



Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: Thursday, April 16, 2026

TO: PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: PROJECT MANAGER PERALTA

SUBJECT: APPROVE PUBLIC ART APPLICATION FOR RAMSAY PARK
RESTROOM SUBMITTED BY SHARED ADVENTURES

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the public art application submitted by Shared Adventures for the restroom at Ramsay Park.

DISCUSSION:

On July 19, 2021, the Parks & Recreation Commission approved a public art application for the “Adventure is for Everyone” and “Wall of Fame” (Attachment A) murals for the restroom at Ramsay Park. This application was submitted by Shared Adventures, a Santa Cruz County non-profit organization, that provides recreational activities for the disabled community since 1992. The project consisted of aluminum sheet panels with vinyl printing led by artist Anastasia Torres-Gil. This project was funded by Shared Adventures and a grant from the Santa Cruz Art Council.

The murals have deteriorated and will be removed once construction on the restroom begins. Restroom improvements will include interior and exterior paint, replacement of restroom fixtures such as urinals, entry doors, partitions, and water closets. The restroom will also include replacement of a drinking fountain and a bottle filling station. However, restroom Improvements do not include artwork.

In Fall of 2025, Shared Adventures requested to resubmit an application to update the mural with new images in preparation for the grand opening of Ramsay Park. Mardeen Gordon, founder of SignAge & ArtWorks, was the selected artist to lead this project. Mardeen is a multidisciplinary artist and designer specializing in signage, large-scale public art, murals, and visual storytelling that celebrates community identity, accessibility, and inclusion.

The Project

This project consists of placing a mural on three of the restroom walls at Ramsay Park located at the base of the inclusive playground entrance. These moveable murals will feature inspiration

images of disabled individuals and athletes. They depict positive images of disabled individuals in our community.

The design for “Adventure is for Everyone” is made up of seven (7) panels, at 28’ long by 7’ high, of life-size images. The background color was the only detail changed in this design. The design for “Wall of Fame” is made up of two (2) panels with four (4) 4’ X 4’ images. This design includes only two new images (Attachment B) from the following community members:

Noe Tapia has been a high school history teacher at Watsonville High School for 5 years. He enjoys being active through sports, loves swimming and playing basketball. Noe is part of an accessible basketball camp during the summers and enjoys working with kids.

Ernestine Saldana lives in Live Oak and has worked extensively with the Central Coast Center for Independent Living (CCCIL), has served on the Commission on Disabilities (COD) for five years, and worked at the Pajaro Valley Shelter for four years. She spends a lot of her time in Watsonville visiting close friends and colleagues. Ernestine enjoys advocating to improve policies affecting people with disabilities.

Project and Facility Maintenance

City Staff will assist with mounting the panels to the existing hardware. Installation will begin a approximately one month before the grand opening of Ramsay Park. The panels will be 1/8” with two thin aluminum sheets bonded to a PVC core. Printed vinyl will be applied to the surface, with heavy-duty graffiti resistant laminate that will allow solvents to remove graffiti without damaging the image. Individual panels weigh approximately 10 pounds each. All images have received licensing approval from their owners.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

03-Infrastructure & Environment
05-Community Engagement & Well-Being

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The mural project is estimated to cost \$17,609.52. Shared Adventures will pay \$8,804.76 (50%). The Public Art Fund will be used to pay the remaining amount of \$8,804.76 (50%).

Public Art Fund – Account Number 928-7361 in the amount of \$8,804.76.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

The Parks & Recreation Commission may choose not to approve the designs, and the restroom at Ramsay Park will not include a mural installed.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):

Attachment A: Original Mural Design
Attachment B: New Mural Design