



**MISSION BRANCH LIBRARY PUBLIC ART PROJECT
ARTIST REVIEW PANEL TWO SUMMARY**

MEETING DATE

August 9, 2021

VOTING SELECTION PANELISTS

*Mary Chou, Senior Program Manager, San Francisco Arts Commission
Ramon Hernandez, Adult Services Branch Manager, Mission Branch Library
Valerie Imus, Artistic Director and Co-Director, Southern Exposure
Angelica Rodriguez, Gallery Coordinator, Mission Cultural Center
*Andrew Sohn, Mission Branch Library Project Architect, Public Works
Abby Schnair, Arts Commissioner

*non-voting panelist

PROCESS

Three artist finalists presented their proposals for the Mission Branch Library Public Art Project.

The Artist Review Panel discussed the finalists' proposals and scored each artist on the following criteria (1= low score):

Artistic Merit (1-7)
Relevant Skills and Experience (1-3)
Meets Project Goals (1-7)
Appropriate to the Site (1-3)

RESULTS

Juana Alicia Araiza	76
Josué Rojas	74
Javier Rocabado	56

ARTS COMMISSION APPROVAL

Discussion and Possible action: to approve the selected artist, Juana Alicia Araiza, and proposal for the Mission Branch Library Project, as recommended by the Mission Branch Library Artist Review Panel.

Discussion and Possible action: to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into a contract with Juana Alicia Araiza for an amount not to exceed \$71,500 for the design, engineering, fabrication, transportation and installation consultation of an artwork for the Mission Branch Library Project.

Art Proposal for the MISSION BRANCH LIBRARY PUBLIC ART PROJECT

NOPAL DE LA MISIÓN

Artist: Juana Alicia

“As a glowing window at the center of the library’s world of words, the nopal will tell a story, combining both legend and literature”

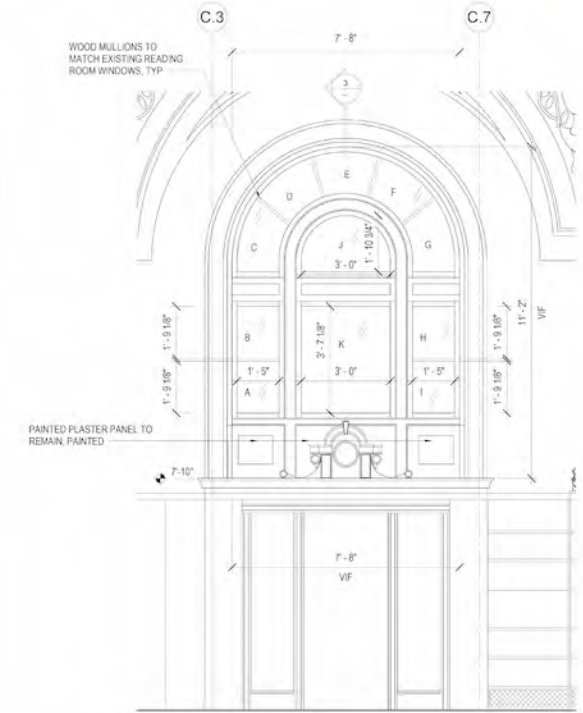


Original stairs and window



Proposed window design, "Nopal de la Misión", Juana Alicia ©2021

Color palette



Architect's rendering of window Mission Branch Library



Artist's concept of window design

My vision for the window in the Main Reading Room of the Mission Library is that of a monumental nopal or prickly pear cactus, full of both flowers and fruit. As a glowing window at the center of the library’s world of words, the nopal tells a story, combining both legend and literature. The powerful cactus tree has many meanings for people all over the world, but particularly for those of Mexican heritage. The nopal is a central element in our origin story: it is a symbol of resistance under difficult conditions, a tree that blooms in the desert, serves as delicious and nutritious sustenance and regenerates easily. In the window design, I pay homage to the *Optunia Violacea* variety of the nopal, which is a beautiful violet color. It will bring the vibrant life of the natural world to the library environment, offering its yellow flowers with red, star-shaped centers to the creative, intellectual and community-oriented space of the reading room.

The five panes of the window will be made of fused glass layers that are baked in a kiln to produce highly saturated, refractive and textured surfaces. The layers are both painted and “collaged” with cutout pieces, like the fruit or tunas of the nopal, some of the flower petals, the tiny seeds on the fruit and other details.

Because we live in the tech center of the country, I would like to explore making the artwork accessible through contemporary channels to the widest audience possible. I would investigate creating an online audio tour, accessible through QR code, so that the glass mural and its meanings would be available to low-vision or blind individuals, as well as the general public.



JUANES AVILA © 2021

