



Dear Ms. Zessau,

I'm writing to express my interest in contributing mosaic artwork celebrating the centennial of Route 66 for the Huntington Drive pedestrian bridge in Monrovia. I have the honor of having produced twenty mosaic murals, almost all of which are found in our beloved LA County. My emphasis is connecting communities with their histories and/or local natural environments. These murals are large format, one extending to 86 feet long on 1st Avenue in downtown LA and another rising to 25 feet high in Pasadena. Working large is my wheelhouse. The unique challenges and opportunities of working with public space and government agencies are familiar to me from my experiences partnering with the City of LA, City of Glendale, LA City Council, CalTrans, LAUSD, GUSD and others on various mosaic mural projects. I'm pleased to report that my artworks stand the test of time and remain dazzling and fresh into the future because of the tenacity and strength of the glass and cement materials.

Monrovia has long been a beloved nearby area where dear friends reside and the crepe myrtle trees in old town are a special treat I'd love to depict. Communing with and listening to the people who will live with the art pieces drives my design process so that working together we can transform their locations into delights to behold and live with. Publicly visible art is a precious concept for me as my life has been punctuated and enhanced by art works in public spaces that have always made my soul soar.

I'm inspired and invigorated by the language of color, the artful kinetics of life and the subtle grace of time. My work brings these feelings into the built world through vitality, grace and collective commitment. Each piece vivifies its environment, creating treasured connections to public spheres. My artistic practice involves communication and research to learn more about each location, region and community these art works will commune with, and then oftentimes working with the participants to synthesize the information into a conceptual direction from which to proceed. Questions can include historical investigations like what did the location look and feel like hundreds of years ago? And crucially, what imagery can delight, inspire, nurture and otherwise uplift the population that resides there now? Moving forward I endeavor to stay open to the forces and feelings around me to experience something that will resonate and feel right for the location I'm engaging with. From there I draw designs and together with those involved we find an expression of the chosen concept that feels exciting, expansive and exhilarating.

For a recent mosaic mural these investigations led to the decision to depict five iconic California environments sorted by elevation with water running through them. The first panel shows rain in the high forest, then the next panel features beavers in rushing rivers, the area that's called the riparian. Lower down is our region, the chaparral landscape with fields of poppies shown. Next is the low desert with a delicate tinkling stream and finally the story ends in the mighty ocean with whales

Hannah Maximova

zoemosaics.com • hannah@zoemosaics.com

818-588-9100 • 1323 N. Brand Blvd #4, Glendale CA 91202



moving through. The water is shown in every panel as it moves not just through the land but also through the plants and animals of each area, and by extension, us. Every drop has a path from high to low as it delivers life and vitality. These artworks are on the street-facing wall of a public elementary school and the local community embraces and adores them.

Developing high quality innovative and timelessly meaningful artwork is the quest of a public artist entrusted with the visual experience of our shared spaces. I'm honored to serve communities in that role and my many finished projects attest to my capability and expertise. I also love working with under served populations and my experiences with Learning Works Charter School, Homeboy Industries, mixed income public schools, the Youth Policy Institute and The Mission Continues military community are testaments to that focus.

Starting with raw spaces and enriching them with the color and energy of mosaic murals combines the visually arresting intensity of stained glass and stone with the stability and ease of care of cement. Working with architects, engineers and government agencies is a pleasure and the ease care of these works makes them a suitable choice for long-standing structures that will enjoy heavy use into the future. Placing artworks over a city street can be done safely and securely with top quality cements and grouts that can pair with a system of hanging steel frames fitted directly onto the bridge, doubly supporting the artwork panels. Contributing artworks that encourage sensations of welcome, love, warmth and hope for all of the people who engage with them is a driving principal of mine.

My background includes over two decades spent in the fields of art direction and fine art, tuning my creativity into alignment with the collective emotions and drives of the public sphere. I spent many years working with global organizations along with nonprofits and not-for-profits including the California Endowment whose commitment to service matched my own. Fine art gallery exhibitions of my work have long been a delightful and satisfying endeavor for decades. Unifying these two professional streams into the single public art arena was a natural progression and a satisfying one. The people I designed for have evolved into my collaborators, sometimes sharing both the processes of imaginative creation. This leads to deeply loved public art works that are held in the hearts of numerous diverse individuals.

It's my hope that my vision, background and experience are a good fit for goals of this request. It's been my pleasure to work with the public, landscape architects, civic leaders and agencies as well as nonprofit entities to bring about exuberant and cherished public artworks and this request speaks to the energies that drive my work at every level.

Thank you for your consideration,

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# HANNAH MAXIMOVA

MOSAIC ARTIST

## SUMMARY

Innovative public artist and community builder with an engaging and vibrant creative sensibility

## CONTACT

- ✉ hannah@zomosaics.com
- 🌐 zomosaics.com
- ☎ 818-588-9100
- 📷 Instagram: hannahmaximova

## EXPERIENCE

### Mosaic Mural Artist





- "As We Flow" • 2024 • Glendale, CA  
A large format custom stained glass mosaic mural on a public elementary school depicting water moving through iconic California landscapes, from high forest rain to low desert streams and finally the ocean. Riparian river and poppy field vistas are also depicted.
- "In Weaving Love" • 2022 • Los Angeles, CA  
A large format custom stained glass mosaic mural for Homeboy Industries in downtown Los Angeles. Depicts braided lines with inspirational quotes from founder Father Greg Boyle.
- "The Breath of a Deukmejian Day" • 2021 • Glendale, CA  
A large format custom stained glass mosaic mural for a city park in Glendale, CA. The theme is the plants and animals of the surrounding chaparral landscape. The adjoining donor wall raised over \$40,000 exclusively for the sponsoring foundation, the Glendale Parks and Open Space Foundation. Co-sponsored by the City of Glendale.
- "Icons of Our Source Cultures" • 2019 • Glendale, CA  
A large format custom stained glass mosaic mural for a public school in Glendale, CA. The theme is the iconic edible plants of the French, Italian, German and Spanish speaking countries which originated the languages featured in the school's immersion programs. The attached donor wall raised many thousands of dollars for the school's arts programming.
- "Our River Jewels" • 2018 • Glendale, CA  
A large format custom stained glass mosaic mural for a public school in Glendale, CA. The theme is the nearby LA River and the many species that live in and near to it. The embedded donor wall raised several thousand dollars for the school's arts enrichments.
- "In Peace We Grow" • 2017 • Pasadena, CA  
A large format (22' high) custom stained glass mosaic on a Homeboy Industries + Learning Works Charter Pasadena high school entrance. Sponsored by CA State Senator Anthony Portantino as well as local businesses and multiple philanthropic communities.
- "Every Bloom a Star" • 2016 • Sunland, CA  
A large format custom stained glass mosaic on a public elementary school wall. Sponsored by LA City Council Member Felipe Fuentes, LAUSD Board Member Mónica Ratliff and LA Assembly Member Patty López, Home Depot and Orchard Supply Hardware.
- "Birds in the Lemon Garden / Oiseaux Dans Le Jardin de Citronniers" • 2015 • Hollywood, CA  
A large format (96' total width) custom stained glass and ceramic mosaic on two pedestrian tunnel entrances. In partnership with the Youth Policy Institute.
- "Transatlantic / Transatlantique" • 2015 • Glendale, CA  
A large format custom stained glass mosaic on an outdoor public school stairway which features both an ocean and words of welcome in five languages.
- "Garden Lights" • 2015 • Glendale, CA  
Stained glass mosaic murals in multiple community gardens that depict native plants and animals. These were community building projects of the Monterey Eco-Community Gardens.
- "Invisible but Here" • 2014 • Pasadena, CA  
Large format custom mixed media mosaic composed of stained glass, shells, stones and ceramic and appears at a meditation center. The piece depicts the experience of meditation, feeling what can't be seen, as layers of earth and water underground.

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-  hannah@zoemosaics.com
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-  818-588-9100
-  Instagram: hannahmaximova

## EXPERIENCE (CON'T)

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### Interactive & Teaching Artist

- Mosaic Educator • 2014-2024 • Various locations in LA County, CA  
Mosaic teaching with adults at Barnsdall Art Center, Piece by Piece LA and Zorthian Ranch.
- "Arts and Service in the Gardens" • 2012-2023 • LA County, CA  
Co-founder of an expanding library of all ages interactive art sessions in community gardens. A recent event involved the creation of unique mocktails, the harvesting of hundreds of pounds of food for local food banks and the creation of mosaic artworks fashioned from wax.
- "Family Art in the Park" • 2007-2021 • LA County, CA  
Founder of an interactive art series that has involved hundreds of all age participants. Projects incorporate cardboard, glue, paper mache, mosaic and paint and include life size large animals, friezes of mythological themes, plants of all kinds and the objects found in the skies. Finished artworks are donated to public schools.
- "Festa di Gioia" • 2014 • Pasadena, CA  
Co-founder of a popular series of interactive art festivals in Pasadena that drew over 130 fully engaged participants and featured activities including a multigenerational water fight, color powder throwing, mosaic, puppets and shelter building.

## EDUCATION

The University of Arizona  
Tucson, AZ

- Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) • Studio Art including intensive engagement in art history, design, photography and sculpture" • 1993

## HONORS & ACTIVITIES

- Honorable Recognition for Service to the Community • California Legislature, Assemblymember Laura Friedman, LA, CA 2021
- Grant Winner • Creative Investment grant program, 2023
- Honorable Recognition for Service to the Community • California State Senate, Senator Anthony Portantino, Pasadena, CA 2017
- 1st Place Winner • LA County Art Commission's Arts Datathon Proposal Contest, LA, CA 2017
- Project Finalist • LA County Art Commission San Fernando Civic Art Project, LA, CA 2017
- Fellowship • Arts for LA's ACTIVATE Cultural Policy Leadership Development Program, LA, CA 2016-2017
- Grant Winner • The Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI), LA, CA 2015
- Grant Winner • Utility Box "Beyond the Box" Mural Program, City of Glendale, CA 2014
- Chairperson • The Benjamin Franklin Educational Foundation, Glendale, CA 2017-2019
- Chairperson • Monterey Eco-Community Gardens, Glendale, CA 2009 - 2013
- Artist in Residence • The Cliff Dwellers Arts Organization, Chicago, IL, 2001

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## BIO

Hannah Maximova is a dynamic public artist renowned for her captivating and immersive installations that transform public spaces into vibrant and thought-provoking environments. Hailing from Tucson, Arizona where she graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Arizona in 1993, she spent her youth inspired by the rich arts and culture of the southwest, revelling in the quietly beguiling Sonoran desert. After graduation she relocated to Chicago and delighted in the great Lake Michigan while producing interactive artworks with an array of collaborators in various media. She was honored with multiple gallery exhibits of her fine art works and contributed art direction services to organizations including a wide array of nonprofits. A decade later she returned to the southwest to land in Glendale, CA where she was featured in art exhibitions in both traditional and nontraditional venues in various spaces around the Los Angeles region. Maximova was also instrumental in producing eclectic and beloved interactive art events including the popular Festa Di Gioia series as well as contributing leadership skills to the local community gardening movement. Combining these pursuits into the field of community building public art has led her to produce a cohesive body of large scale public artworks that are held firmly in the hearts of the communities she serves. She created the organization Zoe Mosaics which collaborates with diverse community members and artists from a range of disciplines to produce enduring works characterized by a seamless fusion of visual aesthetics and conceptual depth. Delving into each local atmosphere and enabling an ambiance of meditative gentleness combined with joyful creative vibrance has been the driving thrust of her artworks, and the final pieces both encourage and celebrate these experiences. The pieces are reflections of the local character, depicted with a grace, balance and delicacy that rest comfortably in a pleasing and inspiring context. Driven by a desire to create meaningful connections and foster dialogue within communities, Maximova actively involves local residents and stakeholders in her artistic process. She believes that public art should be inclusive and accessible, and seeks to inspire a sense of ownership and pride among those who interact with her installations.

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