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TANNERY ARTS CENTER LAUNCHES PUBLIC ART SERIES

SANTA CRUZ, CA — May 31, 2022 — Friday June 3 the Tannery Arts Center launches a series of public art projects in partnership with Arts Council Santa Cruz County, Radius Gallery and First Friday Art Tour.

More than 20 public art projects will be produced throughout Summer and Fall. Artists responded to the themes of movement, community health and connectivity, participatory design, and the environment. The series includes sculpture installations, murals, and free, family-friendly community engagement activities that will be presented at First Fridays.

June First Friday features live painting outside with [Augie WK](#), [Skanarts](#) and [Shanti Nagwani](#). Music with DJ Solshine of [@ruca_records](#). Rebecca Escobedo will be unveiling *Created to Create*, an installation on the River Street chain link fence made from repurposed materials.

"The Tannery Arts Center is an incubator for so many artists," says Ann Hazels, director of Radius Gallery. "This innovative public art series is a way to pull some of the creativity that happens in art studios and behind closed doors into the public eye."

“First Friday at the Tannery Arts Center has been a hub of creative activity this year, with food trucks, pop-up performances, and inspiring programming from Tannery Art studios and their guest artists,” says Bree Karpavage, director of First Friday. “This series of public art will spark even more positive energy in an already lively and engaging monthly event. First Friday at the Tannery is full of creative surprises.”

The Tannery Arts Center is located at 1050-1070 River Street in Santa Cruz, CA. There are two free parking lots, at the North and South entrances to the campus. Additional parking can be found at the storage facilities on River Street, designated spots in the City corp yard, and on the streets in Harvey West Business Park. Ample bike parking can be found throughout the campus.

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Featured artists, listed below, are available to be interviewed.

See the full list of projects [here](#).

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Featured Artists

Moving Walls by [Augie WK](#) features live painting outside with two groups of curated artists, their designs will center community, culture, diversity and access to the arts. The walls will be on public view for three months, starting in June and repainted with fresh content by new artists during August First Friday.

Stellar Motion by [Moto Ohtake](#) is a kinetic steel sculpture inspired by elements of nature on both a macro and microscopic level, from galactic bodies to the delicate patterns of crystalline structures. It responds to the environment and serves to heighten the viewers' awareness of their natural surroundings. The observer is presented with an infinite number of movements that range from energetic to tranquil as the weather patterns change.

Walk 8 Day by [Mary Sawyer Atkinson](#) is inspired by the ancient practice of walking a path formed in the shape of an eight, a symbol that represents infinity. Located at gateway points across the 8-acre campus, stencils will be decorated by participants, who are then invited to walk atop, and in turn, continue to co-create the chalk designs. Intended to spark joy, create connection and stimulate movement while promoting the physical and mental health of both the individual, and the collective.

Reimagining Community A mural to be painted in August/September by [Abi Mustapha](#), located at the south entrance of the campus adjacent to the Colligan Theater. The relationship of people, plants and animals illustrated in *Reimagining Community* will express Mustapha's signature emotive style. Abi's mural is designed to center the unity in community, and offers a way to live as one in a world of many-

About the Tannery Arts Center

The Tannery Arts Center is a first-in-the-nation arts campus that provides an accessible, sustainable, and vibrant home for the arts in Santa Cruz County, a project of [Artspace](#) and the [City of Santa Cruz Economic Development Department](#).

Home to 100 live/work lofts and 28 studios including, [Tannery World Dance & Cultural Center](#), [Radius Gallery](#), [Indexical](#), [Everyone's Music School](#), [Catamaran Literary Reader](#), [Camp Tannery Arts](#), and [Printmakers at the Tannery](#). An additional two historic buildings provide homes for [Jewel Theatre at the Colligan Theater](#), and the North County offices of [Arts Council Santa Cruz County](#).

Members of the public can experience the center through classes, events and exhibitions produced by individual studios and visit during the monthly [First Friday Art Tour](#).