



# Memorandum

**TO:** MAYOR MAHAN

**FROM:** Councilmember Domingo Candelas

**SUBJECT:** BUDGET DOCUMENT

**DATE:** 5/22/25

Approved

Date: 5/22/25

## RECOMMENDATION

Modify the City Manager's 2025-2026 Proposed Budget to incorporate the following budget proposal, including any required funding allocation adjustments.

### Proposal

Program/Project Title: District 8 Public Art for Public Infrastructure

Amount of City Funding Required: \$10,000

This change is:

One-time       Ongoing

Cost Estimate Number (if applicable): N/A

Proposal Description, including the reason for the need and anticipated outcomes (Please describe how the proposal will affect services for San José residents, community groups, businesses, etc.):

In District 8, public infrastructure such as utility boxes and pedestrian bridges often serve as blank canvases for graffiti and vandalism. Left unaddressed, these acts of neglect not only contribute to visual blight but also signal a lack of community investment—encouraging further damage, reducing perceived safety, and diminishing the overall quality of the public space. Over time, this cycle fosters an environment of apathy and disorder, which can impact nearby businesses, pedestrian traffic, and neighborhood pride.

Investing \$10,000 in public art for utility boxes and pedestrian bridges will help interrupt this cycle. Vibrant, community-informed artwork has been proven to deter graffiti by instilling a sense of ownership and respect for shared spaces. These installations become visual landmarks that celebrate local identity and enhance the pedestrian experience. This aligns with our City Council Focus Areas on increasing community safety and cleaning up our neighborhoods.

The process of transforming a space by the community, for the community, garners respect and adoration from the public, which essentially protects the art and the public infrastructure. By transforming overlooked

infrastructure into points of pride, we foster stronger community engagement and promote a safer, cleaner, and more inviting public environment. This initiative is a proactive step in addressing persistent issues of vandalism while uplifting the spaces that connect our neighborhoods.

Furthermore, the 501(c)3 organization that we will entrust to carry out this work, Our City, is already working on murals in other parts of District 8. They are skilled in bringing in the community and youth along with artists to foster a truly collaborative process and end-product. Their efforts in the community have sparked immense pride and have rejuvenated neighbors across the district.





**Funding Source**

X Essential Services Reserve: \$10,000

Other (Please specify program/project/fund):

**Department or Organization Contact**

Please list the contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation:

Name and Title: Patricia Mendoza, Executive Director

Department or Organization: Our City

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