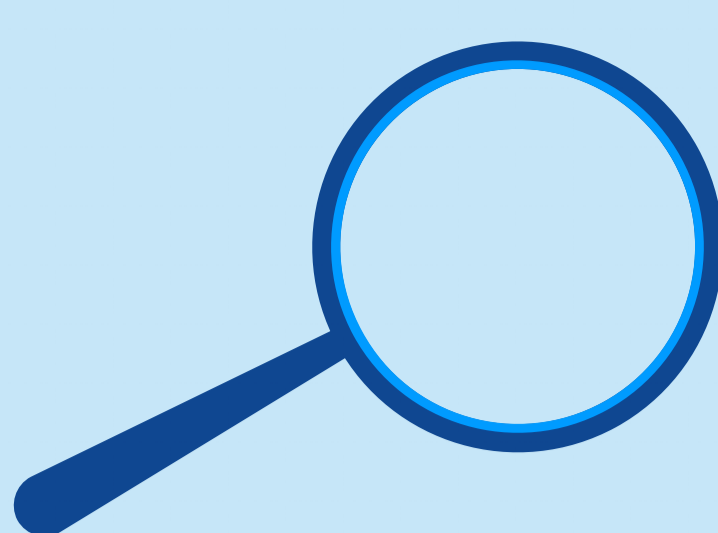


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WEST PALM BEACH

## In West Palm, works from 15 local artists will adorn public

**Tony Doris** Palm Beach Post

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The art to be created citywide will include: clockwise from top: Abstract Pop! - Peggy "Batta" Lowenburg; Spirits of South Florida - Gregory Dirr; Reclaiming the Distance - Ken Mullen; Let's Go Fly a Kite - Anthony Burks; Sr. City Of West Palm Beach

WEST PALM BEACH — New art will adorn 15 West Palm Beach parks and virtual spaces in the weeks ahead, as the city's Art in Public Places program commissions murals and mixed-media works to enliven the public realm and throw a life-line to local artists.

In the spirit of grant programs that helped businesses weather the coronavirus pandemic, the city's Art in Public Places program invited Palm Beach County artists in May to submit three-minute videos to tell about themselves and their artistic process, and how the pandemic changed their perspectives and their art. The city commission approved the program committee selections this month and the results should begin appearing in November and December, from Dreher Park to Currie Park and downtown.

In Dreher Park, near the Palm Beach Zoo, you may spot a sculpted coyote on the prowl, a panther crouched overhead on a limb, a swordfish surfacing from a pond, works called "Spirits of Florida," by artist Gregory Dirr, who will focus on species threatened with extinction. The zoo plans to create an educational program that incorporates the pieces.



Gregory Dirr's Spirits of South Florida, at Dreher Park near Palm Beach Zoo, will show nature emerging even as humans retreat from the pandemic. (City of West Palm Beach) City Of West Palm Beach

Elsewhere in that park, near the South Florida Science Center and Aquarium, artists Erick and Mayling Marquez are preparing "Once There," a sculpture made of twigs and branches, depicting a nuclear family sitting on bench, being overrun by native plants.

"Like Spirits of Florida" the biodegradable piece shows nature taking over again, an observation that as people faded from the outdoor scene in recent months, the worlds of animals and plants have reasserted themselves. The science museum also is creating an educational program

The third and fourth floor windows of the Mandel Public Library will get a color therapy treatment of a garden with butterflies and insects. The affixed figures, on thin vinyl, will give the look of stained glass. The work by Nicole Galluccio will be called Garden of Joy.

Each selected artist will be awarded \$6,000, for a total of \$90,000 from the program, which is funded by fees levied on new development projects in the city, not from taxes.

Some of the artists have literally added a new dimension to their work for these commissions.

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For Monceaux Park, along the Intracoastal Waterway on South Flagler Drive, for example, Robert Fehre, let his two-dimensional paintings with lightning brushstrokes transform into three dimensions, with a Yoga-themed sculpture called Bhadrasana (The Gracious Pose).



A conceptual rendering of Nicole Galluccio's Garden of Joy, a mixed media work on transparent vinyl, to be affixed on windows at the Mandel Public Library in downtown West Palm Beach. (City of West Palm Beach) City Of West Palm Beach

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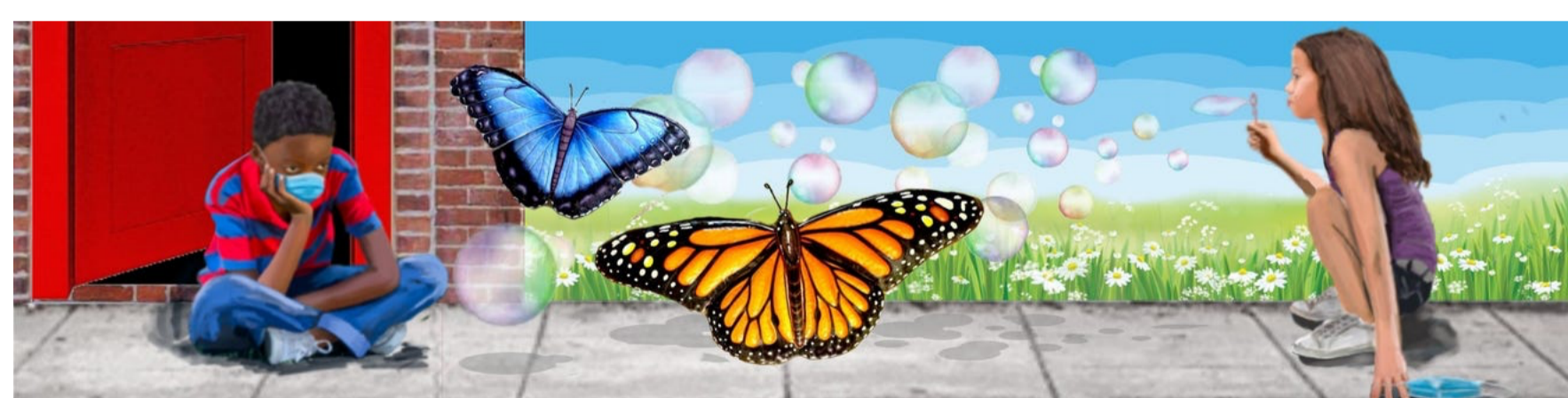
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Downtown at Jose Marti park, Dana Donaty will take over five concrete walls, combining photography, paint and sculptural elements to create a work called "YES - Holding Space." She's hoping people will come and find fortitude there, affirmation that they aren't lost during the pandemic.

South Olive Park will get a mural by Ken Mullen, called Reclaiming the Distance, showing butterflies and a girl blowing bubbles toward a boy sitting on a doorstep and looking bored behind his pandemic mask.



Ken Mullen, Reclaiming the Distance, a mural headed for South Olive Park. (City of West Palm Beach) City Of West Palm Beach

Two artists will host one-day, public participation – kite flying, for one – and two others will present their works in a virtual space rather than painting them on a wall. The dates for those events have yet to be announced.

The kite-making event will take place in Currie Park, while an Art Therapy event will take place on downtown's Great Lawn, around the time that Sandy the holiday tree sand sculpture makes her annual appearance.

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Two artists chose to use virtual space as the public space for their work. Andrew Ulluloo's work will appear on Thursdays for six months on the city's Instagram space. The work, titled "A Frame in Time," will document different parts of the city through his artistic eye.

Ates Islidak's virtual contribution will be to document this era of coronavirus with a documentary about the entire project, beginning, middle and end: "SPACES: A Documentary on 15 Artists 15 Spaces."

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According to Sybille Welter, the city's administrator of public art and culture, the documentary will provide a cultural memory of this time. "Fifty years from now," she said, "people will be saying, 'Remember the pandemic?' and this is how the artist community reacted to it."

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