

County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

ARTS COMMISSION – AGENDA

Friday, July 21, 2023, 4:30 PM
Regular Meeting

Simpkins Family Swim Center
979 17th Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR APPROVAL

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Any person may address the Commission during its Oral Communication period. Speakers must not exceed two (2) minutes in length, or the time limit established by the Chair, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications. All Oral Communication must be directed to an item listed on today's Consent Agenda, yet to be heard on Regular Agenda, or a topic not on the agenda that is within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Commission members will not take actions or respond immediately to any Oral communication presented regarding topics not on the agenda but may choose to follow up later, either individually or on a subsequent Commission Agenda. Oral communications will normally be received by the Commission for a period not to exceed thirty (30) minutes. If, at the end of this period, additional persons wish to address the Commission, the Oral Communication period may be continued to the last item on the agenda.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approve meeting minutes from May 1, 2023..... Pages 2-3

V. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

VI. STAFF REPORT

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Information Items

1. Annual presentation from Arts Council Santa Cruz County

B. Action Items

1. Consider Selection Panel’s recommendation of public artist for the Heart of Soquel Pathway public art project Pages 4-12
2. Consider Selection Panel’s recommendation of public artist for the Westridge Drive public art project Pages 13-20
3. Select panelists (2) to serve on the Ben Lomond Transfer Station public art panel.
4. Select panelists (2) to serve on the Children’s Crisis & Stabilization Center public art panel.
5. Consider Commissioner Stabile’s nomination of Kathleen Crocetti for the Eloise Pickard Smith Award Pages 21-24

VIII. AGENDA / MEETING FOR: September 11, 2023 – 4:30 PM

1. Annual presentation from the Museum of Arts & History
2. Annual presentation from Arts Council Santa Cruz County
3. Update Spotlight Award criteria

IX. ADJOURNMENT



County of Santa Cruz

PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR OF PARKS

ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES May 1, 2023, 5:00 p.m. – 979 17th Ave., Santa Cruz

- I. Called to order at 4:37 p.m. Present: Killian, Leahy, Niven, Woods, Phillips, Stabile
Absent/Excused: Gardner Vacant seats - 3
Staff: Rebecca Hurley, Jesse Williams, Kathy DeWild
- II. Approved Agenda - Motion/Second: Killian/Stabile
AYES: 6
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1
- III. Oral Communications – None
- IV. Oaths of office administered
- V. Approved Consent Agenda - Motion/Second: Phillips/Woods
AYES: 6
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1
- IV. & VII. Director & Staff reports
- VIII. Regular Agenda
1. Approved selection panel's recommendation of Bruce Harman as public artist for the Green Valley MUP project
Motion/Second: Stabile/Killian
AYES: 6
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1
2. Approved selection of Spotlight Award recipients for 2023
Motion/Second: Leahy/Stabile
AYES: 5
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 1
ABSENT: 1
3. Selected Margaret Niven to serve as commission Chair, and Taj Leahy to serve as Vice-Chair, for a term that begins 7-1-23 and ending 6-30-24.
Motion/Second: Phillips/Stabile
AYES: 6
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1

4. Appointed Commissioners Leahy and Stabile to serve on the Sobering Center public art panel

Motion/Second: Killian/Phillips

AYES: 6
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1

5. Appointed Commissioner Phillips to serve on the Willowbrook public art panel

Motion/Second: Stabile/Woods

AYES: 6
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1

6. Appointed Commissioner Leahy to serve on the Juvenile Hall public art panel

Motion/Second: Phillips/Killian

AYES: 6
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1

7. Appointed Commissioner Woods to serve on the Westridge public art panel

Motion/Second: Leahy/Stabile

AYES: 6
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1

IX. Next meeting date: May 1, 2023 – 4:30-6:00 PM. Agenda items include:

Refine Spotlight Award criteria

Annual reports from Arts Council and Museum of Art & History

Eloise Pickard Smith Award

Appoint panelists for Ben Lomond Transfer Station public art project

X. Adjournment – 6:21 PM

Motion/Second: Killian/Woods

AYES: 6
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1

The Hearts of Soquel Parkway

JUSTIN FRANCAVILLA



Overview:

An engaging public art project consisting of 10 Bronze Relief Sculptures (plaques) mounted on existing boulders and new concrete forms.

Various friendly whimsical animals will be represented in the artwork which can be used by the public, especially by for local elementary school students, to make rubbing prints.

This project introduces the general public and students to the art of print-making while also providing an educational opportunity to learn about the local animals, plants, and fauna in our region.

Expanded Statement:

The Hearts of Soquel is an interactive public art installation and printmaking experience located in The Heart of Soquel Parkway, Soquel Village, Santa Cruz County.

This installation will consist of 10 bronze relief sculptures throughout the parkway and the in the plaza. The relief sculptres or plaques will each be unique artworks on their own to be enjoyed as people pass through the park. The magic behind them however is that these bronze plaques can be used to make relief prints from. This will be an interactive printmaking experience that lines the parkway and yes you can certainly touch the art!

The park being located right next to Soquel Elementary is a wonderful opportunity to include the many kids that make up our community in this printmaking experience. My daughter currently attends Soquel Elementary and we live 2 blocks away from the park & school. I will create a pamphlet on this partiucalar printmaking process and how the plaques can be used in the manner. I will personally introduce the principal and teachers to the new artwork along the parkway and it's potential as an art and learing experience to incorproate in their curriculums. While it is fairly self explanatory, take a piece of paper lay it on top of the sculpture and with a crayon rub over across the paper until the artwork appears. I would create a 1-2 page instruction sheet that will include some additioanl ideas on materials to use and the suggestion of using some found objects, particulary leaves to incorporate in the kids artwroks. I think this will be a beautiful experience for nearly all of the grades at Soquel Elementary and depending on the grade level we can introduce more advanced techniques and ideas. Creating prints is a fun experience that can be shared by people of all ages. It will be a fun activity for parents and children, for couples and for all individuals. Finding and collecting all of the images in the park can be a fun game, a treasure hunt of sorts. Visitors will be able to layer as many images as they like onto a single page, creating landscapes that represent Soquel & Santa Cruz County.

The artwork will consist of whimsical animals and include the flora and fauna near and around Soquel Creek. They will be a mix of some of our under appreciated friends like the humble gopher and some of our most beloved like the California Poppy. In this way they will be small reminders of the beautiful landscape we inhabit and over time become familiar and loved markers to people who regularly use the walkway.

The plaques will be irregularly cut out, not just rectangular, they will each have a uniquely colored background ad will be installed on several existing boulders throughout the walkway and in new concrete forms. By treating them in this manner they will inspire curiosity and reinforce the existing information signs that can be already be found throughout the walkway. For example if a child sees a Kingfisher plaque mounted to a rock he may be more likely to stop and read about the other birds found on the existing signs.

I would further like to promote the park and the beautiful work that has been already done renovating the park by hosting an annual art fair in the plaza, part of this budget can be set aside for the inaugural event. The plaza itself is beautifully constucted and the perfect place to set up a simple booth to teach the community about printmaking. With the guidance of the parks department I would propose inviting other artists, especially print-makers to set up boothes promoting their own work and of course no Santa Cruz event would be complete with the invitation of food trucks. There are of course several restaurants and businesses in Soquel and we can futher encourage them to participate in this event.

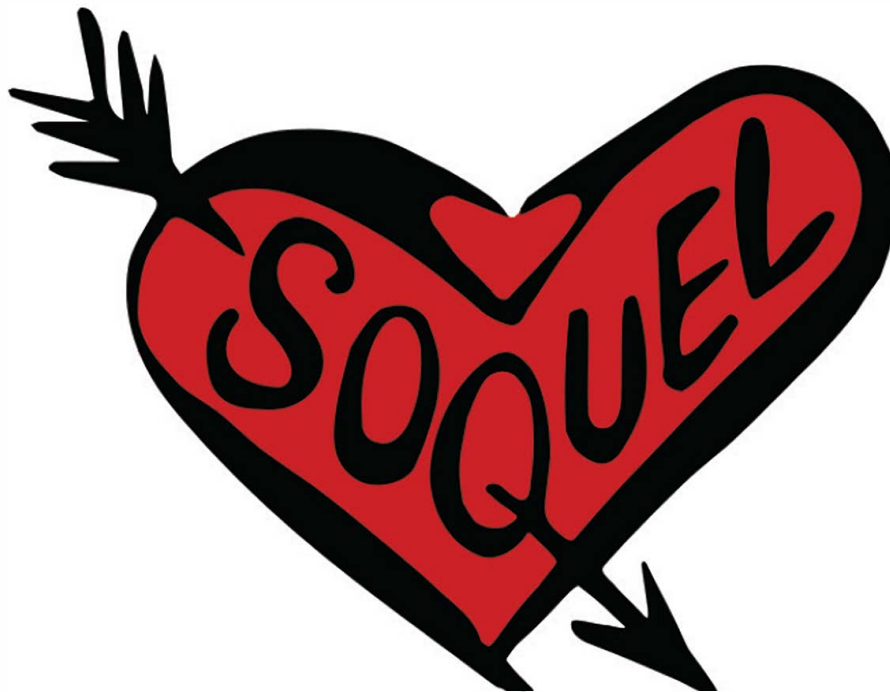
In the following pages I will outline, the location for each sculpture and some of the initial drawings for each. I welcome any and all feedback and would be happy to collaborate further with the Parks Department on the particular designs.

The bronze plaques plaques will be fabricated at Bronze Works in Santa Cruz. Concrete forms will be produced in collaboration with Tom Ralston Concrete in Santa Cruz. Both companies will assist with installaton as well.

#1 Porter Street Entrance - 'The Heart of Soquel'



Heart in heart with arrow design, may be repeated on several plaques as well, example on page 5, with Kingfisher.



Option A) New Concrete form, replacing existing barrier, with this heart of Soquel design, 42"H x 16" x 16"
Option B) Smaller Concrete form on side of the walkway

#2 Pathway fork - 'Gopher your wishes'



Bronze plaque mounted on existing boulder.
Will sand down a section of the boulder and the plaque will be partially inset in the rock and have beveled edges.

#3 North side of Soquel El - Kingfisher / #4 tbd



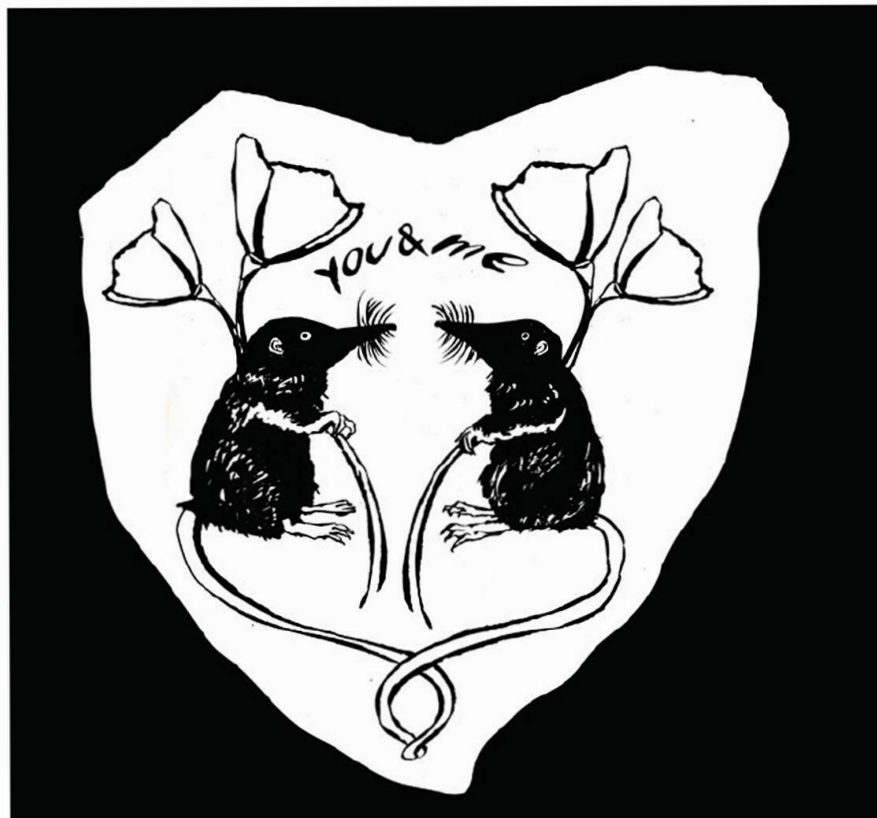
Bronze plaque mounted on existing boulder.
Image #4 work in progress

#5 Bend in the path, 'Home' / #6 tbd



Bronze plaque mounted on existing boulder.
Image for plaque #6 - work in progress
2x possible alternative locations here as well.

#7 Creek Entrance or School Gate, Shrews w/ Poppies



Bronze plaque mounted on existing boulder.
2x possible alternative locations here as well.

#8 Main Street Entrance - 'Soquel Landscape'



Concrete form
42" Tall 16" x 16"
Top angled surface for
plaque mounting



Option A) New Concrete form, 42"H x 16" x 16", in existing empty square, with second heart of Soquel design.
Option B) Smaller Concrete form on side of the bridge.

#9 & #10 Northside - Images work in progress



- #9 Bronze plaque on existing boulder
- #10 Bronze plaque on existing boulder

Concepts include:

- Bobcat or Mountain lion crossing trestle, with bunnies in background
- Stellar Jays & Scrub Jays with Skateboards
- Anna and Allen Hummingbirds with musical instruments
- Mallards with kayaks
- Great Egret with Tic Tac Toe
- Dragonflies

EXAMPLE OF PLAQUE WITH COLOR



EXAMPLE OF UNIQUE CONCRETE MATERIALS



Jay Capela



www.jc-design-studio.com

June 26, 2023

South County Government Center Public Art Project Proposal — Revision June 26, 2023



Written Proposal

My written proposal is largely unchanged from the original, with one important difference — the proposed height of the sculpture is now around 14 feet instead of 16 feet. The reduction in scale came about after my second site visit, where I had a better idea of the sculpture's proposed location and relationship to the landscaping and walkways. I feel that the sight lines as a visitor approaches and encounters the sculpture are better if it is not too tall.

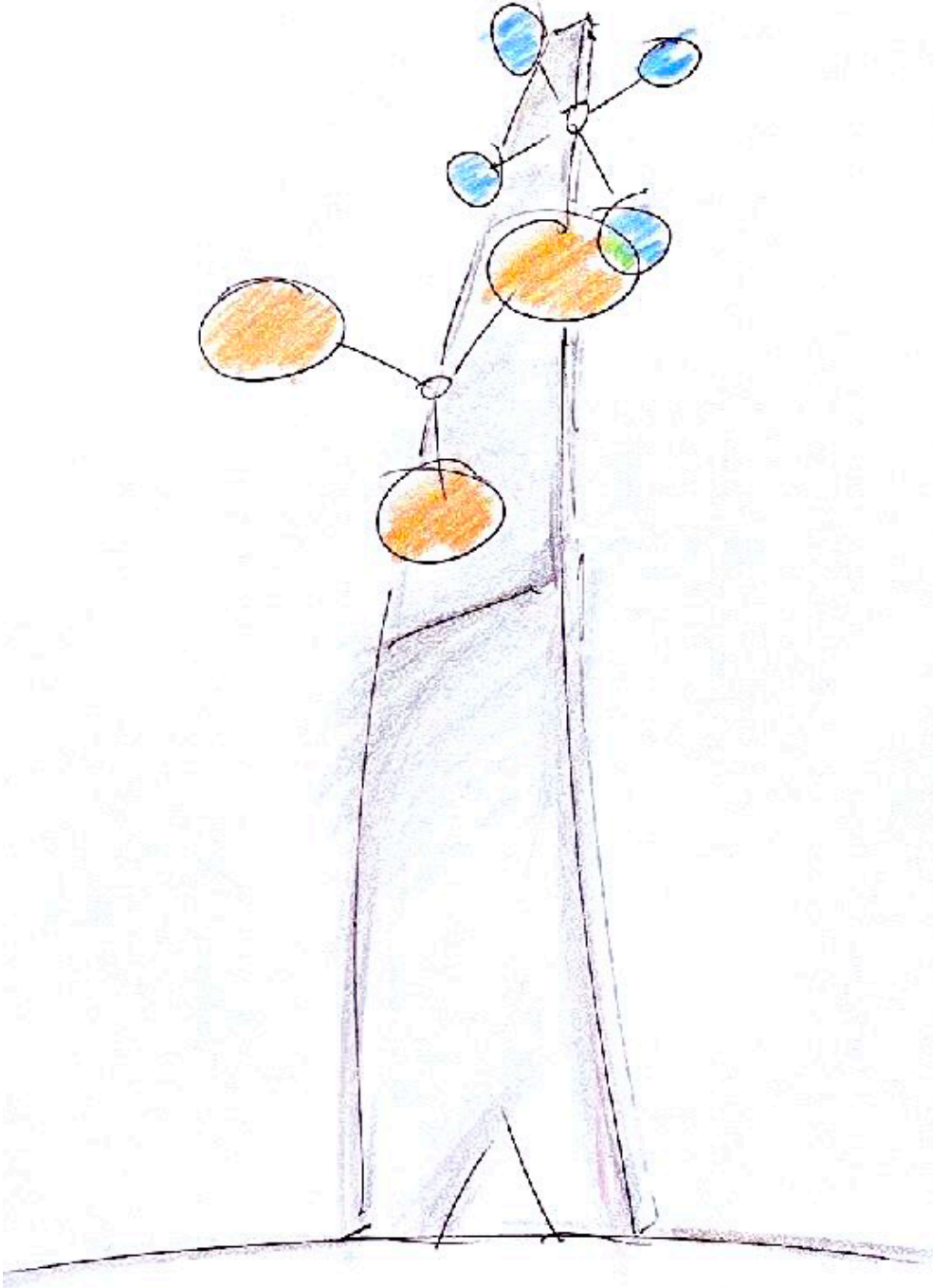
The proposal is for a free-standing, thirteen foot tall kinetic sculpture, placed in the landscape area adjacent to the main lobby entrance of 500 Westridge. The overall intent of the sculpture is to provide a sense of surprise and delight to all of the staff and visitors of the building. This is accomplished not only in that the piece will be a beautiful object worthy of aesthetic contemplation, but in the fact that the sculpture changes with respect to its environment — the kinetic elements move in response to the wind, and the optical elements change in response to the sunlight. The piece talks to you, inviting you to enjoy the ever changing compositions, inviting you to predict and imagine a myriad of possible relationships, as the breeze and light change through the day and through the seasons.

The kinetic elements consist of two separate rotors that employ sealed ball bearings, one with three arms and one with four arms. The two rotors will rotate in opposite directions. Attached to each arm is a translucent acrylic disc. The discs on the three-arm rotor are all the same size and color; the discs on the four-arm rotor are all a smaller size and different color. The translucency of the discs provide an intriguing optical engagement depending on the disc location — what is behind them and what is in front at any given time. The two rotors are offset from each other such that as the discs move in their circular patterns they will invariably overlap such that one of the smaller four-arm discs will align perfectly centered in front of one of the larger three-arm discs.

The main structure of the sculpture is reminiscent of a triangle or wedge, made of stainless steel with a brushed finish. The rotors are attached near the top of the piece on opposite sides of the wedge. The height of the piece is designed such that none of the moving parts should be in reach of a moderately tall human. The internal and external material used in the main structure is stainless steel. The rotor heads, arms, and couplers are stainless steel. The discs are translucent cell cast acrylic; preliminary color choices are orange for the large discs and blue for the smaller discs, which would compliment the interior color scheme and wall art of the building. The sealed bearings are standard imperial inch size ball bearings. The sculpture is 'tuned' at installation by adjusting the angle of each disc to respond to the wind; enough to pick up a slight breeze, but not so much as to spin like a fan when the wind is higher.

The desired location of the sculpture is on the right side of the walkway to the main entrance of the building. Actual orientation of the piece would be determined after a suitable study of sunlight and wind. Some modifications to the existing landscaping are required to accommodate the sculpture.

Original Sketch



Maquette

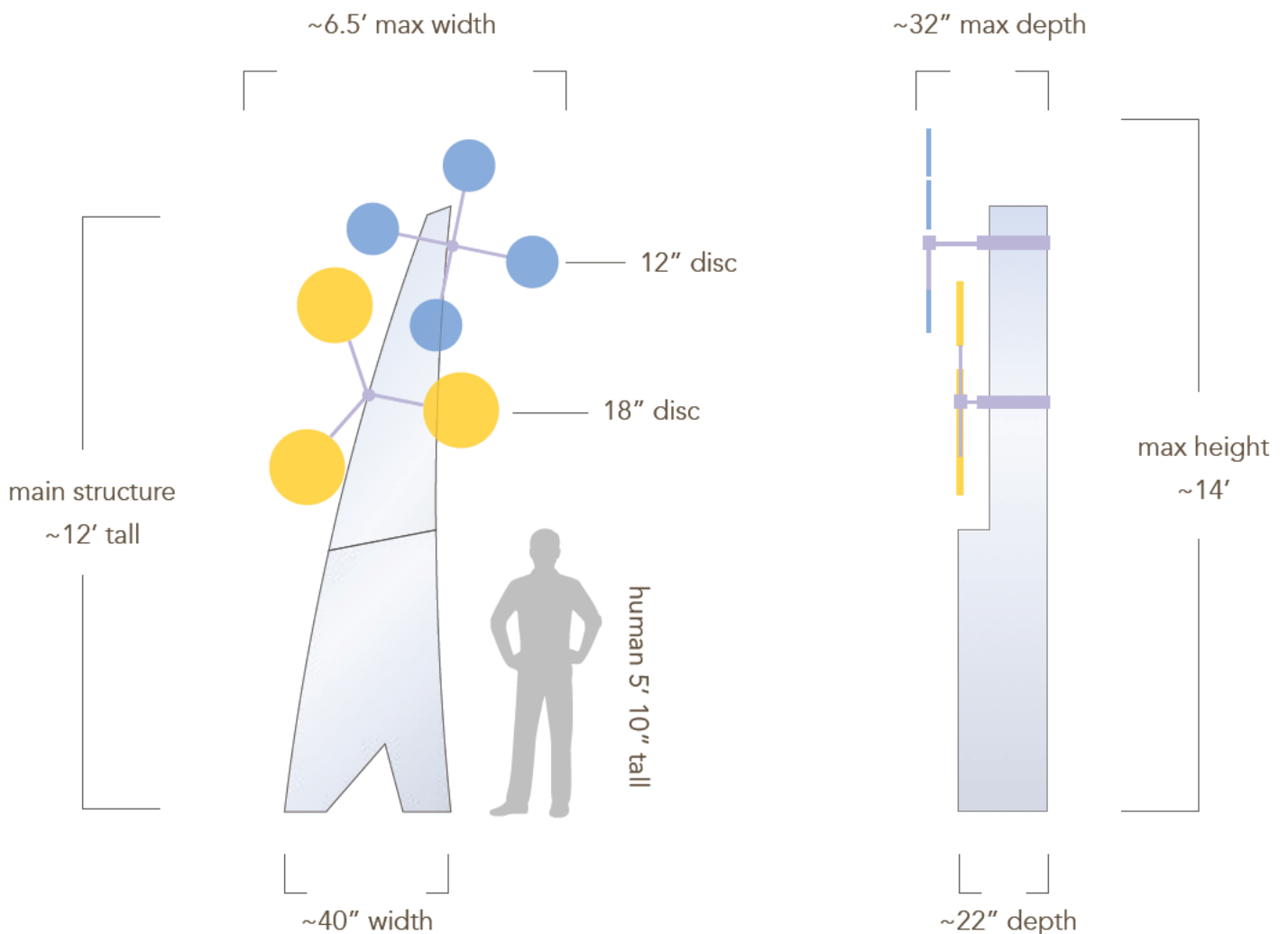
9 inches tall; approximately 1:18 scale model



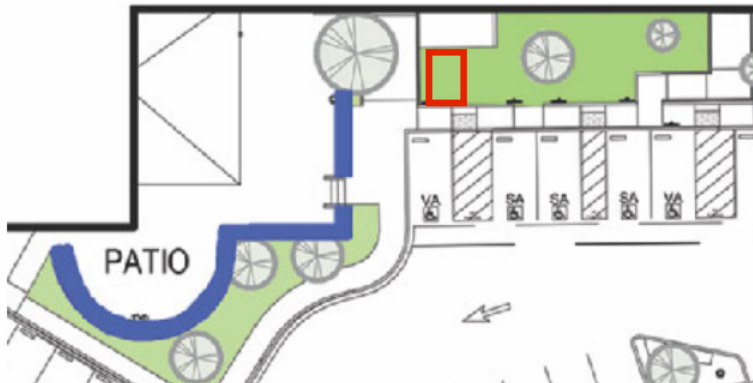
Schematic

These illustrations show the main structure approximately 40 inches wide, 22 inches deep, and 12 feet tall. The large yellow/orange discs are 18 inches in diameter on 14 inch long arms. The blue discs are 12 inch diameter on 14 inch arms.

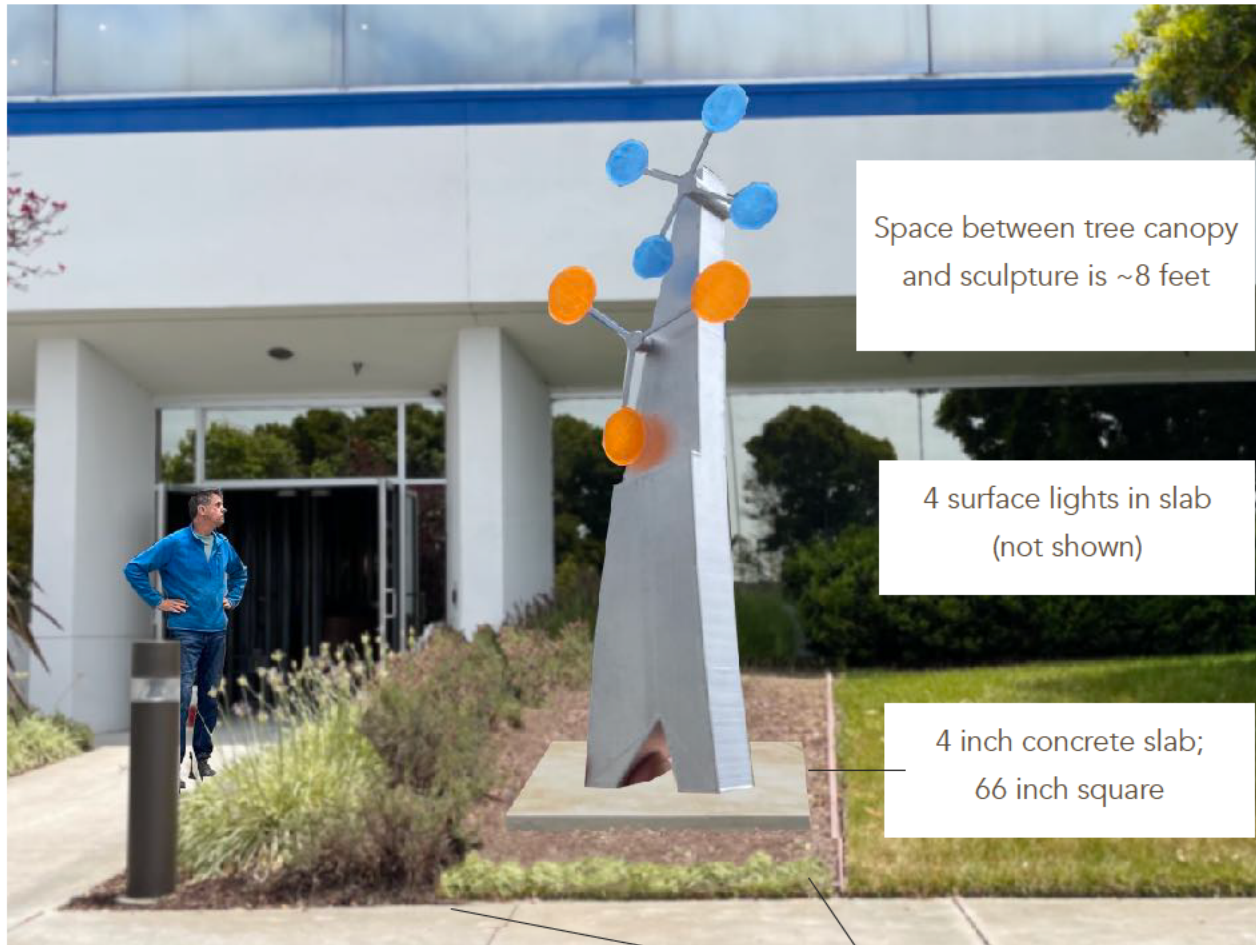
The maximum width (extended yellow/orange disc to extended blue disc) is approximately 6.5 feet wide. The maximum height (base to extended blue disc) is approximately 14 feet tall. The depth, after tuning the discs for clearance and for wind, will be less than 32 inches.



Proposed Location and Mock-up



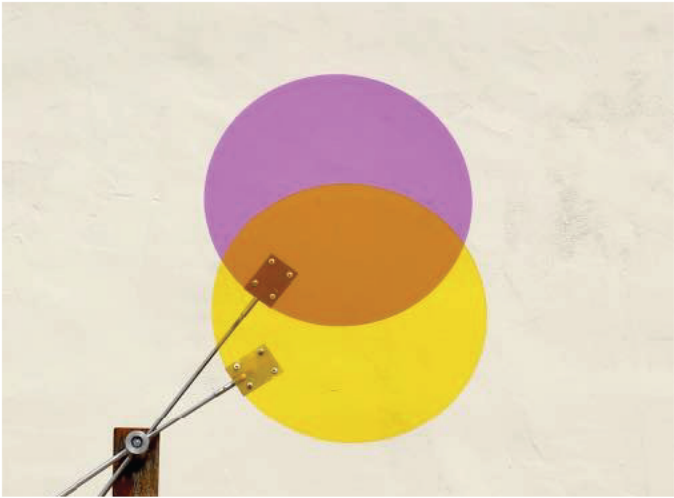
Proposed location is to the right of the walkway to the main entrance of the building.



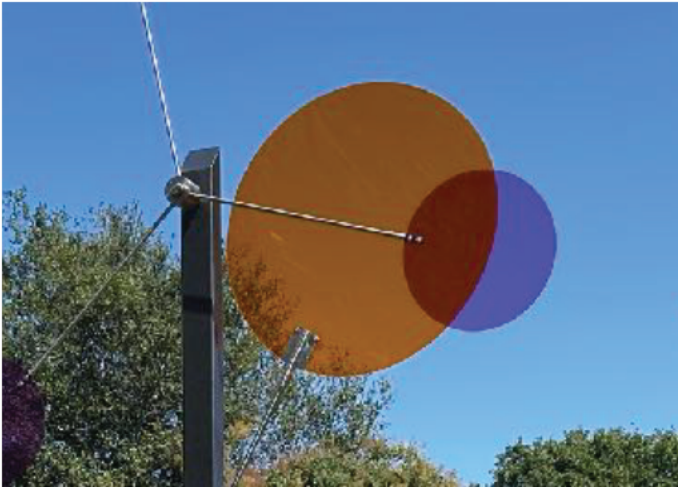
Width of planting strip decreases to 3 feet

add small planting strip in front.
18 inch depth

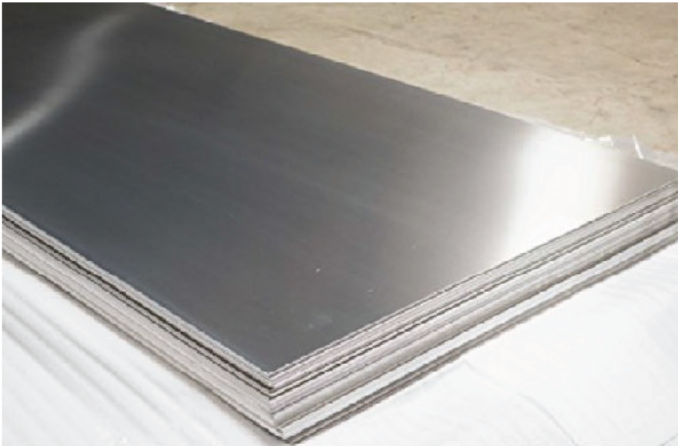
Visual Support



Example of translucent acrylic discs against stucco wall



Acrylic discs against the sky.



Example of brushed stainless steel

Fabrication and installation

Schedule

June to September 2023. Provide to Panel and Arts Commission any details needed to move selection process forward.

September 2023 (once selected). Final design and approval. Procure Raw materials.

October 2023 to January 2024. Fabrication. Finalize location and orientation. Plan and coordinate details of installation.

January / February 2024. Install.

Fabrication Process and Materials

All fabrication will occur off-site from the building location.

Interior elements of the main structure will be 304 stainless square tube and flat bar, cut and MIG welded.

Outer skin of the main structure will be 316 stainless steel sheet, plasma cut and MIG welded.

The base / skirt of the main structure will be 304/316 stainless flat bar or plate, cut and MIG welded.

Allowances made for bolt holes in skirt as per final installation requirements. Allowances made for removable bolt hooks connected to interior structure to accommodate rigging for installation.

The rotors, custom spacing and retaining **hardware**, **rotor arms**, and **couplers** will be machined from 300/400 stainless steel.

The acrylic discs will be laser cut from 3/16" and 1/8" translucent cell cast acrylic.

Platform / base should be concrete. Specific details as to site preparation, landscaping, landscape lighting, base dimensions and reinforcement, and connection points will need to be worked out with all interested parties.

Installation

Installation needs for transport, rigging, placement and positioning, and final assembly of rotors and discs will require specific equipment and personnel — to be coordinated with all interested parties. No exotic equipment should be required (i.e., everything can be rented at United Rentals).

Maintenance

Upkeep of the main structure and stainless steel elements should be minimal. Wash with soap and water. Rinse with water. Wipe clean and dry. The acrylic discs should be cleaned when desired with a lint-free cloth and water (soap and rinse if necessary). The discs are very UV stable and should resist discoloration and degradation for many years. It is possible that a disc or discs could break, due to unforeseen circumstances. So, a complete set of replacement discs will be included with the sculpture.

Judy Stabile
272 Casserly Road
Watsonville CA, 95076

June 2, 2023

Dear Santa Cruz County Arts Commissioners

It is an honor and pleasure to write this letter to nominate Kathleen Crocetti for the Eloise Pickard Smith Award. This award is given by the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission to an individual who has fulfilled the following criteria: “an extraordinary and sustained level of commitment of time, leadership, and/or financial support to the arts; a lengthy history and single-mindedness of purpose in promoting and supporting the cultural life of the County; and playing a vital role in initiating the creation of new cultural institutions or organizations which benefit the community.”

Extraordinary Sustained level of commitment of time and leadership since 1980s and a single-mindedness of purpose in promoting and supporting the cultural life of the County:

Ms. Crocetti has proven her dedication of time and leadership in the arts through both her professional and personal endeavors. While building her personal artistic career since the 1980s, she has professionally taught middle school art in Santa Cruz.

Per Ms. Crocetti of her practice and teaching: “I am more than a Public Artist, I am a Community Artist. To me places have meaning, vibrancy and interest because of the people who live and work there. Before I tackle any public art project I engage the public who will be using that space. I try to understand how the community identifies itself, and how they use and envision the use of their shared public space. The meetings I hold are the beginnings of creative community building as participants sometimes meet their neighbors for the very first time, and are encouraged to think and dream big together. These community meetings are just the start of a long journey we take together. The journey fosters both relationships and creativity, which is why I do what I do.

Usually, my work as a Community Artist leads to great adventures and forays into Public Art. But not always, in fact 187 days of the year it means I am in a classroom helping young people connect with their creative selves. I help them see the value in embracing their creative selves so that no matter what path they choose to follow in their lives they can engage creativity to enhance their pursuits. And if that were not enough, once a year for the past eight years I have found a location for us to make public art within walking distance of our school.”

In addition to giving students hands-on experience in public art, Crocetti provided additional opportunities to students interested in fashion and recycling. In 2009 she started FashionTeen at Mission Hill Middle School, holding annual fashion shows for 90-100 students who created fashions out of recycled clothing and materials. In 2012, she opened the show up to countywide students and changed the venue to the Civic Center. The additional costs of this venue required Crocetti to look for additional sponsors and a production team. By 2017 over 200 students were participating in the event. In 2018 she started transitioning the event to the County Office of Education, who continues to produce the annual event.

We salute Crocetti's commitment to teaching as she retires this year from Mission Hill Middle School.

In fact, Crocetti has increased the number of public art projects she has facilitated in Santa Cruz to over 20 large-scale community driven art works including *the Ebb and Flow* project at the Tannery Arts Center.

Crocetti, who lives in Watsonville, expressed the desire to invest in her home community. An example of her Watsonville based projects is *Celebrating the Diversity of Labor*. In 2017 Kathleen was awarded the City Streetscapes Project by the City of Watsonville; sixteen mosaic medallions installed in downtown sidewalks. The images and title, were created in direct response to the community's desire to "represent our history and our diversity." After gathering community input, she generated over 100 drawings. The community voted on the designs and then helped fabricate the medallions. *Celebrating the Diversity of Labor* was awarded the *2019 Best Community Project* in the 18th Annual Mosaic Arts International Juried Exhibition.

Playing a vital role in initiating the creation of new cultural institutions or organizations:

In 2019, Kathleen founded Community Arts and Empowerment (CAE) and established the Muzzio Mosaic Art Center in Watsonville where community members, including students and paid student interns, work together to fabricate public art projects. In forming the non-profit organization, she confirms her commitment: "We believe we will be starting a movement whereby we as a community invest in ourselves, our youth, our creativity and our desire to be connected to one another in this place we call home."

CAE's most ambitious project is *Watsonville Brilliance*, a 12,500 square-foot mosaic located on the City owned cement parking structure in downtown Watsonville. Four 1200 square-foot panels designed by nationally known artist Juan Fuentes (who graduated from Watsonville High School), selected by community vote, will be accompanied by 185 panels designed by local artists and students. The Fuentes' panels depict the agricultural community of Watsonville, and the community panels reflect the many nationalities and cultures of the people of Pajaro Valley. The Fuentes' panels and

a third of the community panels, have been installed over the last three years. This fully funded, multi-million-dollar project will be completed in 2024 (as originally proposed to the City). This is an amazing outcome, considering the amount of fabrication time lost due to mandatory Covid closures. The project was completely funded through monetary and in-kind donations. The impact of the project on the individuals involved and the community who view the project is tremendous. As part of this community, I can say that we feel proud, included, and represented.

Dancing Waters, a new project for the Riverfront Street garage in Santa Cruz, received Santa Cruz City Art Commission approval to move forward in 2023. CAE opened a Satellite Mosaic Arts Center in Santa Cruz in April to complete that work with the Santa Cruz community.

As commissioners we recognize the majority of public art projects are the design of a single artist. In contrast Crocetti, through CAE, amplifies the voice, vision, and artwork of many community artists.

I have had the opportunity to work with Kathleen in her many roles as artist, educator, project leader, non-profit founder, and art activist. I have found Kathleen to be a creative magician of time and resources, whose dedication results in vibrant community place-making. She commits her skills, abilities, and imagination to engaging the community to realize an expansive and inclusive artistic vision.

Per Michelle Williams, former executive director of Arts Council Santa Cruz, “Kathleen Crocetti is an artist – but cannot be described in that one word. She is an activist, relationship builder, project manager, mentor, administrator, true friend, and a bringer of light, love, hope, and community.”

I highly recommend Kathleen for this award.

Warm regards,

Judy Stabile
Santa Cruz County Arts Commission
District 4

Cc: Felipe Hernandez

Partial List of Awards:

2019 *Best Community Project* in the 18th Annual Mosaic Arts International Juried Exhibition.

2017 Rydell Fellow, Santa Cruz Community Foundation

2013 Innovation Award, Santa Cruz Education Foundation

2010 Officer Jim Howes, Community Service Award, City of Santa Cruz

2010 Gail Rich Award, Santa Cruz Arts Council

2009 California Middle School Art Educator of the Year, awarded by CAEA

2006 Northern California Distinguished Art Teacher of the Year, awarded by CAEA

Kathleen Crocetti: <https://kathleencrocetti.com/>

Community Arts and Empowerment: <https://communityartsempowerment.org/>