



February 2, 2017

Mayor and City Council  
City of Salinas  
200 Lincoln Ave.  
Salinas CA 93901

**Re: Salinas Public Arts Ordinance**

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of the Salinas City Council:

On behalf of the American Institute of Architects, Monterey Bay Chapter, this letter is written in support of a proposed Public Arts Ordinance for the City of Salinas, scheduled for review by your council on February 7. Boldly committing to a public art program shows both residents and visitors alike that the City prioritizes steady and manageable attention to the City's public spaces as a component of your broader vision for civic improvement.

For decades the community has benefited from public art displays like the detailing incorporated into Robert Stanton's 1937 design for the Monterey County Courthouse. The program before you will create new and lasting opportunities to encourage and support local and regional artisans, with public money set aside for artwork that benefits the public at large. Similar programs in cities throughout the nation have successfully shown how pursuit of public art can foster pride in one's community and help define a city's sense of place. What's more, establishment of this program can be the foundation upon which private sector participation in the funding of public art can expand.

Respectfully, we ask that you pass the ordinance as written.

Sincerely,

Stephen Lyon, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP  
President - AIA Monterey Bay Board of Directors