



THE CITY OF **MONTEREY**

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RECONSTRUCTED TILE MAP OF ALTA CALIFORNIA INSTALLED AT CITY HALL - ADDS TO MONTEREY PUBLIC ART COLLECTION **Original Tile Map Installed in 1935**

Monterey, Calif. – A unique tile map representing early Alta California has been reconstructed in Monterey by artist Jos Sances. The mural has been installed in the original location just in time to celebrate and reflect on the 250th anniversary of the DeAnza expedition in 2026.

In 1935 Agatha Few donated her estate to build the Monterey City Hall, expand the historic Brown-Underwood Adobe, and build the City Hall complex for the benefit of the community. San Francisco based artist Edgar Walter donated a tile map in 1935 that was fired in the Montalvan factory in Triana, Seville, Spain to the sunken garden. The map was added to add to the overall design of the Few Memorial Complex (Monterey City Hall) to represent a romanticized Spanish Alta California.

The map represents the 1776 DeAnza land route expedition to colonize Alta California and build another Presidio in San Francisco from the initial starting point of Sonora. The expedition to establish a colony, comprising men, women, and children, reached Monterey on March 10, 1776, in the vicinity of modern-day Lake El Estero and the Royal Presidio Chapel. When writing about the journey to Monterey, Franciscan Pedro Font recorded that, "The road like all the rest is through pretty country, green, shady, flowers strewn, fertile, beautiful and splendid"; his hand-drawn map of Alta California created for the journey 1776 is the basis for this tile mural. Based on the original Pedro Font map now located at Brown University and photos of the original Spanish tile mural at Monterey City Hall, artist Jos Sances was able to recreate the tile map at the Kala Art Institute

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studio in Berkeley, California. Jos Sances and Amanda Larson worked on the installation.

The original map began to see deterioration from water intrusion, and the City of Monterey looked at repair or replacement beginning in 1999 and again in 2009. In the years following several tiles were missing completely, and by 2024 the map collapsed entirely off the wall suffering irreparable damage. Library & Museums Director Brian Edwards managed the effort to replace this historic tile mural to continue to honor our past and reflect on our unique Monterey heritage.

Edwards states, "The tile map not only represents early Alta California of 250 years ago, but it also represents the community spirit to support art and civic infrastructure in our community that we still enjoy today."

Funding for the tile mural was approved by the City of Monterey's Museums & Cultural Arts Commission through the City's Art Acquisition Fund. This fund was created through the deaccession of artwork that was auctioned during the Monterey Conference Center renovation and private donations. The newly constructed tile is made from a high-fire tile made of a Laguna half and half, or white stoneware and porcelain for durability. A new weather resistant base and waterproof epoxy have been used to make sure that the new mural will be enjoyed by generations to come.

Learn more about the artist and installer at <https://www.josart.net> and <https://www.kala.org>.



Artist Joe Sances from Berkeley, California

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The newly installed tile map.



Artist Joe Sances and Library & Museums Director Brian Edwards

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