

Barrio Traffic Circle Project Public Art

Phase 1 Community Input Summary



Carlsbad's Barrio is the city's first residential neighborhood, dating back to the early 1900s. Today it's home to families who have lived in the same home for generations along with newer residents of all ages and a mix of original homes, remodeled properties, newly built condominiums, places of worship and small businesses.

Given its flat terrain and proximity to the beach and the Village, the Barrio is a neighborhood with many walkers and cyclists. That's why the Village and Barrio Master Plan recommended changes to local streets to slow down traffic and provide a better balance in the roadway for all modes of travel.

Since 2017, city staff have worked with the community to design new features to key streets in the Barrio to accomplish this goal. The final project includes five new traffic circles, crosswalk improvements and other traffic calming features.

Carlsbad Municipal Code 2.18.110 requires that a minimum of 1% of the cost of certain construction projects be dedicated to public art. For this project, the public art will be located in a traffic circle at the corner of Harding Street and Pine Avenue.

Community engagement approach

The city involved the community at the earliest stages of the project's development to gather feedback about how the new permanent public art could best reflect the Barrio's neighborhood identity and cultural and historic heritage. The community will be invited to provide input at future stages of the process as well. Below are the phases of engagement:

Phase 1: Vision for artwork (This report)

- What does the guidance provided in the Village and Barrio Master Plan mean to the community in the context of this public art project?
 - How can this public art reflect or enhance the Barrio neighborhood identity?
 - How can this public art honor the cultural and historic heritage of the Barrio?
- What makes you proud of this neighborhood?
- How do you want to feel when you see the public art?

Phase 2: Selection of artist

- Which of the artists seems like the best choice for this public art project?

Phase 3: Artist collaboration

- Questions for this phase will be developed in collaboration with the artist.

Phase 4: Feedback on the proposed artwork

- How well does this public art reflect the community's input?

The opportunities

Community members were provided with two opportunities to provide input that would be used to inform the call for artists, the first step in the public art process.

Interviews with Spanish speaking community members

Dec. 12 to Dec. 17, 2023
20 participants

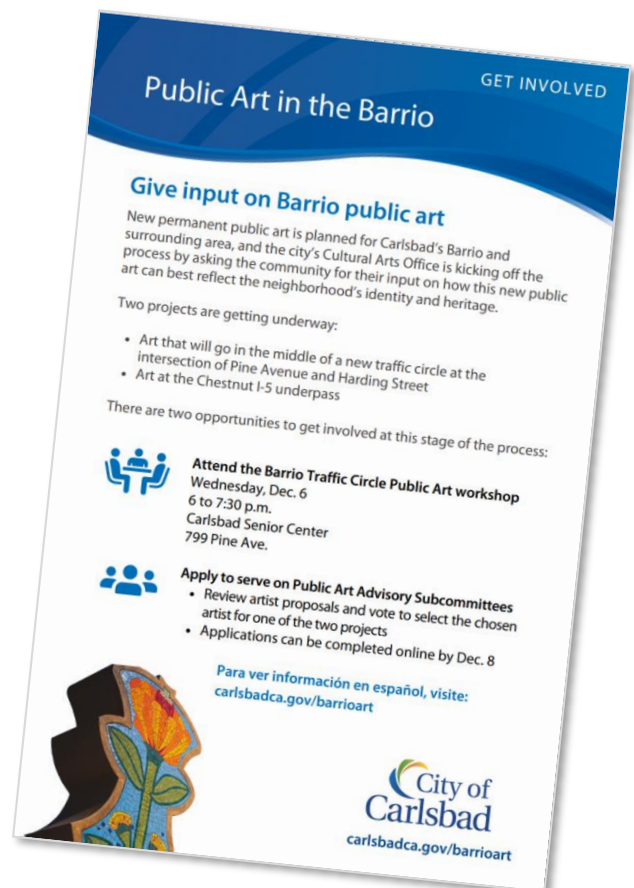
Public workshop

Dec. 6, 2023
6 to 7:30 p.m.
Carlsbad Senior Center auditorium
11 participants



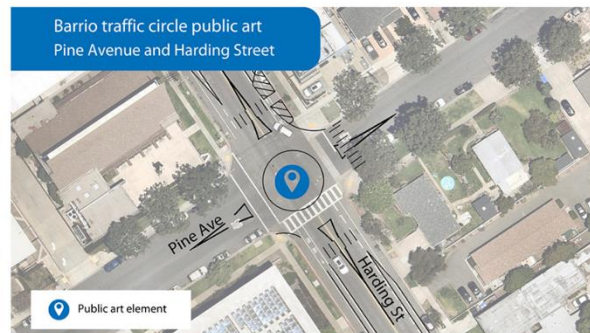
The public workshop was promoted through the following:

- News release
- Post on NextDoor
- Social media
- City Manager's Update – sent Nov. 16 and Nov. 30, 2023
- Emails to Village and Barrio stakeholders – Sent Nov. 17 and Dec. 4
- Emails to arts stakeholders – sent Dec. 1
- Arts Commissioner outreach
- Banner at Chase Field, Senior Center and Pine Park field
- Fliers at community centers and library



Barrio Traffic Circle Public Art

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At a glance

- The city's Cultural Arts Office is kicking off the planning process for a new public art piece that will go in the middle of a traffic circle planned for the [intersection of Pine Avenue and Harding Street](#).
- A public workshop was held in December 2023 to gather public input on the vision for the public art to include in the Call for Artists document that will solicit artist qualifications to create the public art.
- The Cultural Arts Office is working to form a public art advisory subcommittee, which will select the artist for this project. The committee is expected to hold its first meeting in early 2024.

Background

Public art policies

About the public art

Get email updates



Contact

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Related topics

[Barrio traffic circles project](#)
[Art in Public Places guidelines](#)
[Public Art Program](#)

Give input on public art

Reminder: Three opportunities this week to help shape new public art in the Barrio

New public art is planned for Carlsbad's Barrio and surrounding area, and the city's Cultural Arts Office is kicking off the process by asking the community for their input on how this new art can best reflect the neighborhood's identity and heritage.

2 projects

- Art that will go in the middle of a new traffic circle at the intersection of Pine Avenue and Harding Street
- Art at the Chestnut I-5 underpass

This week to get involved at this stage of the

Barrio Traffic Circle Public Art workshop

Barrio Public Art Workshop

Wednesday, Dec. 6
6 to 7:30 pm

Carlsbad Senior Center | carlsbadca.gov/arts

Key themes

Detailed notes are included in this report, including individual answers to each of the questions asked. The summary below attempts to capture the most common themes, however the entirety of this report should be considered when developing the call for artists.

Barrio pride

Pride was expressed about not just the history and heritage of the Barrio, but the strong sense of community and diversity that exists today. A strong work ethic also came through as a source of pride, from the early days of working as ranchers and farmers and continuing today.

People helping people

Taking care of one another is something that came up often. People feel a sense of security and connectedness because of strong family and community ties and culture of looking out for one another.

Authentic, unique beauty

Many people described the Barrio as peaceful, beautiful and clean, with pride of ownership demonstrated through how people maintain their properties, retaining the unique charm of original homes and cottages. It stands out as a unique part of Carlsbad.

Hope and promise, rooted in history

The Barrio is a safe, secure place that provides a solid foundation upon which people can pursue their dreams of a bright future. Seeing local landmarks as they were in the past helps keep the community connected to their history and creates a sense of nostalgia, while serving as a reminder of the opportunities available to all people.

Concerns

When asked what community members would like to avoid in a new public art, some of the themes included:

- Don't create something generic, with no noticeable relationship to the people and history of the Barrio.
- Connection to the beach come up often and something people like about the Barrio, but that did not translate as something people would like to see referenced in the artwork. This could be related to the previous bullet. There is a strong desire for something unique to the Barrio.
- Some said they did not want a public art that stood out from the surroundings and existing nearby art, not something too abstract or modern.

Summary of input

What three words would you use to describe the Barrio?

Workshop participants



Spanish speaking community members



Combined input



What makes the Barrio special?

Workshop flip chart notes

- Walkable
- Charming
- Generations of family
- Clean
- Fresh
- Pride
- Relaxing
- Close knit
- Unique
- Authenticity
- Walking
- Decorations
- Pride
- Grown up in Barrio
- Community
- Sense of support
- Safety
- Local talent
- Chase Field
- Holiday Park

Workshop participants

- Grown up here since 1963, worked with muralist at 4 stage DT, restored it
- The community
- Raised here, the community, takes care of each other
- Resident since '99 - like to see local talent used in art (orange backstop is a good example)
- Keep art in the community
- Grew up here; the community, mix of people living here and businesses; walkable, history
- Family of original homeowners, history, much of first residents were laborers and should be recognized; community has each other's backs in Barrio; community, history and hard work
- Scale, walkable charm
- 27-year resident
- Deep roots, family generations
- 1976 original families
- Gentrification
- Longtime residents enjoy the culture and history
- Well-kept houses, older style homes
- Heritage and feel of the village
- Walkability
- Gardens and cottages
- Individuality in decoration, pride in upkeep

- Diversity in architecture, character
- The Barrio's history is what makes The Barrio special. Here is where Pine school started, followed by the Carlsbad School District and Jefferson School where learning was key. Important institutions that helped build Carlsbad. The people of the Barrio are some of the first and oldest residents of Carlsbad. The Carlsbad Boys Club and Chase Field where fair play and sportsmanship were practiced. Carlsbad Community Church and St. Patrick's Church where the community was developed spiritually. The 7up Market in the heart of the Barrio, the Big Bear Market Shopping center and Mayfair Shopping center helped grow the Carlsbad economy. All these organizations and establishments helped build Carlsbad. They also keep the Carlsbad spirit alive. Many past residents on social media share memories of all these places when they speak of their memories of Carlsbad.

Spanish speaking community members

- It's near and accessible to everything. Friendly, family oriented, people know each other.
- Parks, it is pretty, very nice place, sports-oriented. Accessible to everything.
- Lots of diversity, people love it here, beach, near everything
- Beaches, lagoon, beauty, tranquility, used to be cheap to live here
- Pacific, near work, walkable, the climate, near everything
- Beach, tranquility
- Nice park, Pollos Maria, I have all these memories from walking from school the park, Lite program, walking the dog
- Safety, clean, pretty, being modernized, safe, low density, peaceful
- Beach, trees, birds, pretty
- Community, beach, village
- Safe, its people, the schools, peaceful
- Magnificent, its people, the services, the community, beautiful
- Peaceful, clean, near the beach
- The community, its people, the children
- Its people, the Raza, the historic Barrio still can be seen
- Its parks, the library, the schools, the Village
- Peaceful, safety, used to be lots of gangs on the streets, but not now
- Peaceful, it's always clean, safety
- The history of the Barrio is celebrated, its Mexican roots with the events in the parks
- The connectedness. The Mexican roots. How different it is from the rest of Carlsbad.

What makes you proud of this neighborhood?

Workshop participants

- History and coming together of community
- Coming together for Posadas (expected every Sunday)
- People interwoven, everyone knows each other
- Before Pine Park it was Chase or Holiday Park
- Feeling safe, everyone looks out for each other
- Like the sculpture flowers public art; beautiful and tie into the history
- Historic, long time families, original
- Long family ties before development
- Well kept
- History, reflect history
- Deep roots
- No change; small homes, keep heritage, feel
- walks, decorative cottages
- Individuality
- Sense of pride
- No vandalizing mosaics, flowers
- Respect history of Barrio
- Enjoys city is spread out, easy going vibe
- The neighborhood has character and is well kept
- Proud of the history, "deep roots" of the neighborhood
- I have lived in the Barrio all my life. My family has a long history in the Barrio way before I came along. The neighborhood holds many memories for me and stories of a time when family who are no longer with us lived here and made a significant impact on the Barrio community. There are other families and friends who made an impact on the neighborhood and the city as well. Our Mexican Heritage, although there were many other cultures and backgrounds in the Barrio. It was a neighborhood where everyone knew everybody and we all supported each other.

Spanish-speaking community members

- I've lived here since I was a kid, I can't imagine living anywhere else. It's a safe home.
- Peaceful, safety, protected (by police)
- Close, walkable to the beach
- Peaceful, walkable, safe, near parks, and near libraries
- Safety, cleanliness
- Everything is close. Sense of community, we help each other
- The Latino community
- Living peacefully, safety
- Peaceful, beautiful, mild weather, beach
- Its people, the community is united
- Lots of good people, we help each other, sense of community
- Safety, the beach
- Its people, they are loving, we help each other, sense of community
- The beaches, the stores in the Village

- Peaceful, the sense of unity with one another, our police force. People are very hardworking, they respect each other, is beautiful, its family.
- It's super peaceful, everything is close, everything is accessible
- Schools, education, kind people
- It's a beautiful city, with spaces for the children to play
- I've been here and its always peaceful, without noise
- The place and the people are wonderful

What would you like to see in the new artwork?

Flip chart notes from workshop

- Proud of art
- Vibrant colors
- Sense of pride
- Brings back memories/history of Barrio
- Unique to this community
- More for this community, not tourists
- Tied to Luciano Indians
- Craftmanship
- Solid materials
- Color - vivid
- Natural beauty
- Uplifting
- Cohesive/Different

Workshop comments

- Pride: colors (vibrant oranges, yellows, etc.)
- Memory it may bring in moment - as it ties to Barrio
- Takes me/others back to positive associations/experiences
- Speaks to the history of Barrio
- Unique; couldn't be anywhere else; not generic (not waves/ocean)
- Real landmark that speaks to Barrio
- Ungentrified, ties into roots and history
- Audience should be for community, not tourists
- Speak for those who were here first and come back; in the Barrio people refer to houses by the name of those who built them
- Luiseño Indians, farmworkers, laborers recognized (similar to mural)
- Something with hands - see as vision (could represent the farmworkers, sense of community, laborers) not sure what exactly it would look like
- Something like what Carlsbad was like before more development (dirt roads)
- Bean field, oranges/avocado trees
- Like art near Pizza Port (like the artist); like Victor Ochoa artist in SD
- Want to have something proud of to look back on
- Speaks to original history (Harding to Roosevelt original streets)
- Wording of Barrio Carlsbad also incorporated
- Like vibrant colors (oranges, yellows) sculpture at State and Coast Hwy is nice but not appropriate for here/this location
- Crafted, beautiful craftsmanship
- Solid/materials/stone

- Nature/colors/vivid in heritage
- Other motion not work lane
- Meld Village and Barrio together (gateway)
- Not abstract/ Has to be colorful
- Colorful idea
- Uplifting
- Natural beauty
- Desire to feel uplifted – “Tickles the cortex”
- Too simple not good
- Distracting, too complex
- Tradition here; history; beauty of surroundings
- Quality and consistency
- Not controversial
- Casinos promote indigenous; highlight ancestors; baskets vibrant/colors/lively/happy
- Beautifully crafted - materials, longevity, sense of awe
- Expert craftsmanship
- Colorful, vivid, rich
- Combined with ties to cultural roots
- Something that is related to plants, colors present in Carlsbad
- Desire to feel uplifted, "Tickles the cortex"
- A reflection of The Barrio’s beginnings and how it has grown and changed and a promise for a bright future for all people. Something that would take a person back to the old days in Carlsbad. Agriculture, community activities, memories at landmarks, how pieces of history affected the Barrio.
- Not a safety hazard

Spanish speaking community members

- Friendly, family, welcoming
- Includes the beach, something unique, surprising
- Family
- Colorful, attractive
- Historic, the art reflects the story and the people who have lived here for generations, reflects what's interesting about the area, its personality, it's not brutalist, corporate brutalist.
- Fountain, water feature, the sea
- Flowers, greenery, statues with history, fountains, trees
- Beach, nature, flowers
- Trees, animals, its people
- Beach
- Colorful, flowers, beach, its people, nature
- Fountain (water feature) plans, poinsettias
- Colorful, catchy

- Includes the pride in the Hispanic history of this community, its residents, it touches the heart of people who live here, beautiful.
- Inspire kids to be safe and continue studying, something that inspires future generations.
- Saint Patrick, the Lola signage
- A piece that won't let people forget that this was the affordable area of Carlsbad, for the working class, farmers, ranchers, the Spanish-speaking Mexican community members.

What would make you not like the artwork?

Flip chart notes from workshop

- Generic
- Beach colors
- Dolphins/Waves
- Lighting important
- No relation to art
- No story
- Too simple
- Pretentious
- Not angular
- Distracting
- Poorly made
- Sticks out

Workshop participants

- Generic
- Appeals more to tourists
- Take it and put in somewhere else
- Avoid generic beachy colors (dolphins/waves)
- Lighting is important both for mobility, safety and public art visibility
- Luminescent point for public art if possible so light bounces off if possible
- Don't want to feel we have no reaction to the art; must tell story, makes you know it's the Barrio
- Needs to speak to families that started Carlsbad
- If it didn't represent the community
- Too simple not good
- Distracting, too complex
- One color
- Not flashy
- It would be abstract
- It would be simple and modern
- It would stick out from the rest of the art around
- Something synthetic, flashy
- Something poorly made
- Not something controversial
- Not interactive
- It does not capture the history of the Barrio. A piece that is not reflective of what the Barrio is. History, people, organizations. Archives of the Carlsbad Journal show a small town that reaches out to many residents and organizations of the community. Demonstrates the pride and achievements of the people of the neighborhood. Many

people were instrumental in the development and success of Carlsbad. Teachers, Police, storekeepers, community leaders who lived normal lives but contributed to Carlsbad's early beginnings. These people should be celebrated and recognized as Carlsbad's pioneers.

Spanish-speaking community members

- Too impersonal, awkward
- Ugly. Nothing attractive about it
- Something that has nothing to do with Barrio. With a color palette that doesn't match the place
- It has nothing to do with the Barrio
- It just has to be nice
- Minimalist, too modern for the historic area, no color
- Something too modern, it needs to include the history, too simple
- Actions that are violent, like people hurting other people, animals
- Scary stuff, like snakes
- Too boring
- Something that is a negative influence for the kids
- Too abstract to capture anything concrete about the community

Other feedback

Flip charts from workshop

- Harrah's Casino promotions of Indigenous people
- Highlight our ancestors
- Focus on the Barrio and its people
- Beautiful baskets, beautiful colors
- Lighting very important

Workshop participants

- Mentioned Harrah's Casino art as an example of a good job
- Consider Luiseño people's baskets, colors of their work
- Lighting of the art is important
- Landmarks, events and past celebrations. Santa Claus at the first fire station, the Carlsbad Parade, Pine School, UPS at the end of Walnut Street and many more memories that I cannot remember or wasn't around yet to see or experience. Fresh fruits and vegetables from the fields in Carlsbad.

Spanish-speaking community members

- I'm glad we are being asked our opinion with these interviews.
- The art needs to be attractive, descriptive
- Use innovative materials, new, all elements have cohesion, use a mix of media
- Honor the Hispanic history, like Lola's
- Peaceful
- Before it was Hispanic, it was Luiseño, Chumash, it would be valuable to honor the true roots of this place.
- Friendly, familiar
- Something that attracts visitors, something new and beautiful
- Plants
- To use materials that are sustainable and good for the environment
- I hope it is beautiful
- It has the potential to include many elements
- Honor the Barrio, as what was the Barrio before gentrification changed things

Appendices

What three words would you use to describe the Barrio?

Workshop participants

Family	5
Community	4
Character	3
History	3
Relaxing	3
Authenticity	2
Close-knit	2
Fresh	2
Heart	2
Pride	2
Realness	2
Unique	2
Clean	1
Clear	1
Colorful	1
Hardworking	1
Heritage	1
Home	1
Lasting	1
Modest	1
Original	1
Quaint	1
Spread-out	1
Walkable	1

Flip chart notes from workshop

Community
History
Hard work
Built to last
Quaint
Sense of community
Interwoven

Spanish-speaking community members

Beautiful	12
Peaceful	8
Safe	4
Community	3
Accessible	2
Beach	2
Diverse	2
Family	2
Walkable	2
Big	1
Clean	1
Comfortable	1
Connected	1
Everything	1
Extraordinary	1
Friendly	1
Hardworking	1
Home	1
Incredible	1
Marvelous	1
Ocean	1
Parks	1
Popular	1
Pride	1
Relaxed	1
Respect	1
Schools	1
Spectacular	1
Sports	1
Stable	1
Sunset	1
Touristic	1
Weather	1