

CITY OF ASHLAND

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING March 18, 2022 AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

8:30 a.m. via zoom

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Public Arts Commission regular meeting of February 18, 2022

PUBLIC FORUM

LIAISON REPORTS

- Council Liaison – Stefani Seffinger
- Community Development Liaison – Aaron Anderson
- APRC Liaison – Jim Lewis

OTHER BUSINESS

- Resolution of Appreciation: “The Public Arts Commissioners express our great appreciation for the dedication and support of Councilor Stephen Jensen for his informative and thoughtful counsel and advice as the liaison to the City Council. We especially appreciate his continuing support for the importance of Public Art for the City of Ashland.”
- Rio Amistad damage update
- AHS Land Acknowledgement Project:
Otterlifter Canoe Installation

PAC WORKPLAN and PROJECT UPDATES

- Golden Connections by Jennifer Corio and Dave Frei
 - Status of sculpture:
 - a. planning logistics – Celebration planned for April 23, 2022
 - Plaque:
 - a. Plan for design check-in
 - i. Appropriate size, fonts, readability?
 - ii. Map design necessary (medallion locations solidified?)
 - iii. Final design should be sent to APRC director and APRC liaison
 - iv. Bids?
 - v. Approval of city council
- Railroad District Medallions
 - Adjustment of locations - per ADA compliance

GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS

- Partnerships with Community Arts Organizations
 - Survey
- Community Engagement – First Fridays
 - Tentative Plan for May, July, September of 2022
 - Select artwork, make general plan, and create PR

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- AHS Student - UPDATE

ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: April 15, 2022

ATTACHMENTS

Minutes from February 18, 2022 meeting

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PUBLIC ART COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING

February 18, 2022

DRAFT Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jennifer Longshore called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. via Zoom.

Commissioners Present:

Ken Engelund
Jennifer Longshore
Cassie Preskenis
Stanley Smith
Laura Bloom
Joel Frank

Staff Present:

Aaron Anderson, Associate Planner

APRC Liaison:

Jim Lewis

Council Liaison:

Stefani Seffinger (absent)

Absent Members:

Destiny Young

Members of the Public:

Andy Stallman
Elin Silveous
John Fiore
Peter Finkle
Sandy Friend

II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

III. PUBLIC FORUM

Peter Finkle spoke at public forum about walking art tours and invited the Commission to join him. He has also reached out seven local artists about their interest in speaking at their art during a tour or first Friday.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Public Arts Commission regular meeting of January 21, 2022

Commissioners Engelund/Preskenis m/s to approve the minutes as presented. **Vote: ALL AYES. Motion passed 6-0.**

V. LIAISON REPORTS

- Associate Planner Aaron Anderson informed the Commission that Councilor Stefani Seffinger would be the new Council Liaison to the Public Arts Commission.
- Ashland Parks and Recreation Liaison Jim Lewis gave an update on the interview process for the new Commissioner at the APRC and the process of confirmation. Commissioner Lewis also mentioned that the Grove and other facilities may begin opening soon. He then briefly called attention to a survey that the City Council would be sending out to all households in Ashland regarding the allocation of property tax funds. Given that some departments have mandated funding Commissioner Lewis welcomed the Public Arts Commission members to disseminate this survey to the community.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- Chair Longshore detailed damage done to the tilework of the Rio Amistad mosaic. In consultation with Mike Morrison, Superintendent of the Public Works department, it was decided that the Public Arts Commission should hire a tilework professional to conduct the repairs in order to retain the mosaic's artistic qualities. Peter Finkle related that the damage encompassed between 15-20 broken tiles. Chair Longshore

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recommended that the Commission should contact the original artist, Sue Springer, for a recommendation on someone to contact within the Rogue Valley who could repair the mosaic. Commissioner Joel Frank stated that he would also reach out local contractors who could conduct repairs.

- Commissioner Stanley Smith informed the Commission that muralist John Pugh had approached the Elks Lodge about a potential project on the west wall of their building. This was met with support by the Elks Lodge members, who Commissioner Smith believes will participate in fundraising for the project. Mr. Pugh is also considering throwing a public event to discuss the mural with the community and exhibit his past work. Mr. Anderson reminded the Commission that the Historic Commission would need to be involved as well, and asked if Mr. Pugh had any concept art or if it is too early in the process. Commissioner Smith responded that Mr. Pugh has some sketches for the project, and that he has also already approached the Historic Commission who will discuss his proposal at their next meeting.

Commissioner Lewis voiced support for the project, but commented that approval would likely be difficult due to existing Ashland codes. Chair Longshore stated that it will be important to understand what type of mural the community wants, and stressed the importance of there being a public dialogue before moving forward. Mr. Finkle was recognized by Chair Longshore and commented that Mr. Pugh is aware of the process necessary for approval, and hopes to present early concepts to both the Public Arts and Historic Commissions and base further concepts on those meetings before going before Historic Commission meeting on April 6, 2022.

VII. PAC WORKPLAN

- Golden Connections by Jennifer Corrio and David Frei
 - Status of sculpture – Mr. Anderson detailed the logistics necessary for assembling the sculpture on site and coordinating that with the electrical work needed. Chair Longshore stated that the Ashland Parks and Recreation department would be clearing the site of vegetation in early March to prepare the site. The concrete will be poured in mid-March and allowed to sit for an extended period of time to allow it to fully cure before the installation takes place in early April. Chair Longshore shared a document with the rest of the Commission of potential groups, organizations, and individuals to invite to the unveiling ceremony. Also discussed was how to distribute the invitations, as well as advertising and a potential press release through local media outlets and Jefferson Public Radio. Chair Longshore also informed the Commission that Meiwen Richards, an Ashland resident and businessperson, is slated to speak at the ceremony and introduce the artists.

Commissioner Smith spoke in favor of using mailed invitations and volunteered to produce and distribute them pro bono. It was noted that the Rogue Valley Symphony is performing on April 23 at 3:00 p.m., so the Commission decided to hold the ceremony at 12:00 p.m. to not overlap. Commissioner Engelund volunteered to reach out personally to the invited individuals. Commissioner Smith stated that the Mayor has spoken at previous unveilings, and there was general agreement that the Mayor should be invited to speak.

Chair Longshore briefly mentioned to the Commission that they had discussed the possibility requesting additional funding in order to provide increased compensation for the sculptor involved. Mr. Anderson reminded the Commission that the plaque would require an ask to the City Council, and therefore suggested that the Commission bring any potential request for additional funds along with the initial ask.

- Plaque –
 - a. Design – Design, content and suggested location was presented to the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission (APRC) on February 9th at 6:00pm – The

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APRC moved to approve the monument style marker for the art piece provided that the height and font size mean that it's legible for somebody of average height and average vision. Chair Longshore assured the APRC that they would be sent plans of the completed product for the plaque before going to the City Council.

- b. Commissioner Smith offered to create a prototype of the plaque in order to ascertain the optimal size and font for the final product. Commissioner Frank agreed that a prototype of the plaque would be useful in determining the necessary size and design. Commissioner Engelund suggested that the font and letter size be finalized before addressing the map placement and finalizing the plaque's dimensions. There was general agreement that the wording on the plaque was perfect, but accepted that the phrasing may need to be adjusted if the font size necessitated change.

VIII. PROJECT UPDATES

- Masterworks Medallions – Mr. Anderson informed the Commission that some of the sites chosen for the medallions could trigger ADA compliance laws that have the potential to add tens of thousands of dollars to the project's budget. As such he recommended that the Commission consider alternative sites until he has more information.

IX. GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS

- Internship – Mr. Anderson stated that due to a recent lawsuit the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry prohibited the Public Arts Commission from hiring an intern. A student volunteer could potentially be considered but Mr. Anderson cautioned that he would need to follow up on any legal complications before moving forward.
- Partnerships with Community Arts Organizations – Commissioners Engelund and Smith shared a draft of a Regional Art Survey created to garner information, feedback, and collaboration with both public and private arts organizations.
- Community Engagement – Chair Longshore and Commissioner Preskenis shared a draft of public outreach announcements concentrated on artwork events featured on First Friday. The goal would be to encourage all citizens to observe, discuss and participate in Ashland's art scene, and to begin these announcements in May, 2022. Chair Longshore expressed a desire to focus on three artworks in May, termed the Pioneer Trio:
 - 1.) Nourishing our Community - Lonnie Feather
 - 2.) Street Scene – Marion Young
 - 3.) Velocity – Gordon Huether

Chair Longshore and Commissioners Bloom, Smith, and Engelund all volunteered to be present at the event to engage with the public and answer any questions. There was a discussion over stationing an information table and giving the participating Commissioners clear designations to indicate their willingness to engage the public about the various artworks. Commissioner Preskenis suggested that they use the upcoming sculpture unveiling to announce the Public Arts Commission's intention to hold events on First Fridays in the coming months.

Chair Longshore announced that she would be taking a sabbatical and stepping down as Chair of the Public Arts Commission. She emphasized that she would remain Chair for the March 18, 2022 Public Arts Commission meeting, and it was determined that Commissioner Smith, the Vice Chair of the Commission, would run the April 15, 2022 meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT - 10:28 AM Next Meeting: March 18, 2022

XI. ATTACHMENTS Minutes from January 21, 2022 meeting

AHS Land Acknowledgement Project: Otterlifter Canoe Installation

City of Ashland Public Arts Commission
March 18th, 2022

A dark blue, diagonal graphic element that starts from the bottom left corner and extends towards the top right corner, covering the lower half of the slide.

Short Description

Ashland High School will install a donated canoe as a land acknowledgement to honor the gift our school has been given; to recognize the history of violence and dispossession experienced by Native people of our region; to communicate respect to our Native students; and to promote decolonization of land, lifeways, and education.

Action Requests

The AHS EDI Committee requests the approval of Public Arts Commission to present the installation to City Council for final approval.

Next Steps If Approved

If approved by the Public Arts Commission, the project will be presented at the soonest possible City Council meeting.

If we are able to maintain the process timeline projections, the installation will be completed by September 2022.

In the event that construction at AHS requires it, the canoe will be temporarily relocated until installed.

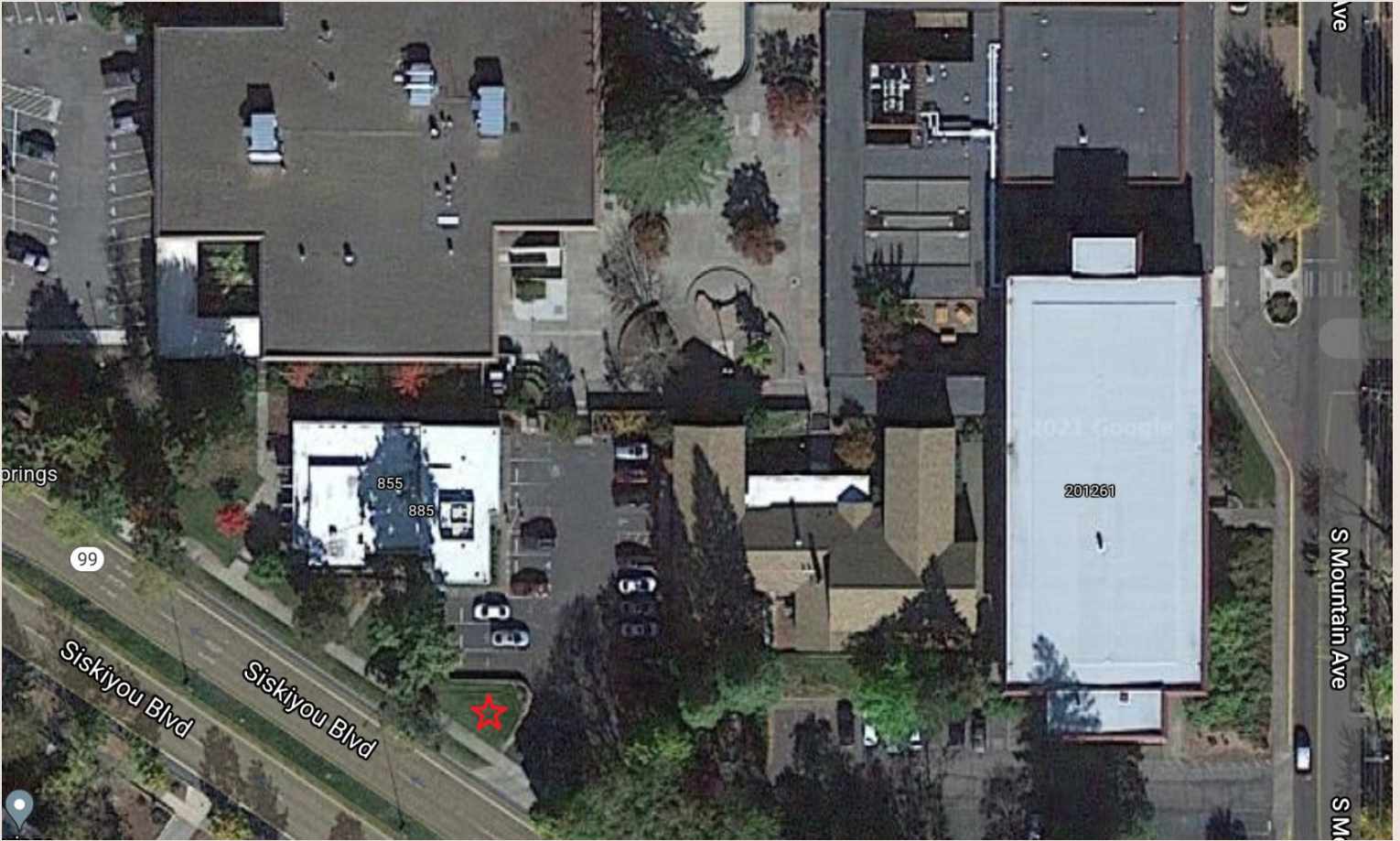
Background and Motivations



Statement of Need

- A symbolic reminder to improve our ecological behaviors and mitigate climate crisis
- Gathering point to educate students in history, empathy, ecology, and activism
- A highly visible iteration of truth-telling to address historic and ongoing oppression and pursue healing
- A commitment to the inclusion and success of our Native students, and to honor a diversity of lifeways and knowledges

Vision and Logistics





sketch/rendering!

The canoe will be surrounded by:

- Native plants and medicines
- River rocks
- 4 interpretive signs with:
 - A land recognition; background on the canoe; information on the Indigenous people of this region
 - The same text in Spanish with a QR code to an audio recording in English, Spanish, and Takelma
 - Excerpts of the same text in Takelma/Chinuk Wawa/other relevant Athabaskan language

The design will resemble the canoe in use in a flowing river, once the plants grow high enough.

sketch/rendering!

plant images



Native plant garden details

Surrounding the canoe will be a garden of drought tolerant and culturally significant native plants. To contribute to the aesthetic of design, we have selected plants which will simulate water in color and/or shape.

We are collaborating with local permaculturists and gardeners for guidance, starts, and resources.

We intend to have at least one community event to prepare and plant during the early summer.

The garden will require watering and maintenance throughout its first year, but will eventually be self-sufficient with occasional maintenance.

These plants include:

- **Camas**
- **Lupine**
- **Rosemary**
- **Vitex/Chaste Tree**
- **Garden Sage**
- **Mugwort**
- **Clary Sage**
- **Hyssop**
- **Lavender**
- **Wormwood**
- **Bleeding heart**
- **Ajuga**
- **Self-heal**

Collaboration with stakeholders

- Grand Ronde
- Siletz
- Cow Creek Umpqua
- Shasta
- Modoc
- Klamath
- AHS NASU
- AMS NASU
- SOESD Indian Education
- SOU Native Studies
- Native community leaders

To prevent unwanted attention and vandalism, we are considering the following measures...

- Angling the canoe
- Highly visible location
- Plants, rocks, and interpretive signs to create boundary
- Additional signage
- Anti-graffiti coating
- Solar floodlight
- “Tag this instead” board
- Surveillance cameras and signs
- Fencing (must be minimal to prevent “cage” or “museum” effect)

	Item	Approx cost	Notes
Structural installation of canoe	Materials: cement; steel	\$850	
	Labor	Donated - \$0	Includes licensed & bonded contractor (fees included in materials estimate); community volunteers and ASD staff & students
	Additional decorative accents - student art	\$500	
Garden	Native plant starts from local permaculturists	\$100	Approx. \$300 value donated
	Soil	\$300	
	River rock	\$300	About 2 cu. yds.
	Labor	Donated - \$0	Community volunteers and ASD staff & students; Student affinity groups
	Interpretive signs	\$300	
Protective measures	Anti-graffiti sealant	\$100	Leftover from TTP mural
	Solar floodlight	\$125	
	Additional protective measures	\$500	

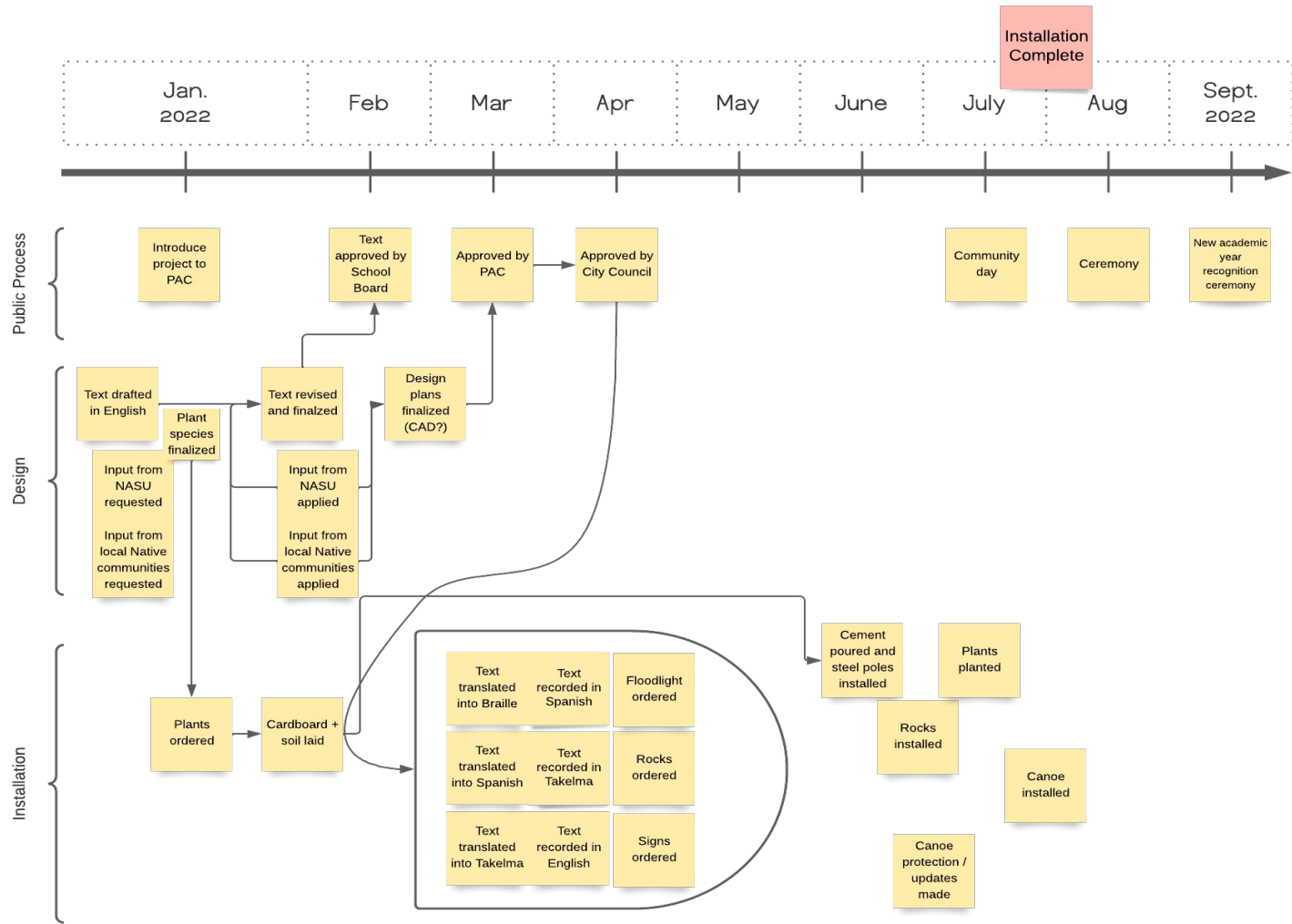
Total projected expenses

\$3100

Funding sources:

- Rotary grant - NASU component
- Private donations to EDI Committee
- Discretionary funding from AHS and ASD budgets
- Budget line from AHS/ASD??

Timeline



Timeline

- March 2022:
 - Seek PAC approval
 - Consult with stakeholders
 - Begin landscaping (cardboard, soil, groundcover)
- April, May, June 2022:
 - Seek City approval
 - Consult with stakeholders
 - Acquisition and production
- June & July 2022:
 - Install rocks, garden, concrete, posts, signs
 - Community day
 - Install canoe
- August 2022: Ceremony
- September 2022: AHS Ceremony

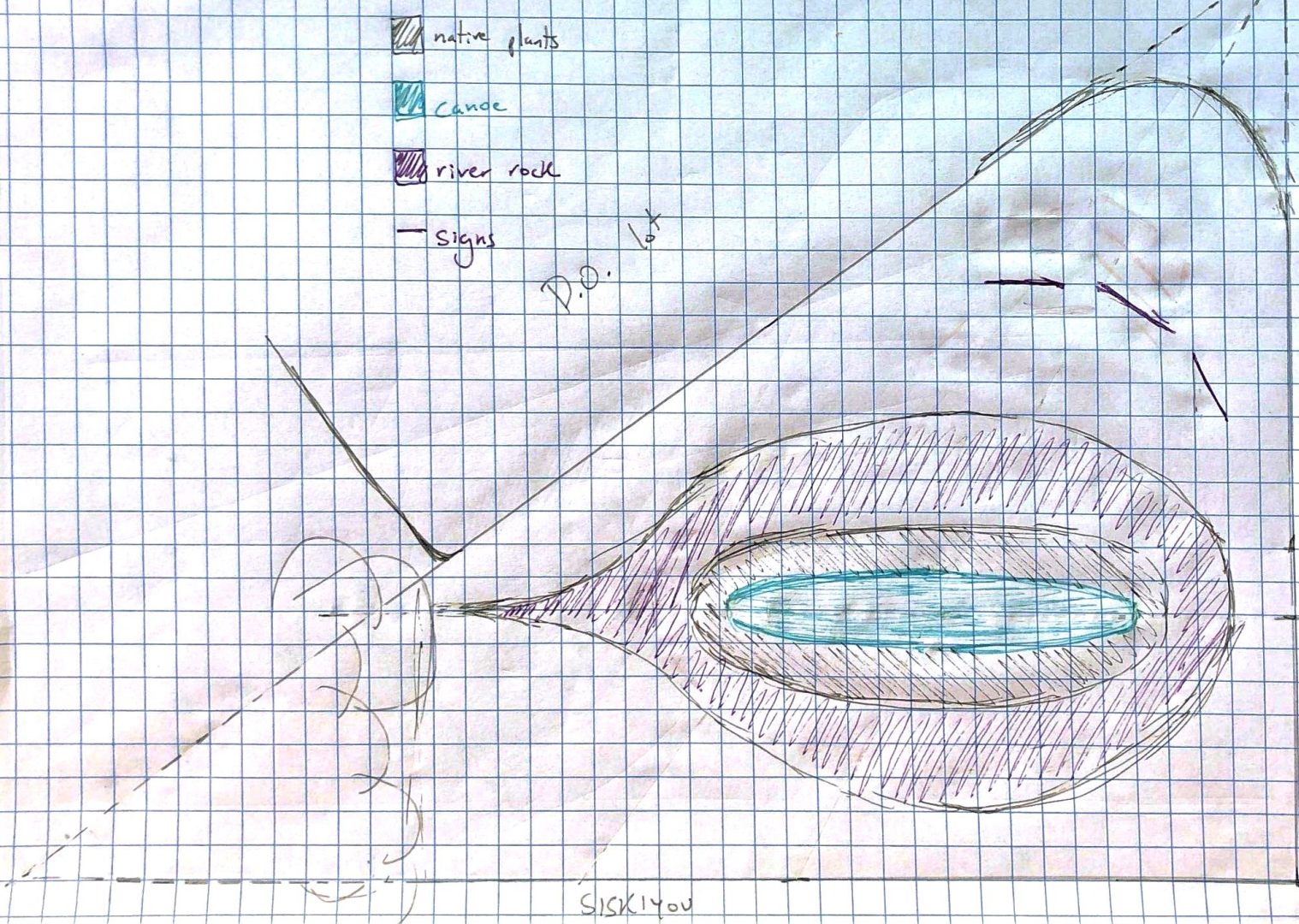
native plants

canoe

river rock

signs

D.O.
10x



SISKIYOU

Written Packet Answers

1. Please describe the project, the specific location of the mural and why a mural will enhance the area.

The project is a land & people recognition to honor the Native inhabitants and history of our Valley; to educate our community; to affirm ASD's commitment to Native students and families; and to call our community to action on climate crisis.

The installation is oriented around a hand-carved canoe, Otterlifter, which was donated to the school for the purpose of this project. The canoe will be installed above the ground atop two steel posts in concrete pads. Surrounding the canoe will be a garden of plants which are: indigenous to this region; drought-tolerant; and/or culturally significant. We have selected plants which, when landscaped, will resemble a flowing river. Extending beyond the garden is a ring of river rock. The installation will include four interpretive signs with information.

The installation will be located along the north edge of Siskiyou Boulevard beside the entry to the Ashland School District Office parking lot.

The installation will benefit Ashland High School, Ashland School District, and the Ashland community more generally by serving four roles. The canoe will be:

- A symbolic reminder to improve our ecological behaviors and mitigate climate crisis
- Gathering point to educate students in history, empathy, ecology, and activism
- A highly visible iteration of truth-telling to address historic and ongoing oppression and pursue healing
- A commitment to the inclusion and success of our Native students, and to honor a diversity of lifeways and knowledges

Not least, the installation will also help Ashland SD fulfill its legal obligation to Senate Bill 13 and its policy obligation to the ASD and AHS Equity Plans.

2. Can the wall be seen from the public right of way (e.g. sidewalk, alley, street etc.)?

The installation will be highly visible from Siskiyou Boulevard by vehicle, bicycle, and sidewalk.

3. Describe the process you used to select a professional mural artist?

N/A - Our community connections include a professional permaculturist and a licensed & insured contractor.

4. Describe the theme/image you envision for this mural if known at this time.

See attachments: images of canoe; artist's rendering of design to be added ASAP

Plants for garden:

- Camas
- Lupine
- Rosemary
- Vitex/Chaste Tree
- Garden Sage
- Mugwort
- Clary Sage
- Hyssop
- Lavender
- Wormwood
- Bleeding heart
- Ajuga
- Self-heal

The canoe will be surrounded by:

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- River rocks
- 4 interpretive signs with:
 - A land recognition; background on the canoe; information on the Indigenous people of this region; the same text in Spanish; and a QR code to an audio recording in English, Spanish, and Takelma

The design will resemble the canoe in use in a flowing river, once the plants have grown and been landscaped.

5. Why do you want a mural at this location? How will the mural benefit the neighborhood? Community?

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The location is ideal: there is an outcropping of grass raised above the parking lot and level with Siskiyou, inviting a three-dimensional public art installation like this one. The ground is sufficient for landscaping, and there are minimal overhanging branches. Pedestrian and vehicle traffic not only increases the visibility and impact of the piece, but also provides an additional layer of security. The location is close enough that teachers can walk their classes to the installation in moments, but it is accessible to the greater public without requiring their admittance to campus.

The neighbors have shared praise for the Aidan Ellison Memorial BIPOC Celebration Mural around the corner, and we are confident this installation will likewise catalyze self-reflection, community conversations, and action for justice.

ASD Maintenance has confirmed that the irrigation system in the area can be easily capped to modify landscaping without impacting other areas of campus.

6. Please attach a detailed budget for the project. What funding do you have for the project?

Some funds from a Rotary Youth Program grant will be applied to the garden. Additional funding will be secured from a budget line item from the School District and/or High School. If necessary, we will solicit additional funds from the community.

7. Describe the ground in front of the wall (condition, debris etc.) and surrounding features.

The area surrounding the installation is grass; a concrete sidewalk; a driveway across the sidewalk; a concrete retaining wall; the District Office building. The actual area of the installation is level and grassy

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	Solar floodlight	\$150	

	Additional protective measures	\$500	
Total		\$3100	Fluctuations in material costs (supply chain + demand) will create minor variation





