

Community Development Department,
Economic Development Division

DATE: November 8, 2023

TO: Visual Arts Committee

FROM: John Lang, Economic Vitality Manager

SUBJECT: Rengstorff Park Maintenance and Tennis Buildings—Development of Public Art

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide additional information to the Visual Arts Committee on comments received both from the Senior Advisory and Youth Advisory Committees regarding the selected murals of the Visual Arts Committee. The Visual Arts Committee can discuss and provide staff with additional direction on changes to designs and bring to the City Council a final recommendation.

BACKGROUND

Capital Improvement Project 21-48, Rengstorff Park Maintenance Buildings, is the construction of new restrooms and maintenance buildings. The project includes demolition of the existing restroom/maintenance building and the existing tennis building and replacement of these buildings with two new, prefabricated buildings. The location of the new tennis/restroom building will be at the existing tennis building. The new maintenance/restroom building will be relocated and adjacent to the parking lot in the barbecue area (see Figure 1—Project Site Map).



Figure 1: Project Site Map

In November 2021, the Visual Arts Committee (VAC) began an artist selection process and confirmed the process for developing public art. On March 9, 2022, the VAC selected two artists to design and construct murals at three locations within the project. The VAC selected Harumo Sato, a visual artist based in Mountain View (www.harumosato.com), to develop a mural for the maintenance building. For the mural at the tennis building, the VAC selected Fernanda Martinez, an Oakland-based artist (www.latintaart.com).

ANALYSIS

The VAC outlined a new process whereby development of public art should include input from both youth and seniors in the community. The VAC requested the artists partner with the City's Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) and Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) on this project. The YAC and SAC are invited to have a conversation with the selected artists and convey their background, stories, and/or themes about the Mountain View community. Based on input from the YAC and SAC, the artists will develop three design concepts for the artwork to present to the VAC.

In April 2022, staff and artists engaged the YAC and SAC on themes. The artists developed three designs for review by the VAC.

The VAC selected a mural design from each artist at their September 13, 2023 meeting.

Staff met with the SAC on October 18, 2023 and presented the two selected mural designs. In general, the SAC liked the designs. On Fernanda Martinez's piece, they would like to see diversity better represented. On Harumo Sato's art design, the Committee noted it was a little more abstract, and there was interest in seeing more of the deep blue in the paint, and they asked if bat rays are native to the San Francisco Bay.

Staff met with the YAC on October 30, 2023 and presented the two mural designs selected by the VAC. Feedback from the YAC included:

- Liked the color palette chosen for Harumo's art;
- In Fernanda's piece, they would like to have seen Shoreline Amphitheatre, the concert venue, better represented.
- They liked the homage to the Valley of Heart's Delight, but there is no representation to technology and where Mountain View is going and would like to see that be represented in both murals.

NEXT STEPS

Staff can move forward with the design concepts as selected by the VAC on September 13, 2023 or further work with the artist on design augmentations noted by the Senior Advisory and Youth Advisory Committees. Upon completion of any changes, staff proposes to bring to City Council the VAC-approved designs.

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