

City of Emeryville

PROCLAMATION

**IN RECOGNITION OF
SHARON WILCHAR'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE EMERYVILLE COMMUNITY AND ONGOING EFFORTS
AS AN ARTIST AND ARTS ADVOCATE
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 30TH ANNUAL EMERYVILLE ART EXHIBITION**

WHEREAS, Sharon Wilchar and the arts community are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Annual Emeryville Art Exhibition sponsored by the “Emeryville Celebration of the Arts”; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Emeryville Art Exhibition, first held in 1987, was initially conceived as an event to recognize the City’s assistance with the purchase of the Emeryville Artists’ Cooperative; and, while the concept of the Exhibition began as a celebration of this partnership, it quickly expanded to embrace the entire artist population of Emeryville; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wilchar’s advocacy for the City’s investment in public art and artists residing in Emeryville pre-dates the Emeryville Annual Art Exhibition with the opening of the 45th Street Artists Cooperative at 1420 45th Street in 1973, and Ms. Wilchar’s becoming the Community Liaison for the Cooperative; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wilchar helped expand the 45th Street Artists Cooperative’s impact on the community in 1983 by participating in the inaugural Artist In The Schools Program; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wilchar participated in countless meetings and engaged in productive dialogue to help the City initiate a Percent for the Arts Ordinance with the passage of the City’s Art In Public Places Program (“AiPP”) in 1990, establishing an art fee of 1% of construction valuation on private non-residential projects and 1.5% on Redevelopment Agency projects of which 40% of the required investment in art was placed into a pooled fund for City art projects; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the tremendous contribution and important voice she has been as an advocate for the City’s public arts programs, Ms. Wilchar has been re-elected annually to serve as the Chair of the Public Art Committee, the advisory committee to the City Council on the implementation of the Art In Public Places Program since 1990; and

WHEREAS, in the decades that Ms. Wilchar has served as the Chair of the Public Art Committee, the City Council has been aided in its efforts to expand public art investments including these important milestones:

- In 1990, the City commissioned and installed the first public art installation, *Peninsula Tell Tail* by Anita Margrill, starting a collection that has grown to over 70 permanent artworks owned by the City;
- In 2000, City Hall was restored and expanded and three permanent art works were installed;
- In 2005, the City initiated a 0.5% art fee for residential development projects;
- In 2006; the City began the Purchase Award program, initiating an ongoing collection of works installed in City Hall, creating a de facto gallery of local artists, and in the same year the City published its first Public Art Walking Map and the City initiated Seyed Alavi’s *Sign of the Times* utility box art project with 17 locations, eventually growing to the 25 now found in the City;

- In 2009, the City initiated the Bus Shelter Temporary Art program with four shelters, a program that is now entering its fourth phase, featuring 21 local artists and 84 original works;
- In 2012, the City published the Art In Public Places pocket map, featuring 40 artists, and the AiPP fund reserves surpassed \$1 million; and
- In 2016, the City commissioned the Public Art Master Plan, opened the Emeryville Center of Community Life, with three new art works commissioned for it, and re-initiated planning for the development of the Emeryville Arts Center; and

WHEREAS, over this same time span, private developers, subject to the AiPP Ordinance, have invested in over 230 publicly-accessible art pieces, installed on building façades and lobby walls and within landscaped spaces and courtyards throughout Emeryville; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wilchar has been an intelligent, enthusiastic, and thoughtful voice on numerous subcommittees and selection panels of the Public Art Committee; and

WHEREAS, with a regional vision for public art, Ms. Wilchar has been an advocate for the Emeryville Arts Center, serving on its former board of directors, and as the City’s representative to 510.Arts.org – a regional arts events collaboration along the I-80 corridor; and

WHEREAS the City’s Art in Public Places Program has 70 publicly-owned art works and 230 art installations available to the public in private locations, and both collections are growing as the City commissions additional work and private development extends the reach of the AiPP with a collection made up of sculptures, mosaics, oil and watercolor paintings, utility box art, stained glass, photography, and artfully-designed bus stations, benches, and respite gardens and more; and

WHEREAS, Sharon Wilchar has contributed immeasurably to the investment in, and sense of shared future for, the Emeryville community and its artistic enhancements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that I, Dianne Martinez, Mayor of the City of Emeryville on behalf of the City Council of the City of Emeryville, thank Ms. Wilchar for all of her hard work in advancing 30 years of public art investments in Emeryville and look forward to her continuing endeavors.

PROCLAIMED this **18th day of October 2016**, at a regular meeting of the City Council by the Mayor of the City of Emeryville.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK