

From: [Keith Weber](#)
To: [Heather Stewart](#)
Subject: Fwd: Downtown Art in Public Places
Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 1:55:57 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)

To Whom it May Concern,

Several weeks ago I sent the below email to the members of the Civic Arts Committee. The city's website, however, does not identify staff to that committee, so I am unsure if the correct staff person has received it. Please advise as to whether the email was received by the CAC staff and if my request will be added to the agenda for the next regular meeting on July 8.

Thank you,
Keith Weber
San Mateo

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Keith Weber** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Tue, May 28, 2019 at 4:35 PM
Subject: Downtown Art in Public Places
To: <[REDACTED]>, Dianne Whitaker Planning Commissioner
<[REDACTED]>, <[REDACTED]>, Ramiro Maldonado
<[REDACTED]>, <[REDACTED]>, Eric Rodriguez
<[REDACTED]>
Cc: Kathy Kleinbaum <[REDACTED]>, Drew Corbett
<[REDACTED]>

Dear Civic Arts Committee,

As you may or may not know, an earlier incarnation of the Art in Public places program existed in the downtown in the late 1980's, long before the current program was established in 2005. It was administered by the Greater Downtown Commission, which was folded into the Public Works Commission in 1991. I served on that commission from 1987-1991. During that period, several sculptures were donated to the city and placed in the downtown on city owned property: a stainless steel sculpture on the NE corner of B St. and 4th Ave., and a steel I-beam sculpture at the NE corner of 2nd. Ave and Railroad. There may also be others.

The location for the steel I-beam piece was chosen because the sculpture was evocative of the railroad tracks and the early beginnings of the city that grew to prominence because of the railroad. The Commission would have preferred to install it at the train station, but at that time the Caltrain station was little more than a bus shelter located under a concrete parking structure, and it would be years before the new transit center was created. Originally, the I-beam sculpture was painted bright red, but in the intervening 30 years, the paint has faded and overtime it has been all but forgotten, left to rust at the corner of a city parking lot. I believe the City still owns the sculpture.

I am therefore requesting that the Civic Arts Committee consider restoring, repainting and relocating the sculpture to the downtown transit center. Standing proudly at the transit center with a new coat of bright red paint, it can be an invigorating symbol of the city's long history and bright future.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Keith Weber
San Mateo

What it is now: rusted city-owned public art at NE corner of 2nd & Railroad



What it could be: examples of bright red steel sculptures :



