

Vista Public Arts Commission
 Visionary Workshop, January 6, 2007
 Response Questionnaire

QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>1. We are considering a significant public art piece to define Vista. Where do you feel it should be placed? What should it convey?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I would like to start with a good gallery space within the new Civic Center - - a paid position to facilitate it and begin in that fashion. - The idea of the arch over by Main Street and So. Santa Fe would get good visibility. If it were done well it would get the public's support for more public art. I'd rather see a well-designed arch that has an artistic feel rather than a piece of art that serves as an arch. - Currently, Vista is a divided city. Racial tensions are rising. This is an opportunity to use public art as a means to bridge the growing gap between the Latino community and the Anglo community. - Between the freeway and Old Main Street, depending on the shape and medium the shape takes. - Main Street/Santa Fe/Vista Village Drive. Sense of place: hills, skyline, botanical (avocado, strawberry, orchid), sunshine, families, youth, multi-cultural faces, churches, rancho history - old rancho life - stagecoach. - Santa Fe and Main Street. - Place an arch across Santa Fe and Main. It should welcome all to downtown Vista. - Classic history of Vista. - On Main Street at Santa Fe as the entry to the old town of Vista. - Vista Village and Santa Fe in parking lot. Public arch; walkway; overpass. Diversity of community. - Arch - new and old Main. - Old downtown. A large sculpture that conveys the old Vista and the newer Vista. - Arch - - has been discussed. Great idea! Feel new Civic Center should also have a piece of public art. Would murals/mosaics be possible on building walls? Entrance plaza floor? - Unique project for Vista - - something not being done in other communities. Interactive art, e.g. sounds, music. - Downtown, family life.
<p>2. How would you like to see public art integrated into community life?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are many places where art can fit in. Where there are retaining walls, the face can be 3-D concrete at just a small cost above the construction of plain concrete or block. Some can be done with mosaic so all are not the same. Brengle Park could have a beautiful sculpture garden. In the turn-around by the theatre and waterpark, a big sculpture could be in the middle. - Get youth involved, particularly middle-school and high school students. Hold contests for young people. - I'm not good at "how" questions. If the question is asking, "should public art be integrated into community life?" then my answer is yes. It can be by embodying the community ideals or by blending into the community environment, or by being interactive. - City hall: art display hall (gallery) with mosaic tile decoration on exterior wall. Creekwalk thru downtown to Brengle Terrace Park: sculpture leading from place to place. Sprinter corridor: murals and repeated tiles. Alta Vista Gardens: sculpture. - Art should be required for new buildings.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marketing and public relations. - An anomaly since we can't define our community life. A measure of upgrade of shops/restaurants is an essential ingredient to make public art worthwhile. - Functionality; progressive program of community outreach. - Sculpture, benches, murals, fountains. - Fountain in entrance plaza? - Art workshops for all ages. "VanGo" mobile van to take art workshops to parks and neighborhoods. Tours of Vista artists' workshops. - More integrated with local business and business meetings.
<p>3. What types or forms of public art would you like to see in Vista (murals, sculptures, fountains, arches, monuments, mosaics)? Are there particular themes or subjects that you feel are more suitable for Vista than others? Why?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People mentioned the farming history and some should represent that aspect, but we should also go toward some more modern style. Variety is the spice of life. Art is supposed to make you think; make you curious to look at it in more depth - - art for art's sake - - not just to show heritage. - Celebration of diversity. We, as a city, must come to terms with the reality that nearly 40% of our population is Latino - - we need to find ways to include their voices and talents. - All things mentioned are appropriate. I think that there should be a budget allocated. A decision made as to how many artworks may be desired. An area selected that is desirable and a call to artists for proposals. I think a small pool should be selected on some initial ideas and past experiences and then stipends should be made for development, final budget proposals, etc., and then the final artists and designs selected. - Several monuments with mosaic tile or metal images; botanical and historical themes. Water conservation garden with modern sculpture. - Murals. - Murals, sculptures, fountains, arches. Old west/Spanish architecture. - Hollograms. - Initially, focus on Broadway and/or Main Street to upgrade and attract public interest. - Diversity to bring city together; landscape art - pull on climate. - Define the spirit of Vista. Hispanic culture. Agriculture, mountains, ocean breeze. - Sculptures of native animals; sculptures of colorful kites; mosaics on walls (to prevent graffiti). - Themes: family, business, education and working with schools, incorporate with students.
<p>4. Where would you like to see public art displayed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All over, not just downtown on the main streets. Going north on East Vista Way there is some hemp-style netting used as a restraining wall. Places like this are perfect places for decorative walls. Something has to be done to keep the mud back; it might as well have an artistic touch. - If it is interactive with children, maybe at the park. If it is to highlight the community, then near the freeway. If it is to be an attraction for pedestrian traffic, then near the old downtown center. Places where people congregate are appropriate. - Where not? - Santa Fe and Main. - Everywhere in downtown area. - Santa Fe and Main Street; arch; historic Vista. - Sculptures as artistic, not as monuments or memories. - Anywhere and everywhere.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Downtown, parks, medians. - City hall, library, courthouse, etc. In other words, public places. - Main Street/South Santa Fe; new civic center; Vista public library; major intersections. - Creekwalk, parks, Sprinter line. - Schools, downtown business buildings.
<p>5. How can public art help define and celebrate Vista? Who are "we" and how can we display that through public art?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It will show how we care about our place. - I think the art should lean toward abstract; be open to interpretation; complex. A literal piece may evoke controversy and may serve to divide, not unite us; the piece should evoke a "spirit." - From past experience, that is best handled if the Public Art Commission represents the diversity of the community. Then the "definitions and celebrations" can be communicated in the RFP or RFQ. If talented artists are selected, then the desire to incorporate those ideas should be reflected in the artwork the Commission and the public accept. - It should connect the old parts of downtown to the new parts. - Sculpture depicting our local environment. Perhaps themed toward the roots of Vista that were agricultural. - Again, diversity, bring people together from within and outside community. Viva Vista. City of Murals. - A graphic vision of what defines our community. - Need top quality, professional work. Raise funds without City's help: American Institute of Landscaping; grants; Vista slogan contest. Public art - community identity. - Visual and performing arts with professional and students.