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**AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS**

**RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING PUBLIC ART PROJECTS**

***City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs’***

***CURRENT:LA Water Public Art Biennial***

***Honored Today by Public Art Network Year in Review***

WASHINGTON, DC, June 16, 2017—Americans for the Arts today honors 49 outstanding public arts projects created in 2016 through the [Public Art Network](http://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/networks-and-councils/public-art-network) *Year in Review* program, the only national program that specifically recognizes the most compelling public art. Chosen by a jury from 325 entries representing communities across the country, the roster of winning projects was unveiled at Americans for the Arts’ 2017 Annual Convention in San Francisco.

“These selected works reflect the incredible diversity of public art projects, including temporary to permanent, sculpture to performance art,” said

**Robert L. Lynch**, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts. “The innovation of work demonstrated in the Public Art Network *Year in Review* shows the breadth of talent from artists around the country. I congratulate them and their commissioning groups for these community treasures.”

***CURRENT:LA*** is a Public Art Biennial produced by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) focusing on issues affecting Los Angeles and other global cities to inspire civic discourse and use contemporary art to deepen connections between people. ***CURRENT:LA*** makes art accessible to all by featuring free temporary art projects and public programming at outdoor locations, taking art out of the museum environment and into LA’s diverse neighborhoods.

The first version of LA’s Public Art Biennial, ***CURRENT:LA Water***, staged art commissions next to bodies of water, both manmade and natural, including some alongside the Los Angeles River, all across the city and was supported by a

$1 million grant award from Bloomberg Philanthropies as part of its Public Art Challenge.

“Philosophically, for the City of Los Angeles and our Department of Cultural Affairs, the ***CURRENT: LA*** **Public Art Biennial** represented a new way

of thinking about how public art can be presented and experienced,” said

**Danielle Brazell**, DCA’s General Manager. “For our Public Art Division,

the team that envisioned and produced the initiative, ***CURRRENT:LA Water*** was the first step towards creating a new paradigm for Public Art; what it

could be, and how it could function in the future.”

“The idea was to use Public Art as a social action: to create social awareness of issues that affect our future; to show public art in unused public outdoor spaces; to integrate art into everyday community life; and to develop a platform for socially-engaged artistic practices,” said **Felicia Filer**, DCA’s Public Art Division Director. “Specifically, the new model that DCA created sought to push ideas out into communities for the public to consider, rather than present more traditional forms of public art objects, which have a tendency to memorialize our specific histories and generally respond to the built environment.”

The presentation of the Public Art Network *Year in Review* was generously supported by the Kenneth Rainin Foundation, sponsor of the 2017 Public Art Preconference: Expanding the Ecosystem. Jurors Sherri Brueggemann, manager of the Public Art Urban Enhancement Program for the City of Albuquerque Cultural Services Department; Kevin B. Chen, artist and curator from Oakland, CA; and artist Alison Saar from Los Angeles, CA, were on hand for the session to announce the selected projects.

The art works selected for the Public Art Network *Year in Review* can be seen [on this page](http://www.americansforthearts.org/yir/2017). The complete presentation, which includes photos and descriptions of the 49 works, is available for purchase through [Americans for the Arts’ store](https://secure.artsusa.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?Action=Add&ObjectKeyFrom=1A83491A-9853-4C87-86A4-F7D95601C2E2&WebCode=ProdDetailAdd&DoNotSave=yes&ParentObject=CentralizedOrderEntry&ParentDataObject=Invoice%20Detail&ivd_formkey=69202792-63d7-4ba2-bf4e-a0da41270555&ivd_cst_key=00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000&ivd_prc_prd_key=5BC234BC-3DDF-47A9-88EE-8BE6B7896FBF).

**About the Public Art Resource Center (PAC)**

At the 2017 Annual Convention, Americans for the Arts also unveiled its new [Public Art Resource Center (PARC)](http://www.americansforthearts.org/parc). Supported by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, PARC is a first-of-its-kind online portal where users can access resources and tools tailored to the specific needs of a rich array of stakeholders in public art, including artists, public art administrators, private sector partners, fabricators, and community stakeholders, among others. A public art services directory, a public art programs directory, and many other resources are available on PARC, giving the field centralized access to information about current and ongoing issues impacting the public art field.

The Public Art Network is a program of Americans for the Arts, designed to provide services to the diverse field of public art and to develop strategies and tools to improve communities through public art. The network’s constituents are public art professionals, visual artists, design professionals, and communities and organizations planning public art projects and programs.

**About Americans for the Arts**

Americans for the Arts is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education in America. With offices in Washington, D.C., and New York City, it has a record of more than 55 years of service. Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. Additional information is available at [www.AmericansForTheArts.org](http://www.americansforthearts.org/).

**About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)**

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles’ vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming;

managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art;

and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists.

Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA’s residents and visitors, and ensure LA’s varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA’s mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike.

DCA advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through

grant-making, public art, community arts, performing arts, and strategic marketing and development. DCA creates and supports arts programming, maximizing relationships with other city agencies, artists, and arts and cultural

nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods

throughout Los Angeles.

For more information, please visit [culturela.org](http://culturela.org/) or follow us on Facebook

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