



AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: Thursday, April 3, 2025
TO: CITY COUNCIL
WRITTEN BY: PROJECT MANAGER PERALTA
RECOMMENDED BY: PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR CALUBAQUIB
SUBJECT: APPROVE PUBLIC ART APPLICATION FOR THE YOUTH ART MOSIAC PROJECT AT MUZZIO PARK

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the Youth Art Mosaics Project to be placed at Muzzio Park Community Center, located at 26 W Front Street.

BACKGROUND:

Community Arts & Empowerment has occupied the Muzzio Mosaic Art Center (Muzzio Park Community Center) at Muzzio Park for the past six years, with a mission to make public art for, by, and with the community. In October of 2024 Community Arts & Empowerment completed Watsonville Brilliance, a monumental 5-year mosaic art project that covers the Civic Parking Garage located at 275 Main Street. All mosaics for this project were fabricated at the Muzzio Mosaic Art Center, and 80% of the work was done by local youth. Community Arts & Empowerment have now received a grant from the California Arts Council to continue creating mosaics at the Muzzio Mosaic Art Center located at 26 W Front Street. Community Arts & Empowerment is also currently working on other City public art projects, including art for the City Plaza Revitalization Project and the Nature Center.

DISCUSSION:

Design Selection Process

The Youth Art Mosaics Project will consist of 200 ft of mosaics applied to the community center at Muzzio Park. Outreach to local high school art teachers began in December 2024 and 120 local students submitted mosaics designs for this project. A neighborhood artist along with Community Arts & Empowerment staff chose eight designs to put forward for voting in the community surrounding Muzzio Park. Door-to-door outreach was conducted in the neighborhood, which consisted of bilingual students, to ask residents which images they preferred. A total of seventy-eight (78) households voted and four images were chosen to represent the residents in this neighborhood.

Fabrication & Installation

The project's main component will consist of six-inch mosaics borders surrounding the windows and two main doors of the Muzzio Mosaic Arts Center. Additionally, three mosaics measuring 4 ft by 8 ft will be installed in frames and hung on the outside of the building. The mosaics will be fabricated in the Muzzio Mosaic Art Center, primarily by youth. Mosaic installation will be completed by Kathleen Crocetti and Susanne Brubeck with assistance from youth. The three 4x8 mosaics will weigh approximately 120 lb. each and will be installed using metal frames that will attach to the building using a Z clip system. This framing method was engineered by Andrew Radovan for a project in the City of Santa Cruz to attach Z clips to the frame. The artwork is slipped into the Z clips attached to the wall with an additional bolt and small clip at the top of the artwork for safety purposes and to prevent theft. Finally, the mosaic border will be applied directly to the building.

Youth Artists

The following statements were submitted by the four youth artists whose work was selected:



I made this floral design to go around the door and windows of the Muzzio Park. I was inspired by my hand-crafted embroidered "pitiado" belt.

Jason Garcia-Menera
Watsonville High School



My artwork reflects the people in the community with its representation of hard-working farmers who contribute and bring benefit to the community. Overall, our community is filled with hard-working people from different areas around the world, and it is crucial to acknowledge everyone for the development and inclusivity of our community.

Lizbeth Martínez-Meza
Watsonville High School



My artwork fits the theme “People of The Neighborhood” because it has vibrant colors and many designs that represent their culture. For example, paper bunting “*papel picado*” and the monarch butterflies. This artwork represents the future of the children. In the center of the drawing, there’s a girl proudly wearing a graduation gown. She has a smile on her face which symbolizes her academic achievements. Besides her are her parents. Their faces are filled with pride and happiness, their eyes are sparkling as they admire their daughter.

Janet Rocha-Fernandez
Watsonville Highschool



My artwork fits the theme “people of the neighborhood” because it depicts the relationship between a mother and daughter and the community workers. This interaction is small and passing but echoes parents' closeness with their children, especially during difficult times that require sacrifice. I truly believe the people at my park will like my piece because we've all experienced it—if not seen it. I hope you select my design because this is my first experience depicting something so prominent and meaningful in my childhood. I'd want people to see this mosaic and come to the same realization I have, that this moment is worth capturing.

Viridiana Bonilla-Zamudio
Aptos High School

Maintenance Plan

The mosaics will be made from tile and glass using modern cementitious products for installation. The mosaics will likely outlast the life of the building. They will be sealed, and resealing will not be needed for 5-7 years. Resealing will be done by Community Arts & Empowerment if we are still occupying the building.

Community Engagement

In addition to the 120 high school artists who have already participated by submitting designs, the mosaics will be fabricated in the Muzzio Mosaic Arts Center. The Center is open to teens from 3:30-7:30pm Monday-Thursday and Sundays to the community at large to create mosaics. Eight (8) paid youth interns will oversee the community volunteers' work.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

3 - Infrastructure & Environment

5 - Community Engagement & Well-being

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact since Community Arts & Empowerment obtained a grant and will be responsible for all costs and materials related to installation of the mural.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

The Parks & Recreation Commission may choose to:

1. Approve the Public Art Application for the Youth Art Mosaics Project at Muzzio Park with modifications.
2. Not to approve the Public Art Application for the Youth Art Mosaics Project at Muzzio Park, and the project will not be completed.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (IF ANY):

Attachment A: Public Art Application

Attachment B: Mosaic Panel Art Installation Calculations