

With help from city, artists plan to transform ugly 12th Street underpass

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Rendering courtesy of L/C Mural & Design

Artists Sofia Lacin and Hennessy Cristophel of L/C Mural & Design hope to transform the 12th Street underpass in Sacramento "into a bright and colorful abstract piece," according to Tre Borden, who is leading fundraising efforts for the project.

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Two local artists are enhancing an area they say is often perceived as one of the ugliest spots in Sacramento -- a move that could heighten interest in surrounding businesses. In conjunction with the **city of Sacramento**, [Sofia Lacin](#) and [Hennessy Cristophel](#) of L/C Mural & Design hope to transform the 12th Street underpass "into a bright and colorful abstract piece," according to [Tre Borden](#), who is leading fundraising efforts for the project, which is dubbed "Contagious Color."

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A recently released rendering shows bold colors on the walls of the underpass and a sign bearing the city's name above it.

Lacin, co-owner of Sacramento's L/C Mural & Design, said she was inspired by Wynwood, a Miami neighborhood that underwent a major revitalization, largely focused on art.

"I was just really inspired by the way the art kind of picked up the economy," she said.

Adding art to the 12th Street underpass, which connects Sacramento's River District to the downtown grid, could have the same effect, she suggested. "People spend time in places that feel connected," Lacin said.

She's already a believer in the River District, which is where the artists' office is located. But the 12th Street underpass is "kind of pinned as one of the ugliest spots in Sacramento," Lacin said.

Fundraising efforts for the project are underway. The city of Sacramento is providing in-kind support of more than \$30,000, according to Lacin. She's also received donations from the River District board of directors, **Sacramento Municipal Utility District** and Sacramento City Councilman [Steve Cohn](#).

The artists are reaching out to businesses to raise a remaining \$25,000. Potential sponsors can learn more by [contacting Borden online](#).

Lacin hopes to complete the first phase of the project, which includes the main art but not the lettering, by mid-November. Work will be conducted on weekends. SMUD also plans to improve the lighting in the underpass area. The lettering that spells "Sacramento" is contingent on receiving a community grant from **Union Pacific** Corp.

The artists have worked on many noteworthy local projects, including the current effort to [add a mural to the site](#) of a popular Sacramento farmers market.