Welcome to the City of Chico's public art collection which includes stand-alone pieces, functional objects, and artist-designed architectural elements integrated into capital projects.

This brochure provides a list of the public art works owned by the City of Chico and the Chico Redevelopment Agency and maps identifying locations. It is divided into categories of types of art with particular projects highlighted. Some art falls into multiple categories. The range of art exemplifies the variety of approaches the City’s Art in Public Places Program has taken since its first project was completed in 1996. The Program is a visible way to enrich the quality of life for residents and to support tourism and economic vitality.

Projects are developed by the City of Chico Arts Commission or City Departments and approved by the City Council during its annual budget process. Funding sources vary: redevelopment funds, general funds, and construction budgets are utilized. In some cases, private funds have been used as matches for the public funding.

Developing an art project always begins with questions about the goals for the art. Will it build identity and civic pride? Does it need to contribute to the revitalization of a blighted area? Is it an opportunity to heighten awareness of cultural heritage? Would it be appropriate to enhance a connection to nature? Will it help people find their way? The answers to these questions shape the criteria for the project and become the artist's guide which ensures that the art embodies a sense of place and enhances the interactive experience.

Refer to the City’s web site www.ci.chico.ca.us, City Arts page for further details about the art works, information regarding group tours, program policies and selection methods, artist opportunities, and other useful art links.
Community-Based Public Art

Community involvement and collaboration make these projects unique. The art work may be designed with extensive input from community members. Citizens may assist in the fabrication or contribute stories and objects that add layers of meaning. Partnering with other public agencies, schools, non-profits, community groups, and businesses is another aspect of this type of public art.

Highlighted Project: Ancestor Gates
Community Park, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway adjacent to Chapman Elementary School, 2003
Lead Artist: Jenny Hale
Artist Team: Robin Indar, David Barta, Amaera Bay Laurel, Paul Krohn, Stan McKetchin
Media: Recycled materials
Partnering Agency: Chico Area Recreation District (CARD)

The lead artist first engaged school age children in art sessions at the Dorothy Johnson Community Center. The design of four, eight-foot tall “gates” celebrating Mexican, Asian, Native, and African-American heritages evolved out of the stories told by the different cultural community groups living in the neighborhood. Hands-on participation included a mosaic component fabricated during workshops with community members. Lead artist Jenny Hale said, “...successful design is driven by careful listening.”

Highlighted Project: City Plaza
Main and Broadway, 4th and 5th Streets, 2007
Artists: Elizabeth Devereaux, William EverOne, Owen Gabbert
Architect: Nichols, Melburg & Rossetto
Landscape Architect: Greg Melton, Land Image

Artist Elizabeth Devereaux was included on the design team and additional art works were separately commissioned as part of the redesign and reconstruction of this downtown plaza. The designs by Ms. Devereaux include a mosaic planet earth (with Chico indicated) at the base of the central fountain, copper elm leaf light fixtures, tables inlaid with mosaic game boards, and oak leaf metal work. A sculpture by Owen Gabbert is made with wood milled from the 100 year old elm trees that once graced the Plaza. Two murals by William EverOne show the “coming and going” of a Chico trolley from the early 1900’s. The Plaza won the 2009 CRA Award of Excellence in the Public Spaces and Linkages category.

Art in Parks
Chico loves its parks and loves its art. Home to the third largest municipal park in the United States and named number ten in John Villani’s The 100 Best Small Art Towns in America, it is common to integrate art into local parks in many different ways.

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Main and Broadway, 4th and 5th Streets, 2007
Artists: Elizabeth Devereaux, William EverOne, Owen Gabbert
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Landscape Architect: Greg Melton, Land Image

Art in Parks:
Downtown Kaleidoscope 01, Freeway Pillars Camouflage Project 08, City Plaza 10,11,14, Skater’s Gate 16, Annie’s Glen Tunnel 17, Ancestor Gates 20, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monument 21, Tetrahedron Wind Chimes 24, Wildwood Park 25, The Spiral 31, Degarmo Art Seating 33.
The art work may serve as a welcome to the City, designate a transition from one neighborhood to another, or mark an entryway to a facility or building.

**Gateways**

**Highlighted Project: Soaring Star**
Chico Municipal Airport, 2001
**Artist:** James Russell
**Media:** stainless steel

The City's Arts Commission and Airport Commission worked together to develop the project criteria and determined that the art work had a dual purpose: as a gateway to the City and as inspiration for flight, travel, and aviation. Artist James Russell said, “I wanted to create a timeless, elegant landmark for travelers at the airport. Because of its highly reflective surface, the art constantly changes depending on weather, time of day, and the movement of passers-by.”

For more information, contact
Art Projects Coordinator
City of Chico
Phone: 530-896-7214
Email: mgardner@ci.chico.ca.us
Municipal Center
City of Chico
411 Main St.
Chico, CA 95927

Refer to the City’s web site for further details about art works, information regarding group tours, program policies, artist opportunities, and other useful links. On the City’s front page choose “City Arts Programs” from the drop down menu.

**City of Chico**
art in public places

**Credits**

**Graphic Design & Art Direction:** René Stephens
**Copy:** Mary Gardner
**Photography:** René Stephens
**Contributed Images:**
- Illustration of Manzanita Corridor Reconstruction
- Project provided by Thomas Phelps.
- Illustration and Photo of City Park Plaza provided by Land Image.

**City Manager**
Dave Burkland
**City of Chico Arts Commission**
Paul Friedlander, Chair
Lucille Wane, Vice-Chair
Gary Baugh
Ginny Crawford
Carin Hilgeman
T.J. Glenn
Monica McDaniel-Berg
**Art Projects Coordinator**
Mary Gardner

www.ci.chico.ca.us
City Arts Page, Public Art Portfolio

“Excellence in the arts is a reflection of the health and quality of life in a community. The purpose of the Arts Commission is to serve as an advocate for the arts and as a partner in the community’s artistic and cultural development. Visual, performing and literary art programs should be designed to encourage the active participation of all citizens in this valuable aspect of their daily lives.”

*City of Chico Arts Commission Mission Statement*

Art works on the front cover, left to right: Bridges to Bridges 15, Dancing Trout 06, Wildwood Park, 25, Chess Tables 11, Sea Serpent 13, Wildflower Century 22, Greek Heads Pedestal Seat 101 Salem St.
Artists work on design teams with architects, engineers, landscape architects, and other design professionals to create public projects that integrate aesthetic innovation into Capital Improvement Projects. This approach results in project plans and specifications that are put out to bid and managed by the initiating City department.

Integration of Public Art & Architecture

Graffiti Mitigation

A significant impact of artwork may be that it discourages graffiti or may be used to cover existing graffiti. The City has undertaken a number of art projects in areas where graffiti is an ongoing or potential problem.

Partnerships

To encourage private investment and increase publicly accessible art work, the private sector, community groups, and other agencies sometimes contribute funding to art projects owned by the City of Chico and the Chico Redevelopment Agency.

Highlighted Project: Wildwood Park
Manzanita & Upper Park Road, 2004
Lead Artist: Cal Ling
Landscape Architect: Greg Melton, Land Image
Xylophone Artist: Gregg Payne

The backdrop of Upper Bidwell Park informs the art that resulted from artist Cal Ling’s collaboration with the Landscape Architects, Land Image. Big Chico Creek and its beloved swimming holes are memorialized at the entrance. A “Peace Pole” says “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in many languages. Children discover flora and fauna in stamped concrete paths. The seating and support pillars are formed to echo the geology of the foothills and are etched “petroglyphs.” An interactive xylophone by artist Gregg Payne is tuned and ready to play.

Highlighted Project: Lindo Channel Aerosol Art
Located: Underpass where Hwy 99 crosses Lindo Channel, 2005
Lead Artist: Chase Moreau
Artists: Rosalina Acevedo, Daniel Bebe, Jordan Nickel, Matt Loomis, Justin Maxwell, Gregg Payne, Matt Giannattasio, Matt Comer
Media: Aerosol paint

For a list of other art works which have been made possible with financial assistance from the City but are privately owned, please refer to www.ci.chico.ca.us, City Arts page.

Graffiti Mitigation

Projects funded as part of Capital Improvement Projects’ budgets:
Ringel Park Restroom 01, Normal Street School /Bidwell Flour Mill 05, City Plaza Renovation 10, 11, 14, Salem Street Transit Center 12, Humboldt Skatepark 16, Annie’s Glen Bikeway 17, Wildwood Park 25, East Avenue Renovation 28, Eaton Road Bikeway 30, Manzanita Corridor Reconstruction 32, Airport Parking Lot Expansion 34.
Commemorative projects are used to honor, edify, or focus on individuals, places, things, or events that have significance in the community.

Highlighted Project: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monument
Community Park, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Pkwy, 2007
Artist: Donald L. Howard
Media: Bronze, Marble
Partners: Chico Community Coalition and Chico Area Recreation District

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monument was part of a larger effort, spearheaded by the Chico Community Coalition and other community leaders, to commemorate Dr. King by naming a street after him and commissioning a sculpture. The Coalition raised funds which the Redevelopment Agency matched, and selected artist Donald Howard.

Commemoration Projects: The Century of Flight 34, Bidwell Park Centennial
Hooker Oak Benches 18, Bidwell Park Centennial Prints 36, Town Hall 1872 04, Trolley Murals 10, Sacramento River Mechoopda Baskets 28, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monument 21, and Luminary Art Benches.

Street Furniture
Functional art utilized as street furniture may include seating, bike racks, drinking fountains, tree guards, lighting, planters, wireless nodes, waste receptacles, bollards, and signage.

Street Furniture: Dancing Trout 06, Chess Tables Wildwood Park 25, The Century of Flight 34 Tables 11, DeGarmo Art Seating 33, Luminary Art Benches and Pedestal Seats (see map page.)
AIRPORT

BIDWELL PARK
16 Bidwell Park Centennial Prints, Jake Early, 2005, serigraphs.
17 Model of Demoiselle Airplane, Tom Patterson , 2009, Alder wood.

NORTH
20 Wildwood Park, Cal Ling w/ Gregg Payne, and Land Image 2004, concrete, metal, Manzanita & Wildwood Ave.
22 Lindo Channel Aerosol Art Project, Chase Moreau w/ various artists, 2005, aerosol paint, Highway 99 Underpass Manzanita Ave.
23 Sacramento River, Mechoopda Baskets, Meredith L. Timpson, w/ Unicorn Art Studio, 2005, mosaic, glass, 2446 Marigold Ave.
24 Native Fish Mosaics, Robin Indar, Christen Derr w/ Pleasant Valley High School students, 2005, mosaic glass, 2446 Marigold Ave.
27 Web of Life, Glen Rogers w/ Thomas Phelps, 2009, various media and locations, Manzanita Ave.

DOWNTOWN 

For more details regarding individual projects, please go to: www.ci.chico.ca.us and click on City Arts Programs, Public Art Portfolio.