



CALIFORNIA
ARTS COUNCIL
A STATE AGENCY

**Community Arts & Empowerment
in partnership with the California Arts Council**

Youth Art Mosaics Project Muzzio Park

April 3, 3025



Recommended Action

Staff recommend that the Parks & Recreation Commission approve the Youth Art Mosaics Project be placed at Muzzio Park located at 26 W Front Street.



Background

Community Arts & Empowerment was formed to make art for, by and with the public, to build community identity, pride and connections through public art projects, and foster creativity and empower communities through the arts.





Previous Youth Project:

The artwork on the left was done by Caitlin Bayaca who was a Junior at Aptos High School. We paid her for her artwork, and then we hired her to help make the mosaics.

The final mosaic will be on this building for as long as the building stands, potentially hundreds of years.

Caitlyn was able to use this experience on her resume and in her college application essay letters. She was accepted into the art department at UC San Diego.



Discussion

Current Project Introduction:

Through a grant from the the California Arts Council we will be creating mosaics for the Muzzio Mosaic Arts Center.

We sought proposals from youth artists or youth artist teams to create a vibrant and visually engaging designs to be translated into mosaics for the walls of the Muzzio Mosaic Arts Center located in Muzzio Park, 26 West Front St. This project aims to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the area, contribute to placemaking efforts, and celebrate the unique character of Watsonville



Design Selection Process

Project Design:

1. The theme for the art was **“People of the Neighborhood”**
2. Designs from four High School artists were selected from 120 entries.
3. 78 households were surveyed to choose the designs.



Neighborhood Highlights

Things to know about the neighbors of Muzzio Park:

- The neighborhood is high-density housing (apartments, and trailer homes)
- Most of the residents are from Mexico
- Spanish is the primary language in most households
- multigenerational living is common in the neighborhood
- It is common for working adults to have 2-to 3 jobs in agriculture and service industries



Muzzio Park Highlights

Things to know about Muzzio Park

- Community Garden
- The Park is an extension of people's homes
Families eat meals in the park
- Grandparents and older siblings watch younger children in the park
- A youth soccer league practices in the park
- Every Sunday a basketball league consisting of Indigenous people holds games in the park
- Families walk their dogs in the park
- There is a neighborhood garden in the park
- The community center in the park is where all of the public art mosaics in Watsonville have been created by local teenagers
- Five days a week kids in the neighborhood can stop by the center to get a free snack, usually a popsicle



Youth Artist Selection Process

Selection Criteria

The 120 Proposals were evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Artistic Excellence: Creativity, originality, and aesthetic quality of the proposed mural design.
- Relevance: Alignment with the project scope and ability to resonate with the community and character of downtown Watsonville
- Feasibility: Practicality of the proposed design in terms of scale and translation into mosaics

CA&E staff and a neighborhood artist selected 8 images for the community to vote on



Youth Artist Design Selected #1

Viridiana Bonilla-Zamudio
Aptos High School

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.



Youth Artist Design Selected #2

Janet Rocha-Fernandez
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.



Youth Artist Design Selected #3

Lizbeth Martínez-Meza
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.



Youth Artist Design Selected #4

Jason Garcia-Menera
Watsonville High School

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



Material Specs



The frames will be made either of stainless steel or powder coated. The framed mosaics would weight approximately 100 pounds each. The framing/hanging system has been designed by a civil engineer for a previous project.

Installation & Maintenance

Installation

Mosaics framing the windows and the doors would be directly adhered to the surface of the building. They will be 6" across, and appear a bit larger in these images than they will be in actuality. They will be made from landfill diverted tiles. The three vignettes will each measure 4' x 8' and will each be mounted in frames so that if the future they could be moved if necessary.

Maintenance

The Muzzio is a prefab building. The mosaics will likely outlast the lifetime of the building. The window and door frame mosaics would be sacrificed with the building, the 3 vignettes could be saved.



Fabrication & Community Engagement

Compensation for youth artists:

1. Each of the 4 artists or will each receive a \$500 stipend.
2. Youth artists may choose to become paid interns for CA&E to assist in the fabrication of the mosaics.
3. Community engagement opportunity



Questions & Comments



Contact Information:

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