

Dear Members of the City Council,

My name is Isha and I'm a current 11th grade student at Sequoyah High School, and I live in district 5 of Pasadena. I'm reaching out to the City Council in the hopes you consider implementing a public art structure into the planning of the 710 stub, in order to memorialize the history and celebrate the communities displaced through the stub.

Los Angeles, a city filled with creativity and diversity, it becomes critical to incorporate storytelling through art in public spaces. The 710 stub is an opportunity to create a space for creative self expression, especially in a neighborhood with so much history and underrepresented diversity. The incorporation of public art in the 710 stub will not only serve new residents, but will also represent displaced minority communities through a combination of storytelling and art.

In section 1.3 of the Vision Plan for the 710 stub, the Organizing Concepts "Place Creation" and "Community Repair, Health & Well-Being" would benefit from the incorporation of public art. Place Creation allows opportunity for public spaces to define Pasadena from other neighborhoods and shape its unique story—especially via the 710 stub. In addition to Community Repair, public art expressed through the stories and histories of Pasadena and acknowledges minority communities is a powerful way of reconnecting with the rich history Pasadena has to offer.

In addition to preserving the history of those who once lived in the stub, public art in the new neighborhood can also draw in additional economic benefits for the city. Andrew Wasserman, the author of *The World Atlas of Public Art* at Yale University Press states that "[e]ither through government commission or independent initiative, public artworks participate in urban development projects and spur on future investments. They can counter social stigmas leveled against neighborhoods and nations. They can also rally communities, mobilizing resistance to forms of economic exploitation and displacement" (Wasserman 9). The economic benefits of public art also connect directly to the "Economic Vitality" section of the Vision Plan's Organizing Concepts, through supporting upcoming artists economically career-wise.

I invite you to consider: How can we commemorate those who were displaced due to the 710 project? How can we keep those who were displaced, stories' alive? How can we fully represent the diversity of Pasadena, in a way that is memorable?

Added below this letter are examples of public artwork that represent a variety of communities, voices, mediums, and more. Along with each image, attached is a brief description of the meaning behind each artpiece. These artworks have been carefully selected to represent different aspects of the city of Pasadena and its history—something very relevant especially to the city of Pasadena and the 710 stub.

The history and displacement of those who used to call, what is now an empty ditch, a home, is a history that must not remain untold; thus, the importance of utilizing public art to commemorate those impacted, is an opportunity that should not be pushed aside or neglected.

Thank you for your consideration, time, and service to the Pasadena community.

Best Regards,

Isha Agrawal
Sequoyah High School, 2027



"*Blossoming Diversity* represents the diverse neighborhood of Feltonville, where unique life stories can come together to create positive change. Like flora from different environments around the world, we can all bloom together as a community, and in doing so create stronger roots for future generations.

The project was collaborative effort between the Restorative Justice Program of Mural Arts and the Feltonville Rec Center Summer and Afterschool programs."

Source: [Public Art Archive](#)



Image Source: [Public Art in Vancouver](#)

"*LightShed* suggests an ongoing occupation of place, not just by corporate real estate firms but by the material traces of everyday people who once lived and worked along the water... Magor explained that she 'worked consciously about keeping the past alive: taking an old thing and keeping it vivacious, keeping a complex tapestry of stuff in the world.'"

Description Source: [Wasserman, Andrew](#)



"Sculptural Gateway" is a powerful celebration of Leicester's rich cultural heritage, marking the 50th anniversary of the Ugandan Asian exile. Created through a unique collaboration between artist Anu Patel and the local community, the artwork symbolises resilience, diversity, and unity.

The UA50 Public Art Commission was initiated to mark the 50th anniversary of the Ugandan Asian exile and celebrate the rich cultural fabric of Leicester. As a tribute to the South Asian diaspora, who have made Leicester their home, the project aimed to recognise the resilience, contributions, and shared experiences of migrating families. Installed at Belgrave Circle, Sculptural Gateway stands as a powerful symbol that defines this shared space, honouring the city's vibrant history.

Source: [Leicester Museums](#)

Works Cited

Wasserman, Andrew. *The World Atlas of Public Art*. Yale University Press, 2024.