, unpredictable, and the process of creating it takes precedence over the end result. I think that’s beautiful.”

The Whale’s Tail @ California Plaza on the Ventura Beach Promenade near Aloha Steakhouse

Artist team Michelle Stevens, Ryan Kaercher and Tyrone McGrath plan to bring together EP Foster School children, the public and Surfrider Foundation to construct a full-scale whale’s tail by threading plastic bottles, slated for recycling but with the potential to end up in the ocean, onto the sculpture’s framework. Donate clean, empty plastic bottles before June 30 to the Refill Shoppe, 363 E Main St.

Spirit of the Sea Eschrichtius robustus-tomolus @ California Street Mini-Park, California & Santa Clara Sts

Sculptor Arnold Martin will install a thirteen foot long “skeletal hybrid inspired by the shape of the traditional tomol canoe [tomolus], once used by the Chumash people to row between Ventura and the Channel Islands, and the bones of a gray whale” (scientific name: Eschrichtius robustus).

Alive Ventura @ California & Main Streets Art Pod and various vacant storefronts

Graphic designer Ben Blanchard will create “art for the people inspired by the people” by “using vacant storefronts in the downtown area as a space to show art, bringing life to these unused spaces.” His “type driven illustrations” will “act as words of encouragement ... on digitally designed and printed/installed vinyl.” Look for them everywhere downtown.

Governing Bodies @ Ventura City Hall lawn, 501 Poli Street

The Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre will perform on the streets and front lawn of Ventura’s historic City Hall a piece created for three dancers in Flamenco, West African and break dancing styles.

For more information contact Public Art Project Manager Tobie Roach at 805-658-4759 or troach@cityofventura.net.

This release is available on the City of Ventura website www.cityofventura.net. ###