



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH CITY ARTS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

December 11, 2025
Agenda Item No. 7

TO: CITY ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: Library Services Department
Melissa Hartson, Library Services Director
(949) 717-3801, mhartson@newportbeachca.gov

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Lightfoot, Library Services Manager

TITLE: Cultural Arts Activities – November 2025

CENTRAL LIBRARY GALLERY EXHIBITS

Susan Neas: Mosaic Watercolor Paintings
October 20, 2025 - December 12, 2025, Central Library



The City of Newport Beach Arts Commission is pleased to present the stunning artworks of local artist, Susan Neas. After retiring from a successful career as a graphic artist and co-owner of Thomas Printers in Costa Mesa, Susan transitioned her focus to her personal artwork, dedicating full-time to her craft. In 2020, she refined a distinctive “mosaic style” using either watercolor or acrylic paint.

This exhibit features whimsical patterns and vibrant colors of unique compositions that escape reality. Susan begins each painting without predictability, always resulting in a one-of-a-kind surprise. Many of her paintings may be hung vertically or horizontally. You can find her art on repeat when it’s printed on wallpaper or fabric.

Fun Fact: This unique style was born from fear of committing to starting and finishing an entire painting. Accessing her technical expertise and a deep love for the fluid, organic qualities of paint, this irrational fear created an exciting technique that fueled her inspiration and motivation to create.

Upcoming Installations

2025

- December 15 - February 6, 2026: Hugo Zhang (Photography)

2026

- February 9 - April 3: Soung Park (Digital Photography)
- April 6 - May 29: Dennis Carrie (Historical Figures/Portrait Painting)

PHASE X SCULPTURE EXHIBITION ONLINE SURVEY

The public poll for Phase X of the Sculpture Exhibition is open until December 5. Selected sculptures will be on loan to the City of Newport Beach for three years. Sculptors, whose artworks are chosen for installation in Civic Center Park, will receive a small honorarium. The City is responsible for installing the art, while artists are responsible for the maintenance and repair of their work. The outdoor exhibition attracts an audience of all ages, including schoolchildren, the local community, and visitors from Southern California and beyond.

2025 STUDENT ART EXHIBITION CALL FOR ENTRIES

The 2025 Newport Beach Student Art Exhibition call for entries ended on Sunday, November 30, 2025. There was a total of 103 entries for the 2025 Student Art Exhibition, with artworks submitted from students grades pre-K through 12. The Student Art Exhibition Ad Hoc Subcommittee will recommend 12 winners to the City Arts Commission, with all artwork to be on display at the Newport Beach Central Library starting January 6 through February 23, 2026.

CULTURAL ARTS CALENDER OF EVENTS:

City Arts Commission (CAC) meetings are held at 5 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

- **2025-26 CAC Regular Monthly Meetings:**

- December 11, 2025
- January 8, 2026
- February 12, 2026
- March 12, 2026
- April 9, 2026
- May 14, 2026
- June 11, 2026

- **Family Fun Night:** On December 19, 2025, the Marina Park Community Center will host a Family Fun Night with opportunities to view the Boat Parade, dinner, and crafts. The City Arts Commission will be giving away a special ornament at this event.

NOTICING:

This agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Arts Commission considers the item).