



COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURE  
123 E. Anapamu St • Santa Barbara, CA  
93101

(805) 568-2461 • FAX (805) 568-2459

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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Sarah York Rubin, Executive Director  
(805) 698-4515, Sarah@sbac.ca.gov



Schematic Image courtesy of Kym Cochran and Jonathan Smith

**ART MEETS DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

***Santa Barbara's 1925 Earthquake Catalyst for Art, Outreach and Education***

**(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.)** – The City of Santa Barbara is pleased to announce “1925,” a new public art/awareness/education installation in *Jardin de las Granadas*, located at 21 E. Anapamu Street across from the Santa Barbara Public Library. The four-piece sculptural installation, created by artists Kym Cochran and Jonathan Smith, represents the 1925 earthquake that destroyed much of downtown Santa Barbara. The project will be open to the public from March 2017 until February 2018.

The project is primarily funded by Santa Barbara Beautiful, and seeks to cast new light on the intersection of culture, geology, technology and art. The artists plan to illuminate the installation with realistic light projections that depict natural imagery and patterns.

The public is encouraged to attend a free reception with the artists who will illuminate the sculpture during “1st Thursday Art Walk” from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., March 2. The County Office of Arts & Culture will also be announcing a programming schedule of free public events and workshops that will take place during the installation’s year-long tenure.

**-MORE-**

## **ART MEETS DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ADD 1-1-1**

City of Santa Barbara Mayor Helene Schneider stated, "I'm excited to see this new public art exhibit at Jardin de las Granadas where art intersects with both history and science. This is another great example of different parts of our community coming together to create something of beauty and relevance."

The "1925" installation represents a broad community partnership, including several departments in both Santa Barbara city and county governments; the Downtown Organization; Santa Barbara's History and Natural History museums; Santa Barbara Public Library; University of California, Santa Barbara; Santa Barbara City College; Santa Barbara Beautiful; Downtown Santa Barbara; the Santa Barbara Center for Art, Science and Technology; the Santa Barbara Museum of Art; Fishbon; Southern California Edison; and artists Cochran and Smith.

Describing this "bold contemporary vision of public sculpture into the landscape of public art in Santa Barbara," Office of Arts and Culture Chief Curator Maiza Hixson said, "Referencing nature and the built environment, the '1925' artwork features faux-finished rocks in a literal and figurative representation of architectural rise and fall. Artists Smith and Cochran address the legacy of monuments and memory of a pivotal earthquake that changed the face of Santa Barbara. With whole forms that crumble into broken parts, '1925' acknowledges our present culture's symbols and tenuous icons. These four sculptural objects present us with a compelling forgery that queries what history reveals and conceals."

The City Office of Emergency Services and the County Office of Emergency Management, in collaboration with the Aware & Prepare Initiative, will utilize the sculpture to generate public awareness of earthquake preparedness. The Aware & Prepare Initiative is a public-private partnership dedicated to strengthening community disaster resiliency within Santa Barbara County. Aware & Prepare enhances the capabilities and coordination of government agencies and non-profit organizations in mitigating, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies and disasters.

Liliana Encinas, Public Education Specialist with the City Office of Emergency Services said that the sculpture is a perfect way to use art to communicate the message of personal emergency preparedness. Residents and visitors can register for emergency alerts at [www.AwareandPrepare.org](http://www.AwareandPrepare.org), where they can also find helpful tips and information for emergency preparedness.

**-MORE-**

## **ART MEETS DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

### **ADD 2-2-2**

“Aware and Prepare is an invaluable resource during emergency situations,” said Yolanda McGlinchey, city of Santa Barbara Emergency Services Manager. “Ensuring everyone throughout the County knows how to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and natural disasters, such as floods, wildfires and earthquakes is vital.” McGlinchey added, “If we can’t find you, we can’t notify you and your families about emergencies in your area. We encourage everyone to go to the Aware and Prepare website, sign up for alerts and have an escape plan.”

Melissa Johnson, an art teacher at Ernest Righetti High in Santa Maria, hopes to use this opportunity to teach her students about professional pathways in the arts saying, “Through these new relationships, our goal is to introduce our students to deeper technical skills and career options. It is so important to open the students' imaginations to the infinite possibilities available to them in the professional art world. We are so excited to bring a broader spectrum of the vast professional horizon to the students of the Santa Maria Valley.”

The Santa Barbara County Office of Arts & Culture serves under the County’s Community Services Department as the local governmental umbrella for arts and culture projects and programs within Santa Barbara County. The Office represents a longstanding partnership between the County of Santa Barbara and the City of Santa Barbara. For more than 30 years, both governments have shared resources and staff to maximize support for Santa Barbara arts and culture institutions, programs, initiatives and projects.