

July 23, 2025

Mayor and City Council
City of San Luis Obispo
990 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

RE: Bequest to Public Art Fund for San Luis Obispo

Honorable City Council Members,

I am writing to you in honor of my mother, Donna P. Duerk, a long-time resident of San Luis Obispo who passed away peacefully in January 2025. Through her trust, she directed a specific gift of \$21,730.07 to support public art in the City of San Luis Obispo, with the specific instruction that it go “to the fund or entity that the Trustee deems most likely to lead to the installation of Public Art in the City of San Luis Obispo, California.”

While the trust does not specify that the installation must be permanent, I personally interpret “installation” to suggest a lasting work, something that will remain in the public sphere for years to come. On a personal note, I would love to be able to visit a piece that reflects my mother’s legacy — something rooted in this community she loved so deeply and contributed to so fully.

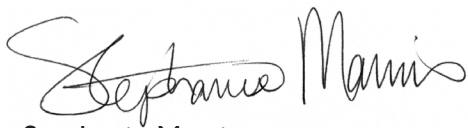
My mother was truly a force of nature. She carved her own path in architecture and education, choosing a career in a male-dominated field and overcoming considerable cultural resistance along the way.

Donna was passionate about education, the environment, art in public places, and sustainable living. Her downtown home is a lush jungle of fruit trees and succulents. She was an architecture professor, a Master Gardener, a scuba diver, a costume creator, a devoted cat lover, and a proud grandmother.

She left behind a legacy of fierce independence, brilliant intellect, and a sense of fun and discovery that never faded. She believed in public spaces that invite inspiration and in art that lives where people can encounter it in their everyday lives. For that reason, I can think of no more fitting tribute than for her donation to contribute to a permanent piece of public art in San Luis Obispo.

Thank you for considering this gift and helping to ensure that Donna’s deep love for this city and for public art lives on in a meaningful and visible way.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Mami". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Stephanie Mami
Trustee for the Estate of Donna P. Duerk

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