4  EXAMPLE PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

This chapter illustrates how the design approaches and display options discussed in Chapter 3 have been utilized in projects in Berkeley, the Bay Area, and beyond. Though the size, scope, budget, and intent of these projects differ, these examples serve to begin a discussion of the wide-ranging nature of public art, commemoration, interpretation, materials, forms, and meaning.
4.1 CHICANO PARK

San Diego, California
Design Approaches: Episodic, Outdoor Room

Chicano Park was designated as an historic site in 1980 celebrating San Diego’s Chicano community. It is a 7.9 acre site under a freeway interchange in a predominantly Chicano neighborhood. Murals adorn the freeway pylons and a kiosk provides a central stage for large gatherings. This park became a lively center of community activity.
4.2 JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL PLAZA

Portland, Oregon
Design approaches: Outdoor Room, Linear

Located within an existing riverfront park, this historical plaza was conceived as a tribute to Japanese-Americans citizens interned during World War II. Upright stones inscribed with poetry in English and Japanese relate the lives and experiences of Japanese Americans.
4.3 CHITACTAC-ADAMS HERITAGE COUNTY PARK

Morgan Hill, California
Design Approach: Episodic, Linear

The Chitactac-Adams Heritage Park is a 4-acre park along Uvas Creek, which features Ohlone cultural artifacts such as bedrock mortars and petroglyphs. The park is designed to protect these resources while providing interpretive and education exhibits including a self-guided walking tour and an exhibit building.
4.4 SONOMA MISSION INDIAN MEMORIAL

Sonoma, California
Design Approach: Singular

This memorial was designed to commemorate the Native Americans who lost their lives while in service to the Sonoma Mission. The names of those buried nearby were found in the mission’s records and inscribed in a stone wall along the sidewalk.

MARIA  SUSANA  CRAYINA  MARIA
MBA  ROQUE  AMALGANA  FERNANDINA
CAMILA  TERESA  ESPERANSA  GONZALEZ
MARIAM  FERNANDINA  LEON  ELENA
ALLA  FERNANDO  MANOELA  BANSANADA
R  ELENIS  LINA  REGULA  GENSARA
NOMEN  CARMEN  CUGNOTIMEN  ADAN
FRANCISCO  SOLANO  CHRISTOVAL
BOTAIS  ZEFINO  NASCIA  EUSEBIA
JOSE  EDUVICEN  AMANDA  EUTITI
D CUFOC  1839  BAXILINA  CELTIA
COLUMBA  HENNEGILDE  CARMEN
ARANIAS  PARQUADA  MARILINA  ZR

* - CHILDREN  UNIDENTIFIED - 13
4.5 COYOTE HILLS PARK

Fremont, California
Design Approaches: Outdoor Rooms, Episodic

Located at the edge of San Francisco Bay, trails and boardwalks through the estuary and hills allow one to experience what much of the San Francisco Bay would have felt like prior to the development of its edges. This park provides interpretive information about local Ohlone culture, such as re-creations of Ohlone dwellings.

Views into the estuary.

Re-creation of Ohlone dwellings

A simple boardwalk allows visitors to experience the estuary.
4.6 VETERANS MEMORIAL

San Jose, CA
Design Approach: Singular

The Veterans Memorial is composed of a thick glass wall. Silkscreened on the wall are photographs of U.S. military personnel. Superimposed upon these the photos are letters written by military personnel in times of war. The use of glass as material allows a juxtaposition of past and present. Through the transparent portions one can see the present while the opaque sections give an image of the past.
4.7 VIETNAM MEMORIAL

Washington, D.C.
Design Approach: Singular, Linear

Polished black granite walls cut into the ground and descend forming a chevron. Names of U.S. military personnel killed in Vietnam are inscribed into the stone.
4.8 FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL

Washington D.C.
Design Approach: Outdoor Rooms

This is a memorial not only to FDR, but also to the era he represents. The monument traces twelve years of American History through a sequence of four outdoor rooms-each one devoted to one of FDR’s terms of office. Sculptures inspired by photographs depict the FDR: A 10-foot statue shows him in a wheeled chair; a bas-relief depicts him riding in a car during his first inaugural. At the very beginning of the memorial there is a statue with FDR seated in a wheelchair much like the one he used.
4.9 SAN MATEO TRAIN STATION MURAL

San Mateo, California
Design Approach: Singular

This large mural is located across from the newly built train station in downtown San Mateo. The mural depicts an event from San Mateo’s history.
4.10 MARKINGS, REVELATORY LANDSCAPES

San Jose, California
Design Approach: Outside Room

The site is located under a freeway interchange near the Guadalupe River where the Cocheno tribe once lived. The concrete pylons supporting the freeway have been painted a metallic silver color. On one side of each pylon is a single English word, on the other side the word has been translated into language of the native people.
4.11 EMBARCADERO PROMENADE

San Francisco, California
Design Approach: Linear, Episodic

San Francisco’s Embarcadero Promenade contains a series of related public art pieces which interpret the nature of the site and its history. A 2 1/2 mile length of the Embarcadero is marked by a ribbon of glass blocks set in the paving. Illuminated from within by night, this line demarcates the line where the land ends and piers and wharves over the bay begin. Episodic elements distributed along the Promenade include striped metal pylons and concrete interpretive signs. The signs and pylons illustrate the history of the site with text and images.

Promenade Ribbon, lit at night.

A pylon tells the story of the dockworker’s strike.

A sculptural interpretive sign tells the history of transportation along the waterfront.
4.12  BLUE LINE ON CENTER STREET

Berkeley, California
Design Approach: Linear

The now-buried Strawberry Creek is represented on the surface of Center Street between Oxford and Shattuck in downtown Berkeley. A map-like abstraction, a single blue line painted by volunteers meanders on the surface of the roadway.
4.13   ADDISON STREET ARTS DISTRICT

Berkeley, California  
Design Approach: Linear, Episodic

The Addison Street Arts District includes a prominent public art component. Paving treatments in the sidewalk honors Berkeley’s heritage and the history of poetry and crafts in California. Eight Berkeley artists were selected to create individual sidewalk art inserts which are placed at individual points along a weaving band running the length of the sidewalk, which will be flanked by a series of poetry panels that run along the street edge.
4.14 OHLONE GREENWAY NATURAL & CULTURAL HISTORY EXHIBIT

Berkeley, California
Design Approach: Episodic

Three art installations comprise the Ohlone Greenway Natural and Cultural History Interpretive Exhibit. Sculpture, interpretive signs and a mural tell the many-layered history of the place and its inhabitants in a lively and engaging manner. The Peralta Gateway Adobe Column commemorates the Californiano-Hispanic period with images, text and colorful tiles made by children at the Youth Artists’ Workspace. The Agricultural Era Exhibit features four steel cows with distinctive personalities and a shady seating area.

“From Elk Tracks to BART Tracks” is a 72-foot long mural depicting transportation and migration from pre-settlement days to the present. All planning, construction and maintenance of the exhibits is being undertaken by volunteer professionals, neighbors, artists, businesses and community foundations.

Signage tells the history of the neighborhood.

Grazing metal cows along the greenway.

Mural along Ohlone Greenway.
5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

An Overview of Ohlone Culture, excerpt originally called “Ethnographic Background” from report titled The Santa’s Village Site CA-SCr=239, 1991, Archaeology Department, DeAnza College, Cupertino, California


The Costanoan Indians, “Costanoan Words for Plants, Animals, Certain Natural Phenomena and Numbers”, edited by Heizer, Anthropology Library, University of California, Berkeley.


Dore, Christopher, et.al. Cultural Resources Inventory of Public Streets in the West Berkeley Redevelopment Area, City of Berkeley, Alameda County, California, Preliminary Draft, Phase 1., Garcia and Associates. September 2001.


Nelson, N.C. *The Ellis Landing Shellmound,* University of California, April 21, 1910.


Ortiz, Beverly R. *Honoring the Dead and the Living, Dedication of the Sonoma Mission Indian Memorial.* Published in “News from Native California”, volume 12, number 4, summer 1999.

Ortiz, Beverly R. *A Mission Indian Memorial.* Published in “News from Native California”, volume 10, number 4, summer, 1997.

Ortiz, Beverly R. and Veronica Sanchez. *Coyote Hills History.* East Bay Regional Park District.


