



# FREEDOM: THE FUTURE OF HOPE ART SHOW

Presentation to Finalists - August 26, 2025  
Library | Parks and Recreation Center

# About the Art Show

The art show which opened on June 27<sup>th</sup> at the Library | Parks and Recreation Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor gallery featured over 45 exceptional artworks that reflected the spirit of Juneteenth through uniquely personal expressions that echoed the power of perseverance and the importance of embracing self-determination.

# About the Theme

June 19<sup>th</sup>, or Juneteenth, honors the day, in 1865, when the last enslaved African Americans in the United States were finally informed of their freedom - more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

It is a moment rooted in resilience, freedom and hope.

# 3-Dimensional Art Finalists

June 2025

# HONORABLE MENTION: “Handmade/Handsewn Wearable Art Coat with African Map circa 1590 A.D.”



Artist: **Delores Tillery**

Clothing/Fashion/Fabric

This handmade coat pays tribute to African ancestry and the hope for freedom that enslaved people embodied. The oversized front pockets and the image on the back of the coat displays a pre-colonial map of Africa in 1590 A.D. Wearable art at its finest.

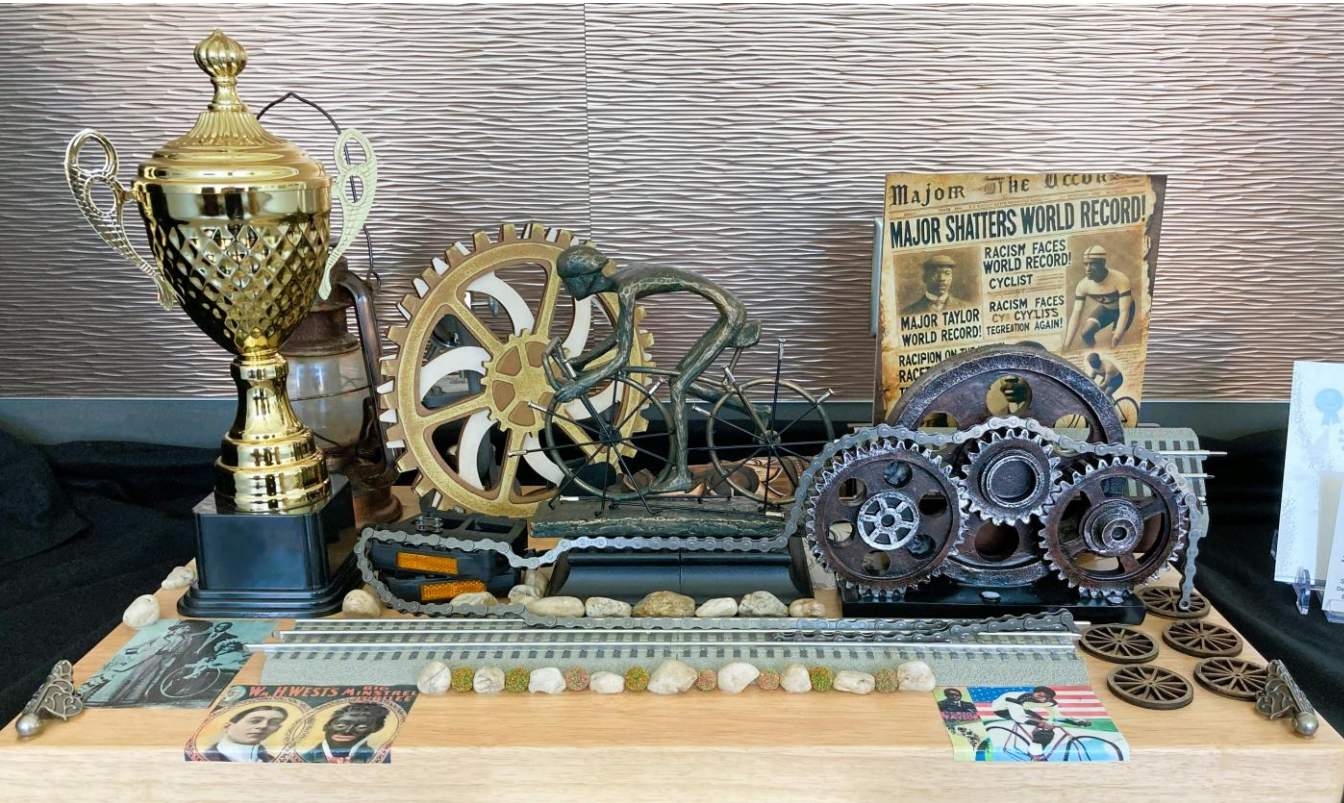


# HONORABLE MENTION: “Codifying Jim Crow: Deconstructing Reconstruction”

Artist: **Stephen Von Mason**

Bronze, wood, stone, metal, resin and glass

My work is an invite to reflect, respond, and confront challenges that remain critically relevant. I strive to create art that not only resonates but catalyzes cultural healing. I delve into scenarios that provoke thought and at times, discomfort.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE: “Banga Ng Kalayaan (Jar of Freedom)”



Artist: **Coy Viana**

Hand strung beads adorning a Philippine clay jar

Colonization strips away the rights and dignity of the oppressed. This jar honors the legacies of those who deserved more; the blood that was/is shed; the tears that fell/are falling; the dreams of freedom that live on through us, their descendants.



## 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE: “Germinate”



Artist: **Chai A'ilharder**

*Ceramic vessel*

Germinate explores contrasting textures of coarse and smooth, fluid and rigid. In, softness breaking through a rigid shell captures how vulnerability and flexibility beget strength and resilience.



# 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE: “How Araminta Ross Became Harriet Tubman”



Artist: **Laurie Ratliff**

Sculpture with items found around the house

In her 30's Harriet Tubman reportedly conducted 13 trips on the Underground Railroad. Coded messages were used for secrecy and safety.

Assemblage is sculpture using found objects, leftover supplies, crafted items, etc. to create a message through art.

# 2-Dimensional Art Finalists

June 2025



# HONORABLE MENTION: “Winter 1991” | “Bearing Witness”

Artist: **Yusser Al Qazwini**

A series of two oil paintings

The first, “Winter 1991,” shows a child escaping war, holding on to her past in one hand and her future in the other.

In the second, “Bearing Witness,” she stands by a destroyed window, bracing herself for the coming days.





# HONORABLE MENTION: “Between Hope and Fulfillment”

Artist: **Dalia Grybinas**

Mixed media collage

Freedom/Democracy were such important concepts for my father that at the age of 20 he fled home in Lithuania, on foot. Because of war he experienced hunger, homelessness, loneliness and longing. In America, he found fulfillment of his dreams.





## 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE: “Beauty and Resilience of the Black Woman”

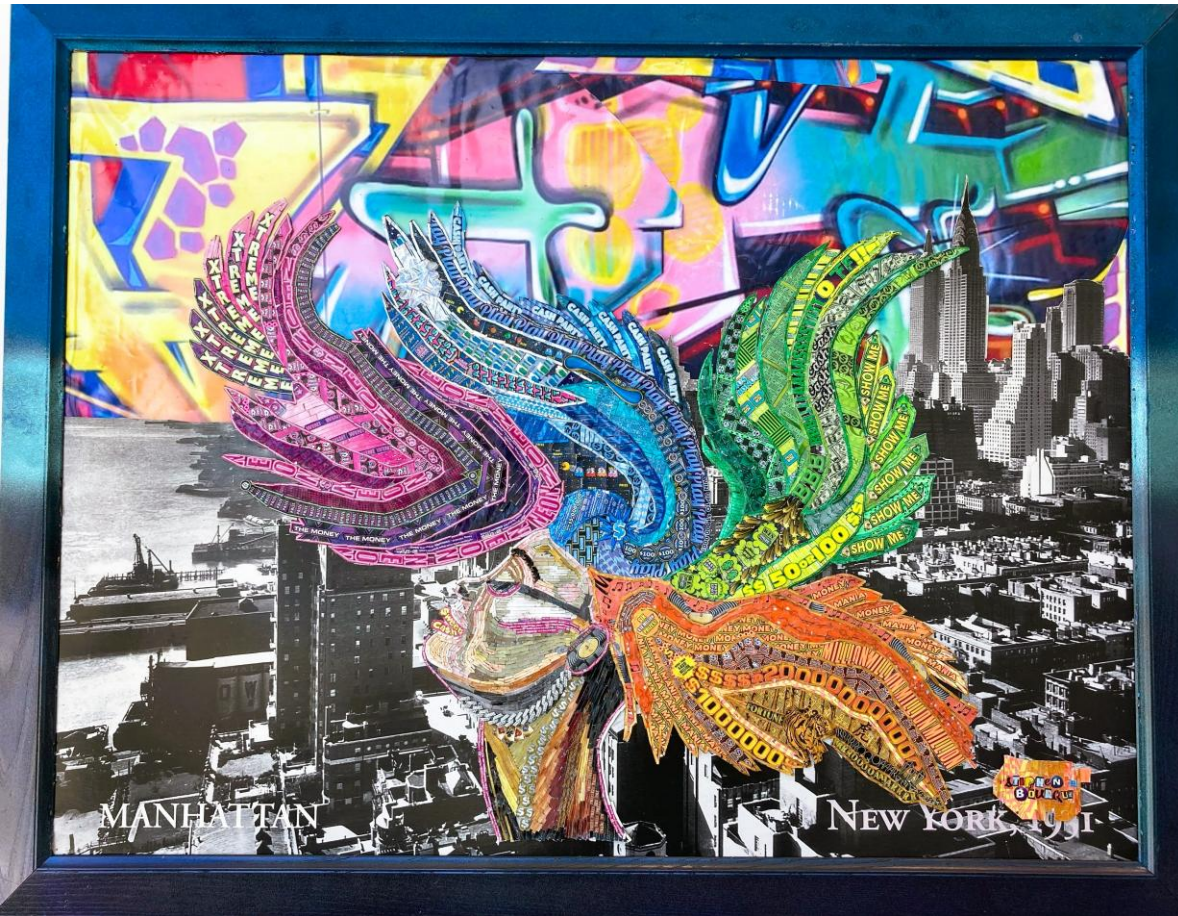


Artist: **Maria Reyes**

Acrylic painting on white canvas  
Black women are as powerful as a rose with thorns and cool like an evening sky. The painting's color theme speaks to the resilience of the Pan-African movement and the spirit of Juneteenth, which also sheds light on the beauty of black women.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE: “Throw Your Hair”



Artist: **Stephen Bourque**

Mixed media/used scratcher lottery ticket

The vibrant headshot of a female, against a Manhattan cityscape and graffiti-styled skyline. Blissfully she throws her outrageous hairdo. Modern graffiti art is credited with being originated by African American artist 'Cornbread,' in the 1960's.

Only when one is truly free can bliss be had. Our nation must protect our freedoms, and remain resilient, to ensure such exists for future generations.



# 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE: “The Sound of Joy”

## BEST OF SHOW



Artist: **Elisa Colón Sosa**

Acrylic painting

A child's genuine laughter becomes palpable through brush strokes; one can almost hear the sound of joy. This piece serves as a visual reminder of how hope, joy and freedom are meant to be radiant, energetic, felt and shared.

# CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION AWARD

June 2025



# “Codifying Jim Crow: Deconstructing Reconstruction”

Artist: **Stephen Von Mason**



CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE FINALISTS  
THANK YOU  
FOR JOINING US TODAY



FREEDOM: THE FUTURE OF HOPE ART SHOW FINALISTS  
City of South San Francisco