

LARAMIE PUBLIC ART COALITION

STORIES OF ART IN PUBLIC PLACES — LARAMIE, WYOMING



Laramie Public Art Coalition (LPAC) enhances and contributes to the unique cultural vibrancy of Laramie and Albany County by creating opportunities for artists and fostering community engagement through public art, exhibitions, special events, and educational programs.

PROJECTS

The Vitruvian Firefighter
Laramie Jubilee Days
Visit Laramie Mural
Laradise Lane
Look West
Mural by Jodie Herrera
Utility Box Murals

COMMUNITY

Artist Workshops
New Western
Paredes Hablando
Slade Elementary mural

FRIENDS

Gifts + Gratitude



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Cover artwork, from left to right:

The Vitruvian Firefighter by Brandon Russell; Visit Laramie mural by Ashley Quick; Mural by Jodie Herrera; Utility box mural by Nancy Marlatt

hello!

The annual LPAC newsletter shares the stories and artworks shaping our shared landscape of Southeast Wyoming.

a note from director **Laura McDermit:**

2022 was a banner year for LPAC.

We expanded our staff (hello, Community Engagement Manager Ashley Quick!) and, in turn, expanded our programming to include public workshops and art parties galore!

We paid 39 artists to create and directly invested over \$55,000 into our community spaces.

And, with your support, 2023 is looking even brighter. Let's create magic together in our shared landscape!



The costume contest at the Halloween Costume Dance Party which supported LPAC.

Underwritten by our friends Martha McCaughey, Todd Cherry, Kayla Clark, and Jacob Hochard, the night raised over \$1,700!



projects

images by Sydney Edwards

The Vitruvian Firefighter
Brandon Russell



Installation assistance from the City of Laramie Fire Department.

The City of Laramie Fire Training Center artwork selection process invited artists from across the Mountain West to apply to create a three-dimensional work for the facility entrance. The selection committee of community members reviewed the submissions, narrowed the list down to three finalists, and selected artist Brandon Russell to complete the work.

Russell just happened to have a special connection to the call: he is a City of Laramie firefighter.

The artwork is Russell's first sculpture in public space.



The artist at work in his home studio.

The Vitruvian Firefighter is an idealized firefighter made of welded steel rod, referencing Leonardo DaVinci's *The Vitruvian Man*.

With arms spread wide, the rescuer is ready to brave the unknown. Firefighters embrace those in danger with open arms.

The work includes equipment details and Russell's signature where the firefighter's name would appear on the uniform jacket.

This project was commissioned by the City of Laramie and administered by LPAC.

Russell and his pup Zirkel.



Laramie Jubilee Days
Multiple artists



A banner by illustrator Amira Ramadan.

The biggest festival of the year, Laramie Jubilee Days, included local artists in celebrating the annual rodeo and carnival.

Eleven artists were selected to have their artwork printed onto banners that were featured in the windows of 16 Downtown businesses.

Participating artists: Erin Abraham, Anand, Amie Bleak, Kayla Clark, Sydney Edwards, Larissa Gomelsky, Jim Jereb, Melonie Jones, Evan Levi, Amira Ramadan, and Michelle Visser.

Visit Laramie mural
Ashley Quick

Visit Laramie moved locations and commissioned a mural to wrap their new space at 800 S. 3rd Street. After an open call, artist Ashley Quick was selected to paint her concept that includes vignettes of Visit Laramie's focus on outdoor recreation, Western culture, history, and the arts.



Laradise Lane



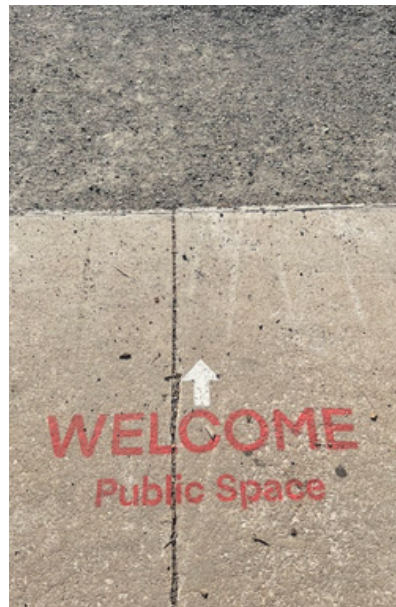
Utilizing an empty lot on 2nd Street, the City of Laramie, Laramie Main Street, and LPAC worked together to create a gathering place for the public. With the help of a volunteer clean-up crew, we painted the walls and prepped the space for tables and flowers.

Laramie Vision Clinic, a neighboring business, got in on the action and worked with LPAC to commission artist Favian Hernandez to paint a mural. *Waiting Room Spectacles* features Wyoming animals waiting for their eye appointments.

Laradise Lane welcomed everyone to enjoy their community during summer 2022!



Waiting Room Spectacles by Favian Hernandez.





New Jersey-based artist Cheryl Hochberg spent time in Wyoming as a resident at UCross and Jentel. Inspired to create a public work here, she connected with LPAC and Mark Ritchie, printmaking professor at the University of Wyoming, to devise a plan to install an artwork for Laramie, Wyoming.

The wood cut prints of bison and butterflies were installed with help from the University's printmaking students over the course of a week in September. This wheat pasted mural graces the I-80 underpass over the City of Laramie's Greenbelt trail.

This project was made possible with the support of the City of Laramie and the University of Wyoming's School of Art, and permission from WyDOT.



Hochberg visits with fifth graders at Linford Elementary.

Making prints on the Greenbelt with the public.



LPAC worked in collaboration with La Radio Montañesa: Voz de la Gente KOCA 93.5 FM, the bilingual radio station in Laramie, to complete the first public mural celebrating Latinx heritage in Laramie. A community group of Latinas led the effort and brainstormed elements of the culture to celebrate. Themes of family and the legacy of women emerged and took shape on the wall owned by Stephanie Carter, Latina business owner of Pinebeach and The Knothole.

The mural features community member Dr. Cecilia Aragon with the hand of Connie Coca, founder of KOCA radio, and the hand of the grandson of mural committee member Rene Slider.



Members of the mural committee pose with the artwork.



Artist Jodie Herrera.





Local artist Olivia Boddicker assisted Herrera.



Herrera utilized spray paint to create the mural.

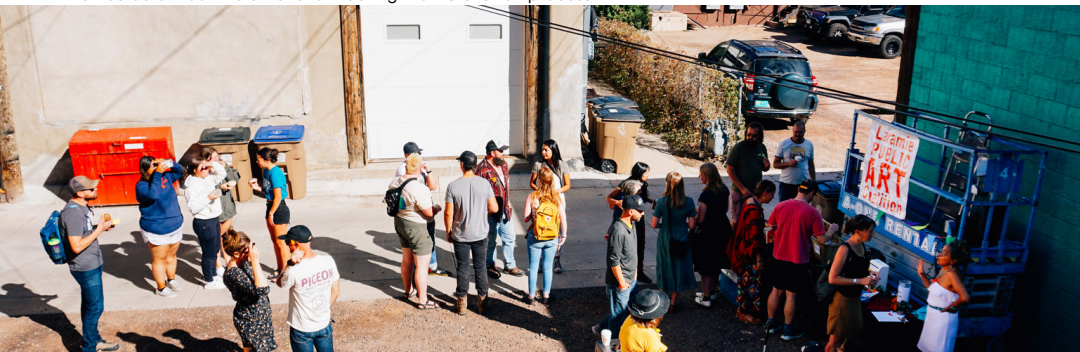
Mural Committee

Cecilia Aragon
Kassandra Bolton
Cassandra Castillo
Stephanie Carter
Ana Castro
Connie Coca
Jenny Foldenauer
Renee Slider

The hands are connected with a red string, symbolizing the connection between ancestry and living with intention for the children of the future. The corn stalks sprouting from the marigolds represent diversity, equity, belonging, and inclusion.

This project was supported by the Union Pacific Community Giving Ties Program.

LPAC hosted a meet the artist event during the installation process.



Utility Box Murals
Multiple artists

LPAC wrapped three utility boxes throughout the City with original artwork by local artists Nathanael Reitzel, Nancy Marlatt, and Mary Katherine Scott. The work was created specifically for each box. Vinyl wrapping was done by BoostedFAM Customs, owned by WyoTech student Chad Robbins.

This project was supported in part by the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund, Laramie Beautification Committee, and Daniel and Elizabeth Minton.

The Hoodudes, Nathanael Reitzel



Cottonwood Peaks & Bighorn, Nancy Marlatt



Meet Me on Mainstreet, Mary Katherine Scott



Find all 3:



community

Artist-led Workshops



Greenbelt drawing with Rhiannon Jakopak.

LPAC kicked off a series of artist-led workshops in November, featuring artists in Laramie, many who have worked in public space. Workshops are open to all skill levels and include painting, printmaking, laser cutting, and more!

The workshop series is supported in part by the Wyoming Arts Council.



Ben Regan led printmaking at Mullen Days.

Mullen Days: LPAC supported two artist-led making activities at Mullen Days, a weekend event reflecting on the Mullen fire of 2020. Sadie Winter Clarendon helped participants create soil pinch pots, and Ben Regan led a printmaking process featuring mammals in the fire zone.

New Western

LPAC helped animator John McAmis host a sneak peek of his animated short, *Chaser*, along with an artist talk back and open mic.

Chaser is an animated short set among the clouds and trains of Laramie, Wyoming. It is a modern Western made by hand from paper and pencil.

This event was supported by Wyoming Humanities Council.



Above: At the event. Below: A drawing by McAmis.





The three paneled mural by Stevon Lucero on display in the Laramie Plains Civic Center.

LPAC collaborated with La Radio Montañesa: Voz de la Gente KOCA 93.5 FM to frame *Paredes Hablando: Walls that Speak* by Stevon Lucero for the station's 20th anniversary of being on air. The 21 foot mural was commissioned by KOCA in 2010 and highlights the contributions of Latinos to Wyoming.

With support from the City of Laramie, additional educational materials and signage will be available in the new year.

Slade Elementary School



A former students resigns the mural.

Albany County School District's Slade Elementary School moved to a new building in fall 2022. LPAC helped celebrate the Slade mural in the original building painted by students with the design direction of artist Harvey Jackson in the early 2000s.

Slade administration, LPAC, and retired art teacher Kathy Keenan hosted an ice cream social welcoming current and former students to see the mural before the big move.

friends

With the support of our friends and neighbors, LPAC enhances the vibrancy of Laramie and Albany County. Every gift is used to further that mission by helping to turn the mundane into magic and amplifying the work of our artist community.

2022 at a glance

350+
event
participants



15
neighbors on artist
selection committees



39
artists
paid



This work is made possible by:



Thank you to our supporters, near and far!

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Brian Harrington
Sara Haugen
Jacob Hochard
Kenneth Hochberg
Leora Hoshall
Sue Ibarra
Nicole Gautier
Robert Joyce
Elisabeth Kasckow



Detail of Ashley Quick's Visit Laramie mural.

Ray Kasckow
Michael Lange
Sunnie Lew
Nancy Marlatt
Anne Mason
Matthew Matlock
Kelly Matlock
Ann McCutchan
Laura + Matt McDermit
Martha McCaughey
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Connie Quick
Allison Renton
Frederick Schmechel
Andrew Schneider
Mary Katherine Scott
Susan Scott
Trey Sherwood
Mayme Sullivan
Mike Vanata
Terry + Mike Zorch
Megan Zorch



Detail of Mary Katherine Scott's Meet Me on Mainstreet.

A gift to LPAC is a gift to Laramie!

Your gift can help enhance our shared landscape with art! Give today to see, hear, and enjoy artwork tomorrow.

LPAC is a 501c3. Gifts are tax deductible.

laramiepublicart.org/donate

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