



**City of Biddeford  
Public Art Commission**

April 9, 2026 at 5:00 PM

J. Richard Martin Community Center Room 2 & Teams

[Join Teams Meeting Online](#)

Meeting ID: 299 465 987 007 71

Passcode: 8Cq3v9Cc

Or call in by phone: +1 872-242-8054

Phone conference ID: 432 824 640#

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
  - 2.a Draft of March 2026 BPAC Minutes
3. Discussion Items
  - 3.a Commission Goals 2025-2026
  - 3.b Commission Logo
  - 3.c Master Plan Next Steps
  - 3.d Five Points Sign Project with Downtown Development Commission
  - 3.e City Hall Gallery
  - 3.f Biddeford Community Gardens Proposal
  - 3.g Plan to spend budget by end of FY26
  - 3.h Collaging and Climate Change Workshop through UNE
4. Review of Projects List
  - 4.a **Ongoing Projects: featured list of potential projects for the PAC**  
**NEW:**
    - Tiny Art - *see agenda packet*
    - Biddeford Cultural Heritage Center - time capsule and RFP for new monument
    - St Louis Alumni / La Kermesse
    - Scott Joslin - Mills Mural proposal  
**Ongoing Discussion:**
    - Traffic Calming Interventions: safe crosswalk initiative, etc.

- Tactical urbanism, or “quick builds” – temporary speedbumps and crosswalk sticks
- Sharing the Stories of Biddeford: wheat paste mural example with QR code narrative
- PAC introductory letter/collaboration with existing city commissions
- Merc Building
- Wayfinding signage at parks and trails
- Support/Promotion of Five Points project stewarded by the DDC
- Conduct a training in partnership with the Chamber on how to bring art to your space

5. Other Business

6. Adjourn

**City of Biddeford Public Art Commission  
Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2026**

**In attendance:**

- Jessica Muise, Chair
- Commission: Coco Corral, Rebecca Cote, Braden Drypolcher (via Teams), Kim Largey, and Beth Whitney
- Staff Liaison: Erika Dube, Deputy Recreation Director
- Council Liaison: Councilor Abigail Woods

*One Commission Vacancy: Student Liaison*

**Meeting Called to Order:** 5:06PM

**Approval of February 2026 Meeting Minutes:**

- Motion to Approve: Rebecca Cote
- Seconded: Braden Drypolcher
- Discussion: none
- Vote: Unanimously approved

**Discussion Items**

**3.a Recap City Council Presentation – February 17, 2026:** Jess Muise provided an overview of the council presentation. She received great questions from the council, felt that the council shared good resources to the commission, that there was a general feeling of support, and that the presentation created the opportunity to bring art to public discussion. *Presentation materials available under City Council Agenda Packet for 2/17/26 and Public Art Commission Agenda Packet 3/12/26.*

**3.b Commission Goals 2025-2026:** Discussed in conjunction with other agenda items.

**4.c Master Plan Next Steps – Recap of meeting with City Manager:** Jess Muise and Erika Dube met with City Manager Dever on February 19<sup>th</sup> to present the current draft of the Master Plan and identify a potential date to add this to an upcoming Policy Committee agenda. A May/June target timeline was identified at this meeting to add a first reading of the MP to the Policy Committee. Erika has submitted a request to have this added to a May PC date (Policy Committee may be moving to a biweekly meeting cycle to expedite currently policy reviews, confirmation TBD).

**Next Steps:** Once the PC reviews the first reading of the Master Plan, recommendations will be made and a second reading will be scheduled. Following this, it could move to Council adoption phase. Tentative four-month timeline from start to finish.

**3.d Five Points Sign Project with Downtown Development Commission – Maine Arts Commission Creative Communities Grant opportunity, deadline March 30<sup>th</sup>.** Mayor LaFountain and City Grant Writer Christine Ohman shared this grant opportunity to the PAC for consideration in support of the Five Points Project. Erika Dube met with Brad Favreau, DDC Staff Liaison, to discuss this opportunity, and he provided grant materials used previously to apply for the T-Mobile Hometowns grant (was not funded). The group discussed a variety of factors related to this grant which ultimately led the conversation to two paths of consideration. First, if the application itself is approachable, the grant materials are mostly completed, and the upcoming Chamber event (in planning/development phase) could be used as a matching fund source, would this allow the Commission Chair time to submit the application in two weeks? Second, regardless of the short timeline of the grant submission, the grant eligibility criteria requires the project to be completed by mid-2027 - is that completion timeline possible, given possible city plans to conduct a traffic study at the intersection and that this grant would not fully fund the project; could the PAC apply for this annual grant in 2027 instead to allow for more time for the project and funding?

Following discussion, the commission took this to a vote as follows:

- Motion to delay the application of this grant to the 2027 application cycle to identify the matching fund source and provide more time to work with DDC to have a better understanding of the project completion schedule: Rebecca Cote
- Seconded: Kim Largey
- Discussion: it was suggested to add this grant application to the 2026-2027 Commission goals.
- Vote: Unanimously approved

**3.e City Hall Gallery:** Kim Largey and Rebecca Cote shared the following updates on this project:

- They are currently compiling a spreadsheet of contacts for local artists with connections to Biddeford.
- The exhibit schedule will follow this timeline:
  - April/May – student exhibition
  - June/July cycle – Invitational Gallery, in conjunction with seasonal Artwalks

- August-October cycle – Invitational Gallery, running from FringeFest through October
- Erika Dube will confirm with the City Manager’s office about having City Hall open for a portion of the June/July Artwalk events. This will allow for an outreach mechanism for the Commission by having a presence at Artwalk. Councilor Woods will attend.

**4.e Budget Discussion for FY26 Funds:**

- Erika Dube is currently with City Finance Director Gerry Matherne to determine where the PAC budget should ultimately live and whether they will need to present or submit budgetary materials as part of the Municipal Services budget presentation.
- DDC and Economic Development are looking to secure funding for promotional materials for the Five Points project; wanted to make PAC aware that they won’t need fiscal support from the commission for this.
- Commission discussed using the FY26 budget of \$1,250.00 towards a Wheat Paste project of the Five Points design. The Commission members were all in favor of using the budget funding towards this, no formal vote was held. This will be added to the April agenda with the following to-do’s to be completed for that meeting:
  - Develop a budget, to include: artist contracts for installation, cost of print and installation materials, etc.
    - Rebecca Cote is taking the lead on budget development for April mtg. Deadline is March 30<sup>th</sup> to submit budget draft to [publicartcommission@biddefordmaine.org](mailto:publicartcommission@biddefordmaine.org) to be included in April agenda packet.
  - Location ideas:
    - Councilor Woods will email all city councilors for location suggestions.
    - Commission will also brainstorm location ideas.
    - It was suggested to connect with the Chamber to connect with business owners for location ideas, if using private property vs. public spaces.
    - Deadline is March 30<sup>th</sup> to submit location ideas to [publicartcommission@biddefordmaine.org](mailto:publicartcommission@biddefordmaine.org) to be included in April agenda packet.

**5.a Other Business:** Discussion Items:

- **Biddeford Cultural Heritage Center Update:** Jess Muise met with Diane Cyr from BCHC who shared that they have funding available for an art project. This will be added to the April agenda, along with a discussion on how this can be supported by an RFP process for art/gifting to the city.
- **Commission Logo:** Coco Corral has designed a variety of logos for the commission. These will be emailed to the Commission through a shared folder for review.

**Next Steps:**

- Selection of logo will be added to the April agenda.
- Once a logo is identified, this will be shared with the City Communications Dept for review and adoption within other city branding initiatives/policies.
- Erika Dube will send an additional Helpdesk request regarding city-issued emails and those not receiving group emails as listed in publicartcommission email group (request sent on 3/17/26).

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 5:00PM. Location: Room 2, J. Richard Martin Community Center – 189 Alfred Street

**Meeting Adjourned:** 6:36PM

- Motion to Adjourn: Rebecca Cote
- Seconded: Coco Corral
- Vote: Unanimously approved

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## Project Description

The five panels of a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century 50-ft. tall sign (that once spelled M O B I L) will be retrofitted with new panels and panel frames to reflect Biddeford's history, culture, and changing identity. The design, chosen with community input and support, is the work of a local artist.



## Why is this Project Important?

This project was initiated by the Biddeford Downtown Development Commission (DDC) in March 2025 in response to community concern about a blighted sign that is a remnant of the property's past use as a service station. Located at a major intersection into and out of the downtown area, this unused sign is highly visible (no pun intended! – it's tall!) and creates an undesirable impression of Biddeford for visitors and residents alike. The initial response from community members to the announcement of this project was overwhelmingly positive, garnering more social media responses than any other recent city initiative.

**Community Need** – This project is needed to transform a blighted major intersection (a gateway to our historic, National Register-listed downtown) into a focal point that embraces Biddeford's history and heritage while welcoming newcomers and visitors to the heart of our city.

**Community Impact** – This project will have enormous community impact by re-purposing auto-centric infrastructure (obsolete gas station sign) into a centerpiece of welcoming and civic pride.

**Partners and Engagement** – This project have been initiated by a city commission in partnership with two community-based organizations and robust public engagement.

**Feasibility** – The scope of work and the design has been completed with the help of artists, public engagement, contractors, and city staff. This project is “shovel-ready.”

## The Process

In March, the DDC released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Artists to submit Letters of Interest for this project. The twenty responses received from artists around the Northern New England region far exceeded expectations, speaking to the desire to improve this intersection.

In a community workshop in April, the public was given the opportunity to discuss elements of “Vision,” “Gateways,” and “Placemaking.” The feedback provided at this workshop was forwarded to artists to inform new designs for the sign.

The DDC reviewed artists’ Letters of Interest and chose three artists to proceed to the design round of the project. By May, the DDC met with the finalists, and, using a set of criteria set forth in the initial RFQ, selected the design submitted by Victoria Gordon.

The process included two public meetings and one public workshop to ensure maximum possible community engagement. ***This project is an ideal way to turn mid-20<sup>th</sup> century commercial signage into a high-profile work of art, with maximum community impact.***

### The Winning Design

The concept of using Biddeford’s ZIP Code for the five-panel sign proved popular and was suggested by multiple community members during the design phase of the project.

Victoria adapted this concept in stunning detail. In her words:



*The proposed design for the Biddeford CITGO sign celebrates the city’s character by incorporating iconic landmarks, local architecture, and references to its industrial and cultural heritage. Endangered animals native to Maine are subtly integrated, raising awareness of environmental preservation. Hidden “Easter eggs” throughout the artwork—nods to local legends, businesses, and community symbols—invite viewers to look closer and explore Biddeford beyond the sign. This design not only reflects the city’s past*

*and present but also encourages engagement and discovery, serving as a welcoming beacon that sparks curiosity and pride for residents and visitors alike.*

Tory has skillfully incorporated themes of community, transformation, and growth, ideas the RFQ encouraged artists to explore.

City Staff then met with a sign fabricator to establish scope of work and budget for this project.

### Use of Grant Funds

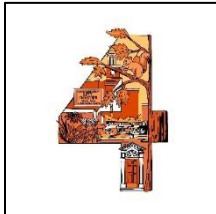
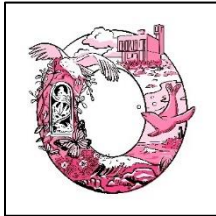
Grant Funds will be used to accomplish the following Scope of Work:

- Remove existing obsolete panels
- Furnish and install aluminum cladding for the signpost

- Paint steel panel support crossbars
- Fabricate and install five (5) new double-faced cabinets and panels with LED lighting
- Provide and commission new electric service, meter, and panel

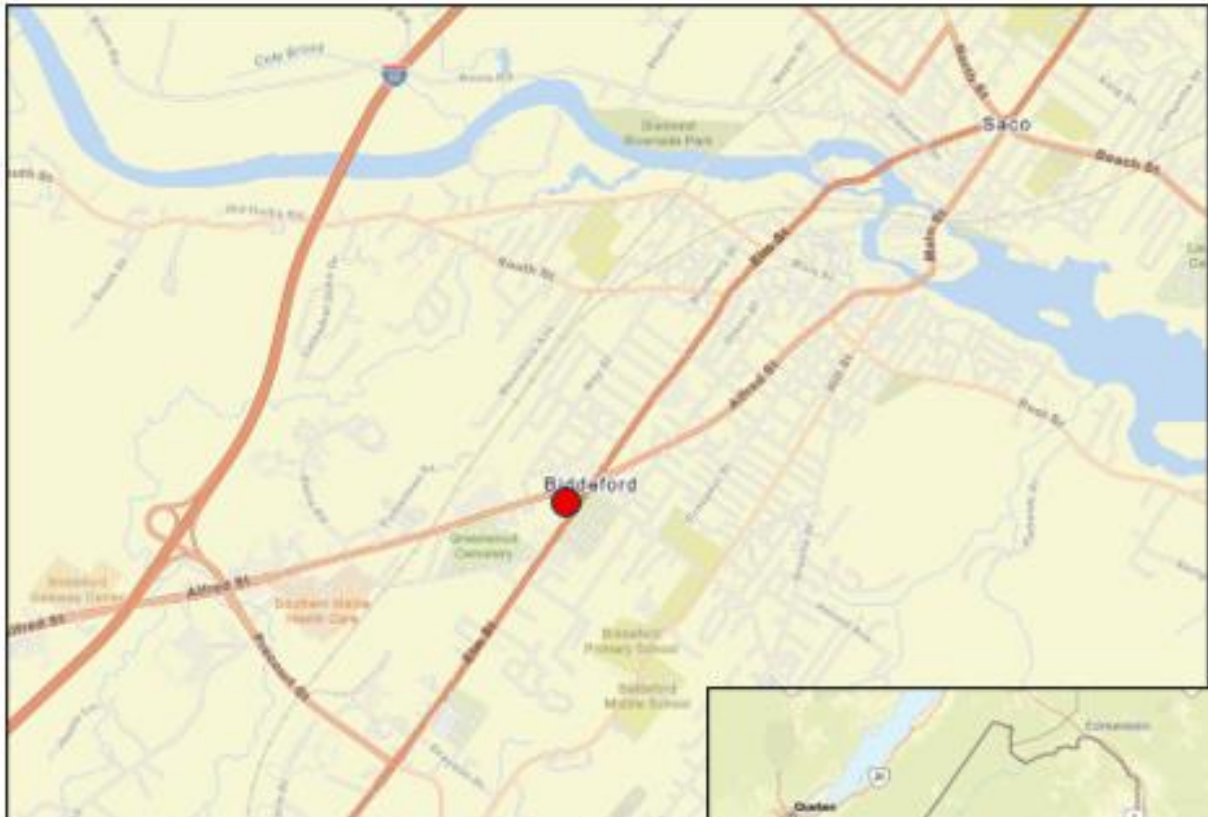
Partners

The DDC worked with our newly formed Biddeford Public art Commission on this initiative. McArthur Library assisted in planning the project and promoting the public workshop. The Heart of Biddeford (our Main Street organization) participated in and contributed to the workshop that discussed Vision, Gateways, and Placemaking and assisted with the public engagement portion of the project.



*Panel detail*

*Five new panels*



**Five Points - Project Location**



Jessica Muise

## Possible site for new mural

2 messages

**holly culloton**

Wed, Mar 25, 2026 at 9:09 PM

To: "Woods, Abigail", Amy Goodness, Jessica Muise, Leinani Farnsworth, Becca Cote

Hi Everyone,

Abigail, you recently shared that there might be some funds that could be used for public art.

I'm writing you all about a possible public art opportunity. I have been thinking about and looking at the new electric box at the corner park at 315 Main St.

As you all might be aware, last year, the students at BHS's Alternative Pathways Center's 'Garden Lab' painted a fun mural on the other electric box in this park. The design they came up with was based on their curriculum around horticulture and pollination. This public art piece was also on the list of action items from the NWF'S Mayors' Monarch Pledge. An initiative Biddeford Community Gardens has supported along with our mayor for the last five years. BCG partnered with the class on this project. I'm attaching photos from the Garden Lab's mural and the write up that they explains it.

This is our 6th year committing to the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, and with this new electric box, we could create another mural with Monarch Butterfly/pollinator or related theme.

A bit about 315 Main Street. There's some new energy via Heart of Biddeford and the city to formally name this park. Also, Biddeford's Sustainability Commission has adopted it and will be maintaining it this year.

Amy, I saw the beautiful mural your young artists just created hanging on the wall at Heart of Biddeford. I immediate thought of you for this project. But I know there should be a process and that other groups might also be interested.

Thanks for listening! I look forward to participating in the discussion.

Holly



--  
Holly Culloton, Director  
Biddeford Community Gardens  
Cell. 207-730-1799



5 attachments



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**Jessica Muise**  
To: holly culloton

Thu, Mar 26, 2026 at 10:21 AM

Cc: "Woods, Abigail", Amy Goodness, Leinani Farnsworth, Becca Cote, Archive <archive@biddefordmaine.org>, Public Art Commission <publicartcommission@biddefordmaine.org>

Hi Holly,

Thank you so much for sharing this idea and bringing it to the Public Art Commission! And for contributing public art already to the community. I can add this to the agenda for our April 9th meeting for the commission to review and discuss. That meeting is 5-6:30pm at JR Martin Community Center and also via Teams - you are welcome to attend. The full agenda and materials will be published next week.

The overview, background, and photographs are very helpful. Could you share a bit more detail on the proposed budget (total and what you would be requesting from the commission), the materials used, and any maintenance plans? If there is not funding available, is BCG interested in painting this mural as a gift to the City's collection? Are you hoping to have this completed prior to the Pollinator Festival?

The commission has drafted a master plan with policies and procedures for commissioning new work, handling requests for funding from artists and community orgs, gifts to the city, artist selection criteria, and procedures for permitting, etc. That is scheduled to move through policy committee and council approval starting in May/June. Having those policies in place would make it easier to respond in more detail at this point, though happy to bring to the commission and add to our list of sites and projects that have been proposed.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Jess Muise  
she/they  
Muise Consulting LLC

# Call for Participants!

Are you a Biddeford resident? Are you interested in participating in a research project on the intersection of climate change and art?

Our research project is with the University of New England. We are looking for interested community members to take part in two collaging workshop sessions that will last between 2-3 hours. Each session will include a collaging activity about your experiences related to climate change and vision for the future accompanied by a reflective discussion about the art making. Your participation is completely voluntary.

At this time, we are only looking for members of the Biddeford community.

The workshops will be held on April 11th from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm at Elements, and April 16th from 5-7:30pm at the Dyer Library in the Deering Room.

Refreshments will be provided, and you will receive a \$25 gift card for participating in each session.



Interested in joining the workshop? Sign up at the QR link here and complete the registration survey or visit this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/UNEcollagingbiddeford>

This event is limited to 15 participants, on a first come, first serve basis. If you have any questions, please email Jenn Brousseau at [jbrousseau2@une.edu](mailto:jbrousseau2@une.edu).



# Using Art to "Repair" Your Downtown



**MAIN STREET** *Now*

*Philadelphia*  
APRIL 7-9 2025  
P E N N S Y L V A N I A

# Small Solutions can have a big impact



“There is a power in small things, the silly and dismissible idea that makes people smile. There is a game-changing power in these small things... Small aspirations become big, and a few iterations down the road, silly projects and their instigators may create a transformative project for the city.”

- *Peter Kageyama* from his book *Love Where You Live*

# About Gallup, NM



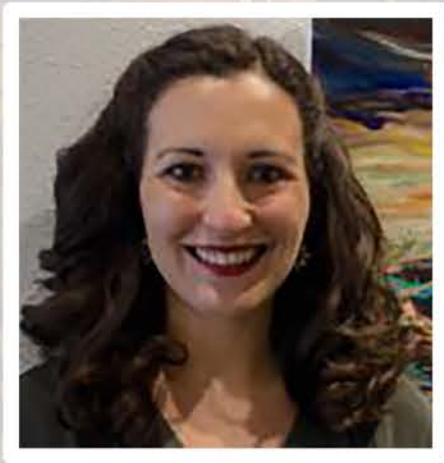
- We are located near the border between NM and AZ
- We neighbor the Navajo (Diné) Reservation and Zuni Pueblo
- Our Population is approximately 20,000 with 50% Native American
- We are a NM State Certified Arts & Cultural District
- Named for David Gallup the Paymaster for the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad later the BNSF RR.
  - First Settled in 1880 as a Stage Coach Stop then in 1881 it became the headquarters for the southern transcontinental railroad.
  - Workers would say “we’re going to Gallup to get paid and the name stuck.
- Known as the Gateway to Native America
  - Responsible for more than 70% of the nation's Native American jewelry manufacturing

# We have an image problem that you may share



## • Issues that make our Historic District look worn down

- People think Downtown Gallup is dirty and unsafe.
- Small areas of damaged infrastructure often go unnoticed by locals, but contribute to the overall worn down look.
- But we are an officially NM State designated Arts & Cultural District and we are partnered with GallupARTs in that designation.



**Rose Eason**

**Executive Director,  
gallup ARTs**



**Michael Bulloch**

**Executive Director,  
Gallup MainStreet Arts  
& Cultural District**

# Why this project exists.



- **New Mexico Arts challenged local arts groups in the state to install several small public art projects in their communities.**
  - They gave each group \$500 in seed money to start the project.
- **gallup ARTs' director Rose Eason approached us to help with what we eventually called the Tiny Art Project**
  - Based in the concept of Tactical Urbanism & the Japanese technique of Kitsugi which is fixing cracks in pottery with gold.
  - The goal of the **Tiny Art Project** is to beautify blemishes in the built environment through very small-scale (and very whimsical!) public art installations.

# What can you do to solve this?

## Our First Steps

- Walk the district like a first time visitor
- Look in all the nooks and crannies, walk down alleys, side streets, and check out public spaces.
- Look for things like cracks, missing tiles, broken concrete, and ugly pipes.

## Most of our issues were on Public Property

- We proposed the project to our Mayor and Council.
- For the first phase we asked for discretionary funds for the project.
- The Mayor and one Council member each gave us \$1500 for a total of \$3000 + the \$500 seed money from NMART.
- Phase 2 was funded by a \$3500 grant from the **New Mexico Resiliency Alliance.**



# Examples of Damage in Gallup:



# Examples of Damage in Gallup:



# Examples of Damage in Gallup:



# Call to Artists



**Gallup is fortunate to have a wealth of talented artists who live in and around town.**

- GallupARTs put out a call to artists inviting them to create something that would "fix" the problem.
- Rose and I developed guidelines for things we felt were appropriate for public art. (see attachments in app)

## Selection of Artists

- We formed a selection committee to review the proposals.
- Rose and I presented selections to Mayor and Council for final approval.
- We created an artist contract and arranged for payment after completion. (see attachments in app)

# Examples of Sketches Submitted



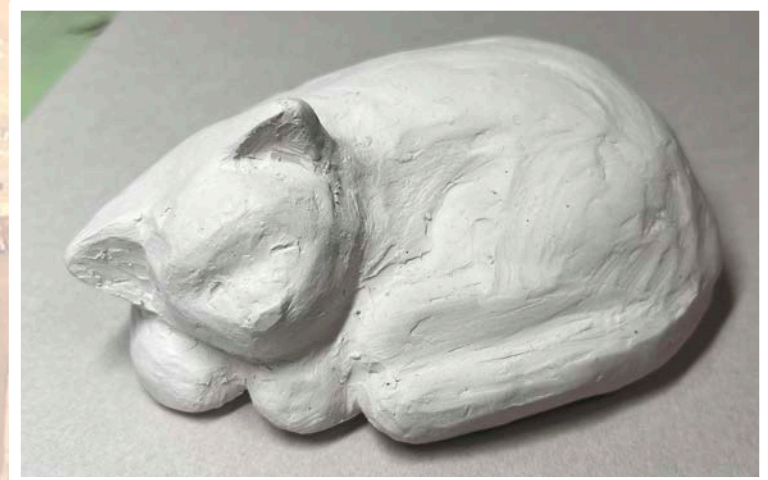
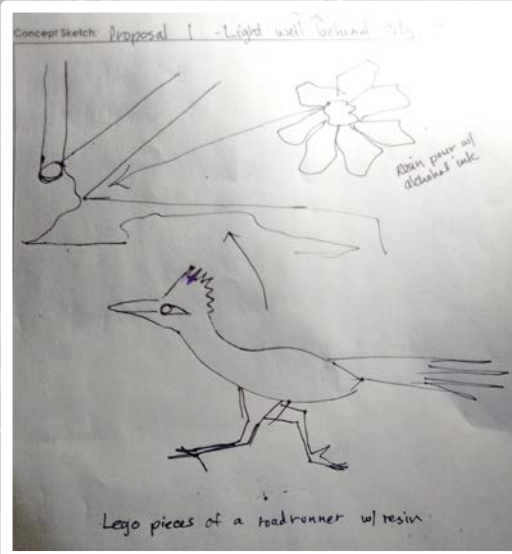
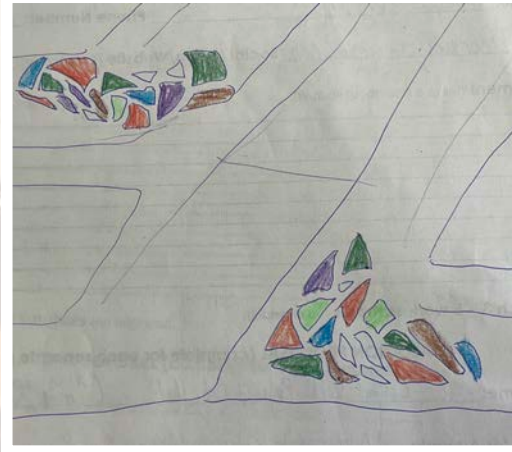
Hi Tasha,

I did this quick sketch of an idea we had, about making a Sculpture of a Navajo Child carrying her lamb. As a symbol of our life source and the powerful Native Women all over the world. I am also open to new ideas. I know it said "Tiny Art Project" so am just curious how tall and how wide are we allowed to make the sculpture? Obviously, a small sculpture will take a few weeks, but the bigger the sculpture, the more metal material we'll need, the more time to complete the sculpture and the heavier it will be.

Throw me some ideas, and we'll figure out how to make it all work.

Thank You!

Casey Tom  
UNM Welding Dept.



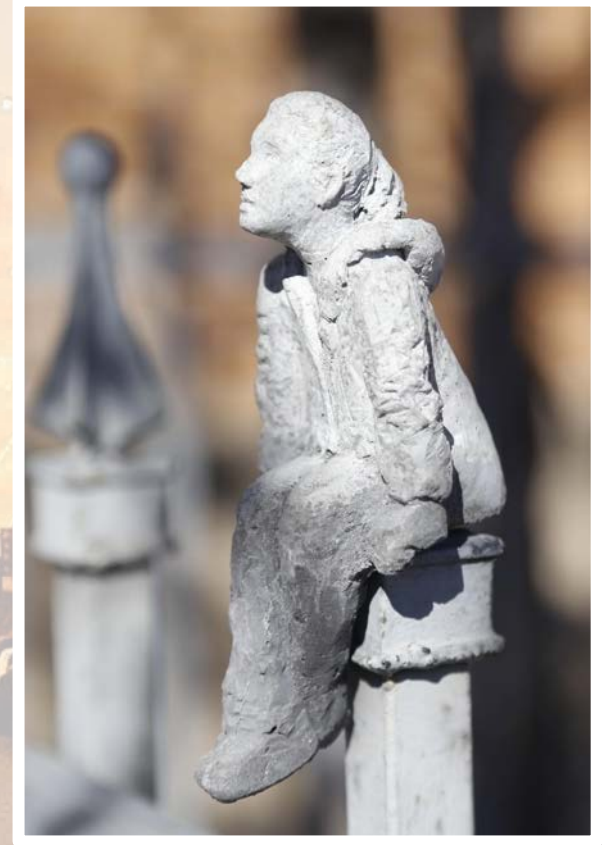
# Examples of Finished Projects



Navajo Girl & Her Sheep by Casey Tom



Seated Girl by Rachel Brown



# Examples of Finished Projects



Resin Embedded Pressed Native Flowers  
by Sheila Nez



Whimsical Garden (rain garden) by Raven Bright



# Examples of Finished Projects



Broken Bottle Mosaic by Katie Shultz-Benally



"Metal Band" by Anonymous

# Thank You!

## Michael Bulloch

Executive Director,  
Gallup MainStreet Arts & Cultural District  
[director@gallupmainstreet.org](mailto:director@gallupmainstreet.org)  
505.879.0366



Our Tiny Art Project Partners

