







SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY
WEST PORTAL BRANCH

MICHAEL BROWN & DAVID COLE



www.kinematicslab.com

COLLABORATIONS

(Work in progress) "Dandelions" Town Center Pathway Artwork – Lafayette, CA
15 large Dandelion seeds – hand-formed from perforated stainless steel – will be suspended above a new public plaza outside the BART station. The seeds will pivot and swing in response to the wind.

2023 Private Commission, Joan Balter Violins - Berkeley, CA
Wall mounted sculpture in studio garden.

2021 "Solar Portals" – Richland, WA

This sculpture is a playful exploration of light, shadow, color and time. Through a variety of different, interactive portals, the sun and other optical phenomena create experiences that are playful, engaging and thought-provoking for students and adults alike. A video can be found at  [Solar Portals.mov](#)

2018 "Luminous Waveforms" – Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO

Suspended above the entrance to the CoorsTek Center for Applied Sciences and Engineering, this kinetic sculpture utilizes high-tech ceramic tiles with an innovative linkage to physically transform – via pulleys and motors – into various waveforms while LED's create evolving patterns based on sine waves. A video can be found at  [Luminous Waveforms 1.2min high.mp4](#)

2015 "eTau Awards" – San Francisco, CA

Thirteen custom awards were created to honor a group of scientists who made groundbreaking discoveries of the mechanisms of Alzheimer's.

2013 "Bicycle Trio" – Boise, ID

This "gateway artwork" consists of three sculptural bicycle forms that when ridden, power mechanical, musical instruments contained within the columns to invite spontaneous interactions between strangers through the expression of music and play. A video can be found at  [Bicycle Trio.mov](#)

2012 "Cleaning House" and "A Drop of Blood" – COCC, Bend, OR

The COCC Health Careers Center trains nurses, dental techs, massage therapists and other practitioners whose primary focus is to help keep people healthy. This suspended sculpture is a model of human red blood cells as they flow through capillaries while white blood cells are destroying invading bacteria. A video can be seen at  [Cleaninghouse_video.mp4](#)

2011 "Red Oak" – Princeton, NJ

This suspended, kinetic artwork was commissioned for the three-story atrium of an office building in Princeton. A video can be seen at  [Red Oak.mov](#)

2008 "Dust City Diner" – Black Rock Desert, NV

Interactive mobile diner with bee-hived waitresses serving grilled cheese sandwiches to the citizens of Burning Man, an outdoor arts festival. www.dustcitydiner.com

FINALIST:

2018 Monterey Bay Aquarium (\$460K budget)
2015 Minneapolis Lighted Canopy (\$200K budget)
2015 Bend Roundabout (semi-finalist, \$135K budget)
2014 Cherryland Community Center (\$18K “design only” budget)
2013 Oregon DOT Region 4 Campus (\$53K budget)

GRANTS:

2025, 2022, 2018, 2016, 2013 – Burning Man Honoraria Selection – Dust City Diner

MICHAEL BROWN - SELECTED COMMISSIONS

2025 “Threads of Memory: A living Tapestry” – Exploratorium, San Francisco, CA
A woven tapestry exploring how others can influence us as much as what's woven into our DNA.

2013 “Big Wood” – Exploratorium, San Francisco, CA
A 330-year-old Douglas fir tree and root ball sliced to reveal the science within.

2009 “Blue Rain” – London School of Economics, London, UK
LED sculpture. The Library of the London School of Economics. <http://tinyurl.com/28hga7y>

2007 “Cloudburst” – Private Collection, San Francisco, CA
Movable light sculpture incorporating LED's, blown glass and counterweights allow the elements in the sculpture to be repositioned and arranged by the viewer.

2004 “Birds of Prey” – Bay Area Discovery Museum, Sausalito, CA
Life-size cutouts of migratory birds with multiple holes in the wings to help distinguish the patterns birdwatchers commonly use to identify each species. <http://tinyurl.com/2w76338>

2004 “Unsupported Transit” – Exploratorium – San Francisco, CA
Light Emitting Diodes aimed at each mirror are flashed in the correct sequence, reflecting the image of the galloping horse onto a frosted glass face of the bell jar. <http://tinyurl.com/385vav4>

RESIDENCES, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Artist-In-Residence; The Exploratorium, San Francisco, CA
Grand Prize Muybridge inspired artwork; NPR and Corcoran Gallery, Washington DC
Artist-In-Residence; Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA
Cultural Equity Grant; San Francisco Arts Commission, San Francisco, CA

EDUCATION

1982-1985 Bachelor of Arts, Theater Arts – Film Humboldt State University – Arcata, CA

DAVID COLE - PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1994 – present Principal – Svartvik Metalworks, Ltd. – Oakland, CA
Designs and creates fine jewelry, art and architectural details for individuals and public institutions including Stanford University and SF Rec. and Parks Dept..

2005 – present Senior Adjunct Professor – California College of the Arts – Oakland, CA

Teaches classes within Jewelry/Metal-Arts and Craft programs.

2017 – present Instructor – Autodesk Global Technology Center – San Francisco, CA Teaches machining, welding and metal manufacturing at the Pier 9 facility.

CURATORIAL + SCHOLARSHIP

2014 & 2019 San Francisco Museum of Craft and Design – San Francisco, CA
Curator *Metamorphosis: the transformation of everyday objects. Dead Nuts: a search for the ultimate machined object.*

2012 Principal Photographer - *Jewelry and Metalwork of Marie Zimmermann* published by Yale University Press

EDUCATION

1991-1993 Master of Fine Arts, Metalsmithing Cranbrook Academy of Art – Bloomfield Hills, MI
1986-1990 Bachelor of Arts, Government (Modified with Religion) Dartmouth College – Hanover, NH



San Francisco Public Library

*Facilities Office
100 Larkin Street, 5th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 557-4245*

FROM: Alfonso Hinojosa-Chavarria, Administrative Analyst
DATE: December 8, 2025
SUBJECT: West Portal Memorial – Letter of Approval

The San Francisco Public Library is writing this letter of approval to accept the gift from the non-profit organization Livable City. The statue was designed by artists David Cole and Michael Brown, to memorialize the Ramos Pinto de Oliveira family who tragically passed away in front of the West Portal Library Branch on March 16th, 2024. This statue will be sculpted out of bronze metal and will be erected on a cylindrical concrete slab, with the phrase "Together forever, your deep love for each other will be your lasting legacy" engraved on the cement in Portuguese. The statue will be placed in the garden area, in front of the West Portal Branch to memorialize the family and the love they had for one another.

DIVISION APPROVAL

JOHN CUNHA

Signature _____ Date _____

DEPARTMENT APPROVAL

MICHAEL LAMBERT

DocuSigned by:
 Michael Lambert
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12/8/2025



Member, Board of Supervisors
District 7

City and County of San Francisco

MYRNA MELGAR

December 12, 2025

Dear President Collins and the Arts Commission,

Today, I am writing to share my enthusiastic support for the proposed memorial sculpture at the West Portal Library. As many of you know, San Francisco suffered a devastating tragedy on March 16, 2024 when a family of four was killed by a speeding vehicle at the intersection of Ulloa Street and West Portal. This incident shook the entire West Portal community and left a lasting hole in the heart of families across the City.

This proposed memorial is a small step to acknowledge this loss and commemorate the lives that were lost so swiftly and so young. The proposed sculpture was designed in collaboration with the surviving family members of Diego, Matilde, Joaquin and Caeu and includes language in both English and their native Portuguese. This memorial symbolizes that while their earthly forms are no longer with us, their lives and their memories will be forever intertwined.

I speak on behalf of all of District 7 when I say that we are heartbroken by the tragic loss of Diego, Matilde, Joaquin and Caeu. We mourn them. San Francisco mourns them. Portugal mourns them. Brazil mourns them. But we will never forget them. This statue, dedicated to their memory, is a way for us to honor their memory.

For these reasons, I fully support this project and urge you to vote in favor. If you require more information, please contact Emma Hare in my office via email at emma.hare@sfgov.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Myrna Melgar".

Myrna Melgar
Member, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 7



Daniel Lurie, Mayor

Janet Tarlov, Chair
Stephanie Cajina, Vice Chair
Mike Chen, Director
Alfonso Felder, Director

Steve Heminger, Director
Dominica Henderson, Director
Fiona Hinze, Director

Julie Kirschbaum, Director of Transportation

December 16, 2025

Dear President Collins and Commissioners,

I am writing to share my strong support for the proposed memorial at the San Francisco Public Library's West Portal Branch.

The tragic crash that took the lives of the Pinto de Oliveira family was deeply felt by the neighborhood, staff at the SFMTA and across San Francisco. The proposed sculpture will serve to honor their lives and memory.

I am grateful to the community members who have organized and led the creation of this memorial and their collaboration with city partners like the San Francisco Public Library as well as family members of the Pinto de Oliveira family.

The community-led nature of this proposed memorial reflects the wide impact that the loss of the Pinto de Oliveira family has had across the city.

I fully support this proposed memorial and encourage your support as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julie Kirschbaum".

Julie Kirschbaum
Director of Transportation
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency

Waiver of Proprietary Rights

for Artwork Placed Upon CITY PROPERTY under VARA and CAPA

Artist has designed a work of visual art. In consideration of the City's approval of the Artist design of visual art.

DESCRIPTION: [type, mural, medium]: Statue

The West Portal Memorial (Ramos Pinto De Oliveira Memorial) is a commemorative statue dedicated to the Ramos Pinto De Oliveira Family that tragically passed away in front of the West Portal Branch Library

TITLE, DATE: _____ Ramos Pinto De Oliveira Memorial - 05/18/2026

DIMENSIONS: _____ 38.75" tall and 30" diameter base

ADDRESS/LOCATION: _____ 190 Lenox Way, San Francisco, CA 94127

("the Work") for the City artist agrees to waive and does hereby waive voluntarily all rights to attribution and integrity with respect to the Work and any and all claims as may arise under the Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990, 17 U.S.C. §§106A and 113(d) ("VARA"), the California Art Preservation Act (Cal. Civ. Code §§987 and 989)("CAPA"), or any other local, state, foreign or international law, as currently drafted or as may be hereafter amended, that conveys the same or similar rights ("Moral Rights Laws"), with respect to the Work, its display, removal from display, exhibition, installation, conservation, storage, study, alteration and any other activities conducted by the City, its officers, employees, agents, contractors, licensees, successors or assigns. If the Work is incorporated into a building such that the Work cannot be removed from the building without physical defacement, mutilation, alteration, distortion, destruction, or other modification (collectively, "Modification") of the Work, artist waives any and all such claims under any Moral Rights Laws arising out of or against any current or future owners of the site, and its agents, officers and employees, for Modification of the Work.

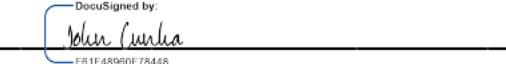
The City has the absolute right to change, modify, destroy, remove, relocate, move, replace, transport, repair or restore the Work, in whole or in part, in City's sole discretion.

The City has no obligation to pursue claims against third parties for modifications or damage to the Work done without the City's authorization. However, the City may pursue claims against third parties for modifications or damage or to restore the Work if the work has been modified without the City's authorization. In the event that the City pursues such a claim, it shall notify the Artist, and Artist shall cooperate with the City's efforts to prosecute such claims.

If the City modifies the Artwork without the Artist's consent in a manner that is prejudicial to Artist's reputation, Artist retains the right to disclaim authorship of the Artwork in accordance with 17 U.S.C. § 106A (a) (2).

Artist bears the sole responsibility for providing the City with any changes to the Artist's Address for Notice. Notice of changes must be mailed to the Arts Commission, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 325, San Francisco, CA 94102 AND to the City Agency with jurisdiction over the property.

CITY AGENCY

Agency:	San Francisco Public Library Facilities
Authorized Agent:	John Cunha
Address:	100 Larkin St, San Francisco, CA 94102
Email:	john.cunha@sfpl.org
Phone:	(415) 557-4485
SIGNATURE:	
DATE:	12 / 08 / 2025
	michael.lambert@sfpl.org

ARTIST

ARTIST understands the effect of this waiver and hereby acknowledges that ARTIST is surrendering the rights described herein with respect to the Work.

Artist:	Michael Brown
Address:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Phone:	[REDACTED]
SIGNATURE:	
DATE:	12 / 08 / 2025

SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION

SFAC Contact:	Paris Cotz
	San Francisco Arts Commission
Email:	paris.cotz@sfgov.org
Phone:	415-539-6213

For more information regarding VARA and CAPA:

<http://www.sfartscommission.org/pubartcollection/mural-guidelines/pa05-mural-guidelines/pa05-2-visual-artists-rights-act/>

<http://www.sfartscommission.org/pubartcollection/mural-guidelines/pa05-mural-guidelines/pa05-3-california-art-preservation-act/>