

# **Steven Huss**

## **Public Art Advisor / Consulting & Management**

Based: Oakland / Santa Rosa / Walnut Creek, California

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## **Biography**

Steven Huss, principal of Huss Consulting, has been a public art professional for thirty years with expertise in planning, implementing and managing complex projects for both private and public sector clients. He has extensive knowledge of government policy and practice regarding public art in private development, and superior skills in assisting private business with integrating art into their development projects and navigating the regulations to meet cities' requirements for public art fees and inclusion.

Mr. Huss possesses a broad knowledge of artistic trends, best practices in public art, materials for uses in public environments, and municipal policies governing public art in private development. He is sought after to advise private sector clients in project feasibility, budgeting, artist selection, concept development and implementation.

Mr. Huss has managed public art programs for the cities of Seattle, Oakland and Walnut Creek, and provided expert consultation to many California cities including Berkeley, San Jose, Emeryville, Albany, Santa Rosa, and Laguna Beach. He has supervised hundreds of projects working with planners, developers, engineers, architects, landscape architects, and artists working in many mediums.

Recognized as an expert in Public Art in the Bay Area and nationally, Mr. Huss has served on numerous boards, presented at national arts conferences, and developed training modules and webinars for both artists and administrators. In 2000, Mr. Huss founded the Northern California Public Art Administrators Network, a network of over 50 Bay Area public art managers and administrators, which meets bi-annually.

He is the visionary behind the first-ever Outdoor Art Park in downtown Oakland, a collaborative of City government, private development, national and regional funders, Black Rock Foundation (Burning Man sponsors), and local artists, artisans and performers.

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## Experience

- **Huss Consulting, 1999-present**  
Freelance consultation to private developer clients and municipal agencies including Berkeley, Oakland, Emeryville, Albany, Pleasanton, San Jose, and Laguna Beach, California.
- **Public Art Manager, City of Walnut Creek, 2015-present**  
Coordinate public art in private development for dozens of new construction projects, guiding developers through public process and requirements, artist sourcing, proposal and materials review, committee presentations, etc. Also budget, initiate and manage municipally-funded projects for public spaces throughout the city and oversee artwork maintenance program. Staff liaison to the Arts Commission.
- **Cultural Arts Manager, City of Oakland, 2004-2015**  
Implement and manage multiple public art projects annually, directing many local and national artists. Oversee a Public Art project portfolio worth \$5.5M. Conduct master planning process for citywide public art program in collaboration with City planners, building department, architects, engineers, and community groups. Design and develop amendments to policies and ordinances to ensure City is follows best practices in the field of public art. Budgeting and forecasting for private percent for art, municipal percent for art, and collection management. Oversee staff of six.
- **Executive Director, Alameda County Arts Commission (Oakland, CA), 1996-2004**  
Administer Public Art Program with county-wide impact. Develop and execute long-range and annual plans and multi-year project budgets. Oversee all public art project development and execution. Advise Bay Area city and county government officials on development of public art legislation, programs and projects.
- **Public Art Program Director, Seattle Arts Commission, 1985-1996**  
Administer nationally acclaimed and influential municipal public art program, overseeing forty new and ongoing projects per year and the expenditure of 1% for Art budget averaging \$1.5M annually. Advise local government agencies of various U.S. cities, Canada, Britain; European, African and Pacific Rim countries on development of public art legislation, programs, and projects.