

GENE FRIEND RECREATION CENTER

PUBLIC ART PROJECT

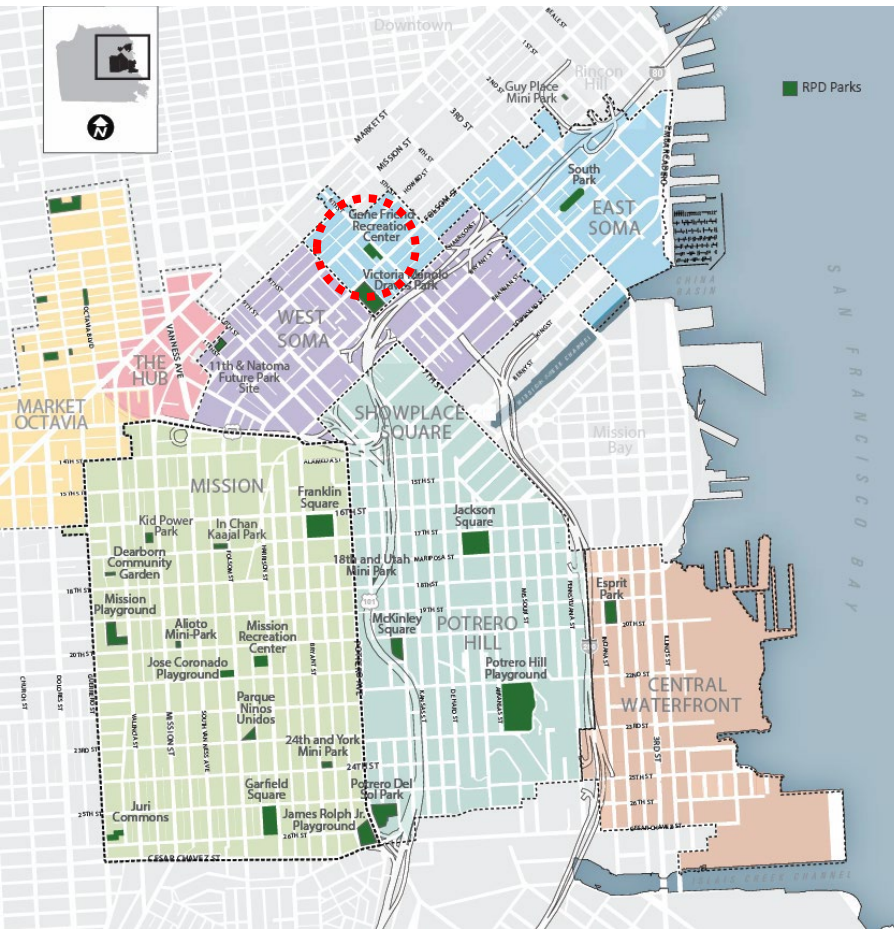
AS INSTALLED: INTEGRATED WALL-ARTWORK, CECE CARPIO

Visual Arts Committee
July 15, 2026

Arianne G. Davidian
Project Manager | Public Art
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415-310-8012

sfac san francisco
arts commission

Gene Friend Recreation Center
Project Background



CORNER 6TH AND FOLSOM - DAY
MARK CAVAGNERO ASSOCIATES | KUTH RANIERI ARCHITECTS - GENE FRIEND RECREATION CENTER



STREET VIEW AT FOLSOM & 6TH STREET (LOW POINT)
MARK CAVAGNERO ASSOCIATES | KUTH RANIERI ARCHITECTS - GENE FRIEND RECREATION CENTER

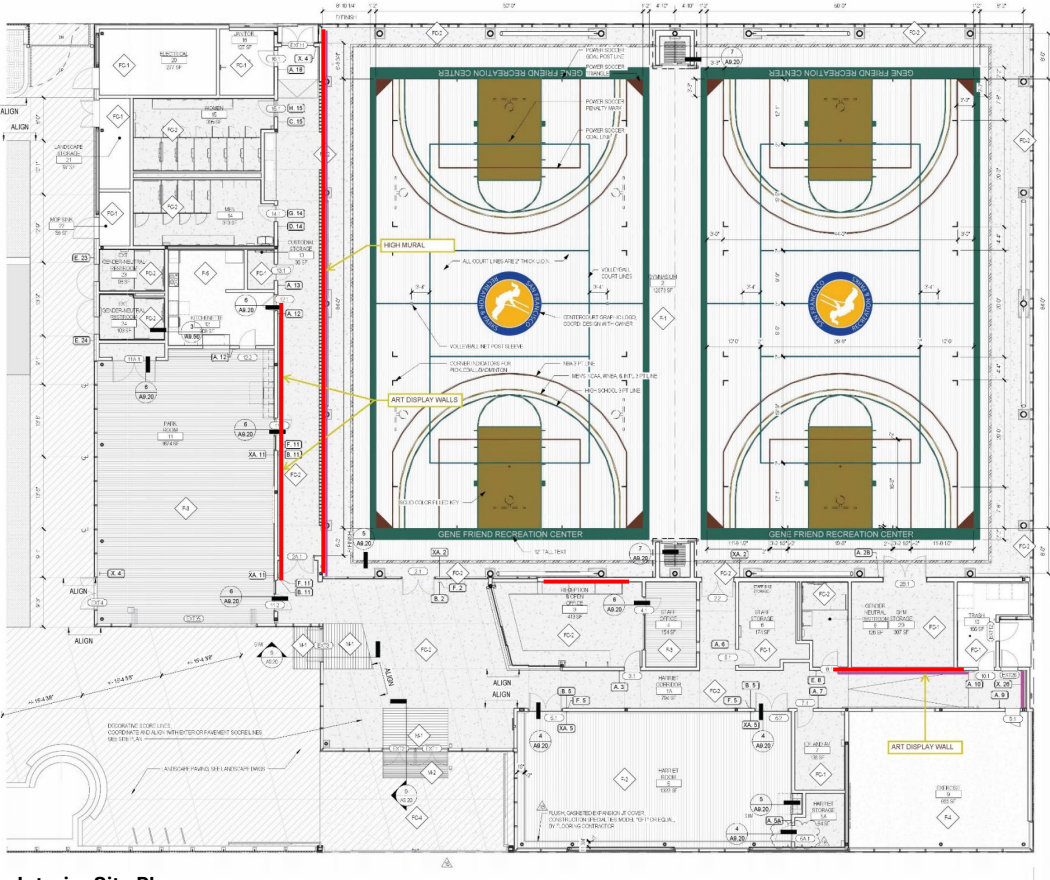


INVITING ENTRY ON HARRIET STREET
MARK CAVAGNERO ASSOCIATES | KUTH RANIERI ARCHITECTS - GENE FRIEND RECREATION CENTER

Gene Friend Recreation Center
Project Background



Entrance Lobby at Harriet Street



Interior Site Plan

Public Art Project Goals

The goals of the Gene Friend Recreation Center Improvement Project Public Art Project are to illuminate the rich history and full diversity of San Francisco's SoMa neighborhood including recognition of SOMA Pilipinas, the Filipino Cultural Heritage District, and to lift up the Center as a destination and proud neighborhood asset.



Barrio Fiesta

Cece Carpio

**Art Proposal for the
Gene Friend Recreation Center**

Barrio Fiesta translates to a neighborhood celebration bringing communities together where everyone is welcome as guests and active participants. San Francisco's SOMA district was one of my first stomping grounds after migrating to the United States at twelve years old. My experience of SOMA through the decades is remarkably similar to a *Barrio Fiesta*, allowing me to explore all aspects of convergence. Personally rooted in my culture and the Bay Area, I understand this design opportunity is part storytelling and part building décor- a signature amenity that puts Gene Friend Recreation Center and *Barrio Fiesta* on the map.

This design intertwines historical, present-day, and futuristic figures to capture the vision and spirit of the SOMA neighborhood. It includes everyday people enacting evolved traditions and cultural practices celebrating the vibrancy of the SOMA district. It weaves together recognizable faces- well-known individuals, suggested by Gene Friend stakeholders -along with representations of veterans, elders, youth, Indigenous migrants, community builders, and advocates to showcase the diversity and vitality of the SOMA community. Some of the portraits depicted will change based on interviews that will be conducted with SF SOMA Community members for a more in-depth community engagement process.

The artwork's background colors are inspired by pre-colonial textiles from various regions in the Philippines. Motif designs within the end pillars that are also integrated throughout the layout are rendered patterns found in textiles and wood carvings. Due to the architectural size and design of the building, this artwork design intends to fully utilize all available space for maximum impact and visibility. A rendered Gene Friend building is inserted in the background to reflect and converge the lively activities that happen inside and outside of the center.



Previous work sample and close-up painting style example

View of gym from 6th and Folsom Streets



Philippine textile inspirations

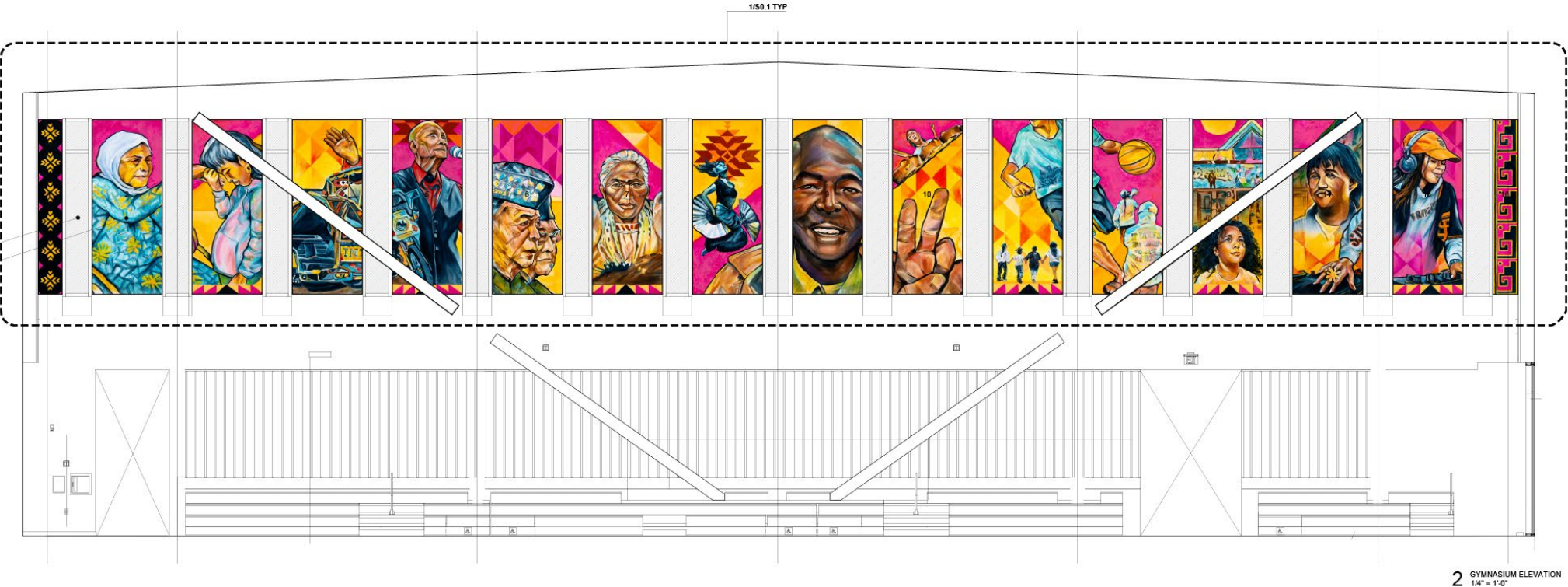


Contemporary Barrio Fiesta at SF SOMA district: Undiscovered SF

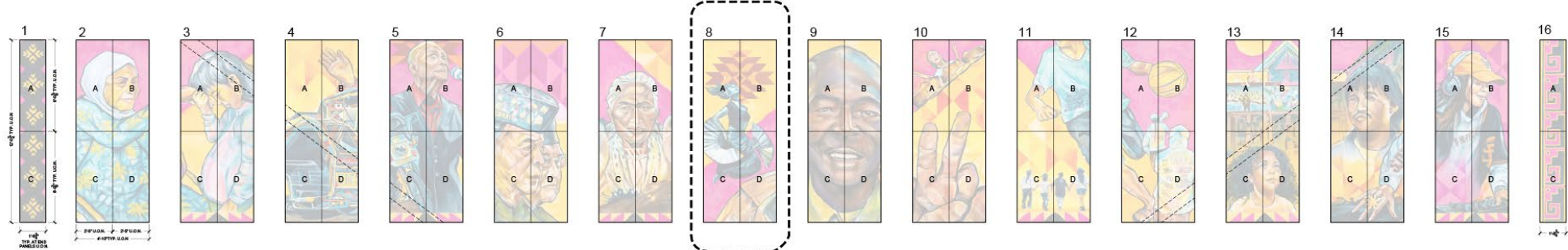
View of artwork on north-facing wall of gym



Gene Friend Recreation Center
Project Background



2 GYMNASIUM ELEVATION
1/4" = 1'-0"



1 ARTWORK PANEL KEY
1/4" = 1'-0"

Gene Friend Recreation Center
Project Background



Artwork mockup and installation 2025-2026



Cece Carpio, *Barrio Fiesta* (detail), 2026



Cece Carpio, *Barrio Fiesta* (detail), 2026. Image courtesy Fox Nakai



Cece Carpio, *Barrio Fiesta* (detail), 2026. Image courtesy Fox Nakai



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Cece Carpio, *Barrio Fiesta* (detail), 2026. Image courtesy Fox Nakai



Top; Groundbreaking event

Community Engagement

- Community representative served on the Artist Selection Panel in 2023
- Artist finalists attended a comprehensive project orientation with project team and representatives from the community
- Proposals were posted publicly online and in person at the Center's groundbreaking event. Members of the public were invited to submit feedback that was relayed to the selection panel for consideration
- Artist Cece Carpio organized community-centered image archive research and interviews to inform the design of the gym artwork
- An important selection criteria for both the gym and 2D artwork opportunities was the artists' "meaningful connection to the neighborhood"

GENE FRIEND RECREATION CENTER

TWO-DIMENSIONAL ARTWORK PURCHASE PROGRAM

Mel Vera Cruz



Mel Vera Cruz
Filipino | American, b.1964
Ligo Sardines, © 2017
Mixed media on canvas
Collection of the City and County of San Francisco

Favianna Rodriguez



Favianna Rodriguez
American, b.1978
Andean People, © 2023
Collage with linoleum block, screenprint, and phototransfer
Collection of the City and County of San Francisco

Cherisse Alcantara



Cherisse Alcantara
American, b.1986
Victoria Manalo Draves Park, © 2022
Oil on canvas
Collection of the City and County of San Francisco

Jerome Reyes



Jerome Reyes
Filipino | American, b.1983
the horizon toward which we move always recedes before us
(Gene Friend Recreation Center), © 2023
Ink, correction fluid, tape, spray paint on vellum
Collection of the City and County of San Francisco

Rina Ayuyang



Rina Ayuyang
American, b.1976
Finding Filipino in SOMA, © 2023
Print
Collection of the City and County of San Francisco

Cristine Blanco



Cristine Blanco
Filipino | American, 1986
Kapamilya Yard I and 2, © 2022
House paint & aerosol spray on wood
Collection of the City and County of San Francisco

ChiChai Mateo



Francesca (ChiChai) Villa Mateo
American, b.1991
Bola Ay Buhay / Ball is Life, © 2025
Mixed textiles & vinyl
Collection of the City and County of San Francisco

LB Studio Art LLC



Leo Bersamina
American, b.1964
Forty-Fives, © 2024
Acrylic stain on wood
Collection of the City and County of San Francisco

Kimberley Arteche



Kimberley Acebo Arteche
Filipino-American, 1987
Untitled (Places, Icons, Situations - Memories we must not let
fade), © 2020
Screenprint & digital archival print
Collection of the City and County of San Francisco

Charlene Tan



Charlene Tan
Filipino | Chinese | American, b.1982
Research and Remembering, Ube 2
© 2024
Ube, pigment, photo, acrylic paint, wood
Collection of the City and County of San Francisco

Johanna Poethig

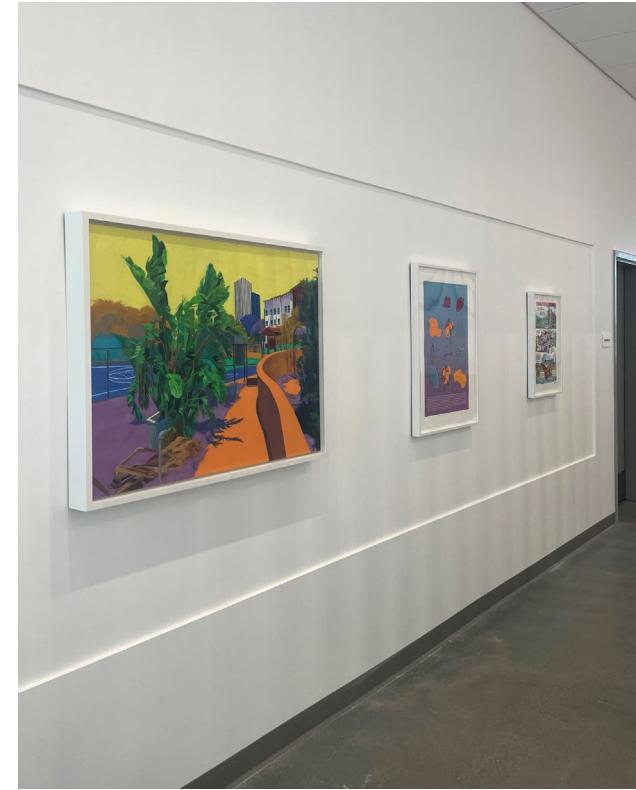


Johanna Poethig
American, b.1956
Corrugated Memories: Malate School Day
© 2022
Ceramic on wood
Collection of the City and County of San Francisco

Kija Lucas



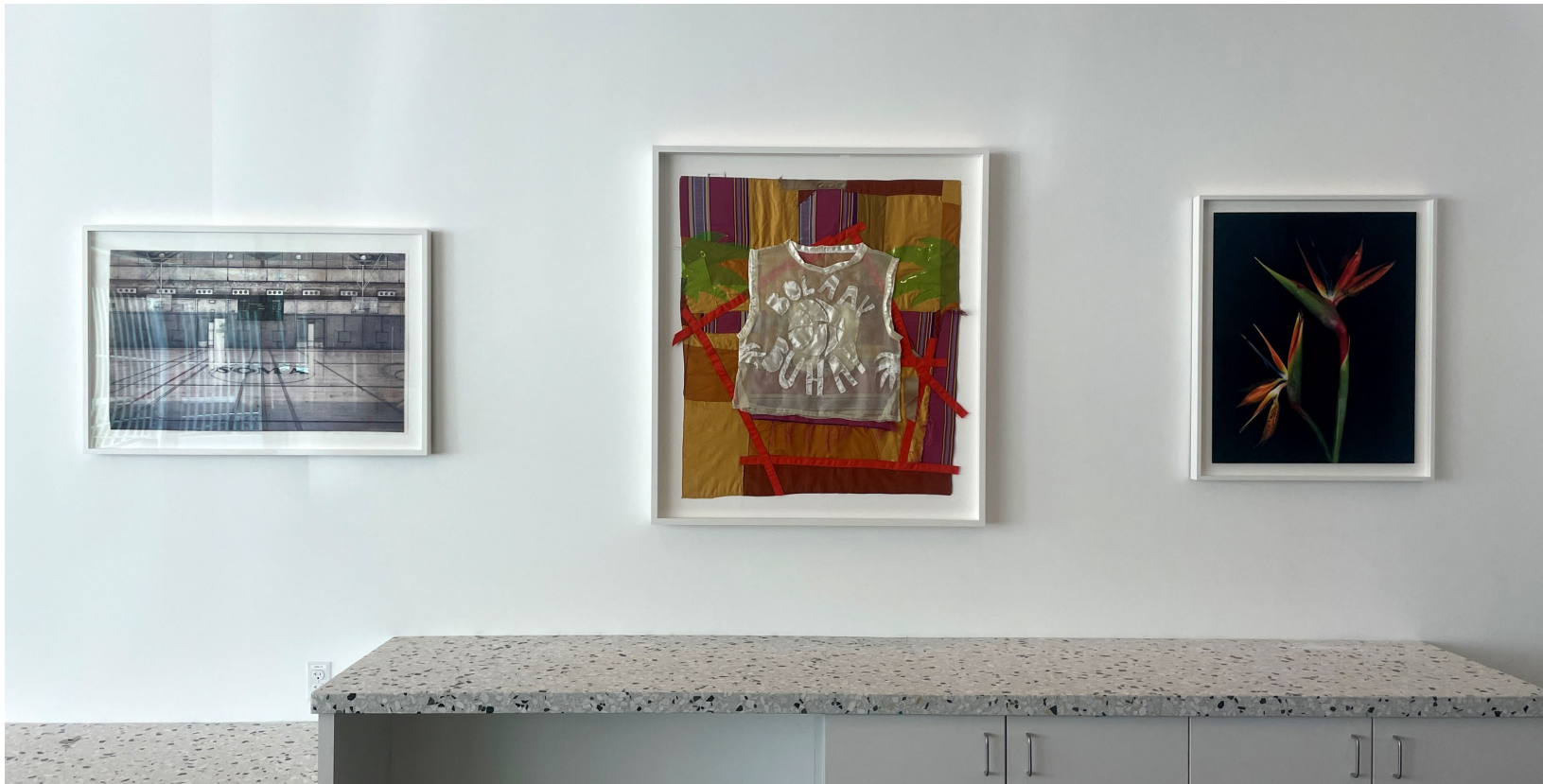
Kija Lucas
American, b. 1978
Birds of Paradise 4
© 2025
Archival pigment print
Collection of the City and County of San Francisco



Park Corridor: Leo Bersamina, Favianna Rodriguez, Mel Vera Cruz, Cherisse Alcantara, Kimberley Arteché, Rina Ayuyang



Harriet Corridor: Johanna Poethig, Cristine Blanco, Charlene Tan



Reception Office: Jerome Reyes, ChiChai Mateo, Kija Lucas



Cece Carpio, *Barrio Fiesta* (detail), 2026