

City of Capitola

Arts and Cultural Commission Meeting

Agenda



Tuesday, October 13, 2026 – 6:30 PM

Community Room

420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA 95010

Chair: Mary Beth Cahalen

Vice Chair: Karin Anderson

Commissioners: Courtney Christiansen, Joe Clark, Enrique Dolmo Jr., Roy Holmberg, Roy Johnson, Jill Lengre, Esther Sylvan

Staff Representatives: Nikki Bryant

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Additional Materials

3. Public Oral and Written Communications

Public Oral Communications allows members of the public to address the Commission on any Program Report or topics within the purview of the Commission not on the General Business agenda.

4. Commissioner Comments

5. Staff Comments

6. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, September 8, 2026

7. Program/Committee Reports: *All items in program and committee reports are staff or committee updates. Public Communication for these items is to be addressed during Public Oral Communication.*

8. General Business: *All items listed in General Business are intended to provide an opportunity for public discussion. The following procedure pertains to each General Business item 1) Staff explanation; 2) Commission Questions; 3) Public Comment; 4) Commission deliberations; 5) Decision.*

A. Risipin Reflecting Pool Public Art Project

Receive the ad hoc committee recommendation and recommend to the City Council an artist for a services agreement for the Risipin Reflecting Pool Public Art Project

B. Bandstand Weathervane Public Art Project

Receive the ad hoc committee recommendation and recommend to the City Council an artist for a services agreement for the Bandstand Weathervane Public Art Project.

9. Adjournment: The next regular Art & Cultural Commission meeting is on November 10, 2026.

Agenda and Agenda Packet Materials: *The Arts and Cultural Commission Agenda is available on the City's website www.cityofcapitola.gov on Friday prior to the Tuesday meeting. If you need additional information, please contact the City Hall Department at (831) 475-7300.*

Americans with Disabilities Act: *Disability-related aids or services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Assisted listening devices are available for individuals with hearing impairments at the meeting in the City Council Chambers. Should*

you require special accommodations to participate in the meeting due to a disability, please contact the Community Development Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at (831) 475-7300. In an effort to accommodate individuals with environmental sensitivities, attendees are requested to refrain from wearing perfumes and other scented products.

Appeals: *Any person who believes that a final action of this advisory body has been taken in error may appeal decision to City Council. Appeals must be in writing and delivered to the City Clerk's Office within ten (10) working days from the time of the board's decisions. The notice of appeal shall set forth appellant's name, phone number, address to which notices may be sent to the appellant, and the grounds upon which the appeal is made.*

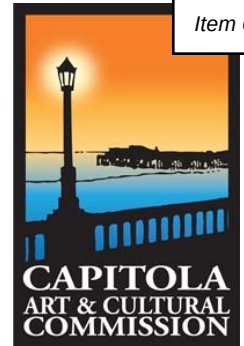
City of Capitola

Art & Cultural Commission: Draft Minutes

Tuesday, September 8, 2026 – 6:30 PM

Community Room

420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola CA 95010



Chair: Mary Beth Cahalen

Vice Chair: Karin Anderson

Commissioners: Courtney Christiansen, Councilmember Joe Clarke, Enrique Dolmo Jr., Roy Holmberg, Roy Johnson, Jill Lengre, Esther Sylvan

Staff Representatives: Nikki Bryant

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. In attendance: Anderson, Cahalen, Clarke, Holmberg, Johnson, Lengre, Sylvan, Absent: Christinsen, Dolmo

2. Additional Materials

None

3. Public Oral Communication

None

4. Commissioner Comments

Vice Chair Anderson commented on Dueling Pianos and the success of Wednesdays evenings.

Chair Cahalen commented on the upcoming Art & Wine Festival

5. Staff Comments

Monterey Railing Dedication Event will be on Saturday evening, September 12th

6. Approval of Minutes- August 11, 2026

Motion to approve the Minutes: Commissioner Lengre

Second: Commissioner Sylvan

Voting Yea: Vice Chair Anderson, Chair Cahalen, Councilmember Clarke, Commissioner Holmberg, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Lengre, Commissioner Sylvan

7. Program/Committee Reports

Vice Chair Anderson commented on volunteer roles for Plein Air

8. General Business

a. Rispin Reflecting Pool Public Art Project

Report given by Staff. Artists Alex Kaufman, The Art of Life, Faducci LLC, and Miles Mathews and Kathleen Crocetti each presented a concept proposal to the commission and answered questions. Commissioner Johnson commented on a preference for The Art of Life concept because it covers the entire square footage. Councilmember Clarke commented on a preference for The Art of Life concept. Chair Cahalen commented the Miles Mathews concept felt calming, and the Art of Life concept felt energetic. Vice Chair Anderson commented on the Soquel Creek aspect to the Miles Mathews concept but preferred the whole surface to be covered. Commissioner Lengre commented on the conflict of the Miles Mathews concept with the historic requirements of the reflecting pool. Commissioner Holmberg commented on a preference for The Art of Life concept.

Commissioner Sylvan commented on the community involvement aspect of the Miles Mathews concept.

Public Comment: Alan Cable, Megan Morissy, Mulahan Seagle,

Motion to approve the Ad Hoc committee review the item and return to the Commission with a recommendation about artist selection at an upcoming meeting: Commissioner Holmberg

Second: Vice Chair Anderson

Voting Yea: Vice Chair Anderson, Chair Cahalen, Councilmember Clarke, Commissioner Holmberg, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Lengre, Commissioner Sylvan.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM to the next regular Art & Cultural Commission meeting on October 13, 2026.

ATTEST:

Nikki Bryant

Art & Cultural Commission

Agenda Report

Meeting: October 13, 2026

From: Community Services & Recreation Department

Subject: Rispin Reflecting Pool Public Art Project



Recommended Action: Receive the ad hoc committee recommendation and recommend to the City Council, an artist for a services agreement for the Rispin Reflecting Pool Public Art Project.

Background: The City of Capitola opened a park at the historic Rispin Mansion. Extensive community outreach and collaboration helped shape the project vision. A public bid opening held on February 22, 2023, resulted in no bids, as contractors indicated that the project's budget was insufficient for the proposed scope. In response, and in accordance with public contract code, staff worked with local contractor Betz Works to revise the scope to fit the available budget.

One element of the original design that remained unfunded was the Mosaic Reflecting Pool, on the site's historic fountain. To support this component, the Public Works Director applied to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) FY26 Grants for Arts Projects (GAP) program. The NEA grant requires a 1:1 match, and the Art & Cultural Commission initially recommended allocating \$25,000 from the Public Art Fund toward this match.

On November 13, 2025, the City Council approved an additional \$25,000 allocation from the Public Art Fund, bringing the total City commitment to \$50,000 for the project. July 2026 the City received an award notice of \$30,000 from National Endowment for the Arts grant. The reflecting pool remains temporarily filled for public safety.

Discussion: A Call to Artist for the Rispin Reflecting Pool Project was published with a submission deadline of March 9, 2026, and the City received more than 20 applications. An ad hoc committee reviewed the submissions and presented six finalists to the Commission on May 12, 2026. The Commission selected four artists to develop concept proposals, with two additional artists identified as alternates. The selected artists were provided the updated project budget of \$80,000, reflecting the City's \$30,000 NEA grant and \$50,000 Public Art Fund allocation. On September 8, 2026, four selected artists presented concept proposals to the Commission.

The Public Works Director reviewed each proposal for site preparation and installation considerations. Several site constraints will need to be addressed as the project moves forward, including the requirement that the historic exterior concrete edge of the reflecting pool remains unmodified. In addition, the path surrounding the reflecting pool is planned to receive a paver installation and will no longer consist of decomposed granite. Once the Commission selects an artist and the concept is further developed for City Council consideration, Public Works will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the site preparation and infrastructure requirements necessary to support the selected artwork.

During the September 8 presentation, The Art of Life and Miles Mathews were identified as the two preferred concepts. The Commission returned the item to the ad hoc committee for further deliberation. Following the Art & Cultural Commission meeting, the City received notification from Kathleen Crocetti, a partner to Miles Mathews, that she was withdrawing from the project. Miles Mathews subsequently submitted a revised concept addressing the Commission's concern regarding the proposed modification of the historic pool rim. Both updates were provided to the ad hoc committee for consideration.

The ad hoc committee met to further review the two concepts and recommended that the Commission select The Art of Life for consideration by the City Council.

Fiscal Impact: The Public Art Fund has a current balance of \$132,429 with an estimated \$60,000 committed to current projects, which includes \$50,000 reserved for this project.

Attachments:

1. The Art of Life
2. Updated proposal by Miles Matthews

Alignment with 2025-2029 Strategic Plan Priority: Accountable Government; Healthy Families, Community, and Environment;

Report Prepared By: Nikki Bryant; Community Services & Recreation Director

Bryant, Nikki

From: The Art Of Life <wow@theartoflife.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 9:25 AM
To: Bryant, Nikki
Subject: Rispin Mansion Reflecting Pool Mosaic Project
Attachments: design_turner_clear.pdf; design_insitu_turner_clear.pdf; narrative_turner_clear.pdf; budget_turner_clear.pdf

Dear Nikki,

We are writing to express our enthusiastic interest in the opportunity to create the mosaic in the reflecting pool at Rispin Mansion Park.

Enclosed with this letter, you will find the following materials for your review:

- An original design proposal for the Rispin Reflecting Pool Mosaic
- A narrative description of the design
- A detailed project budget

We are genuinely excited by the possibility of collaborating with you and the City of Capitola to create a vibrant, meaningful, and enduring landmark that celebrates the character, history, and natural beauty of this special community.

Thank you for considering our proposal. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to share our vision for the Rispin Mosaic and hope to have the privilege of bringing it to life.

Please confirm receipt of our Proposal, and don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Lee Turner & Charles C. Clear III
The Art Of Life
theartoflife.com
401-862-7363



THE ART OF LIFE

Bonnie Lee Turner & Charles C. Clear III
 wow@theartoflife.com • 401-862-7363
 TheArtOfLife.com

MOSAIC: RISPIN REFLECTING POOL

BUDGET

DESCRIPTION

AMOUNT

SITE VISIT - CAPITOLA

Site Inspection, Meeting Partners, Community Engagement

Roundtrip Airfare, Car Rental, & Lodging.....\$2850.

MATERIALS

Mosaic Tile and Fabrication Supplies.....\$13,500.

STUDIO RENTAL

3 Month Rental for Fabrication of Mosaic.....\$6000.

TRANSPORTING MOSAIC TO CAPITOLA

Truck Rental, Gas, Tolls, Lodging.....\$5950.

LODGING IN CAPITOLA

Lodging for Mosaic Installation.....\$5000.

INSTALLATION ON SITE

Labor and Materials.....\$13,500.

RETURN AIRFARE.....\$800.

THE ART OF LIFE

Bonnie Lee Turner & Charles C. Clear III
 wow@theartoflife.com • 401-862-7363
 TheArtOfLife.com

MOSAIC: RISPIN REFLECTING POOL

BUDGET

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
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DIRECT PROJECT EXPENSES - SUBTOTAL

Total of Expenses Listed Above.....\$47,600.

CONTINGENCY

10% Contingency Fee for Unforeseen Expenses.....\$4760.

ARTIST FEE

Design, conceptual development, fabrication, project management.....\$27,640.

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

\$80,000.

THE ART OF LIFE

Bonnie Lee Turner & Charles C. Clear III

wow@theartoflife.com • 401-862-7363

TheArtOfLife.com

Design Narrative: Rispin Reflecting Pool Mosaic

“Currents of Time”

Our design for the Rispin Reflecting Pool draws its energy from the defining presence of the Pacific Ocean in Capitola’s identity. The circular mosaic transforms the basin into an abstracted vision of the sea - an ever-shifting field of currents, waves, foam, and light rendered in sweeping bands of deep indigo, coastal blue, sea-glass green, and luminous white. These bands spiral, converge, and separate across the composition, echoing the rhythm and force of Monterey Bay as seen from above.

The circular format reinforces this sense of perpetual motion. Darker passages at the pool’s edges suggest the depth and mystery of open water, while lighter, foam-white currents break and curl toward the center, evoking sunlight on breaking waves. The design remains intentionally abstract - rather than illustrating a single wave, it captures the felt experience of the ocean itself: its turbulence, its calm, its constant change.

At the composition’s heart lies a stylized sand dollar, a quiet emblem of the Pacific coast, set within concentric rings of warm terracotta, blush, and gold tesserae. This inner band of color stands in deliberate contrast to the surrounding blues, calling to mind the sun-warmed, colorful cottages that give Capitola Beach its character. Encircling this core, an interwoven ring of Monterey Bay sea kelp - rendered in warm ochre against the dark center - binds the composition together, symbolizing continuity, connection, and the tidal cycles that shape this coastline.

Together these elements create a visual journey from the vastness of the open sea inward toward the intimacy of place: from ocean to shoreline, from current to community. Though the reflecting pool itself will remain dry, the mosaic is designed to hold water’s presence permanently - through color, motion, and the way its tesserae catch and scatter natural light throughout the day. It is conceived not as a decoration applied to the pool, but as a lasting reinterpretation of its original purpose: to mirror the sea, the sky, and the spirit of Capitola itself.

THE ART OF LIFE

Bonnie Lee Turner & Charles C. Clear III
wow@theartoflife.com • 401-862-7363
TheArtOfLife.com

Mosaic Design In Situ: Rispin Mansion Park

“Currents of Time”



THE ART OF LIFE

Bonnie Lee Turner & Charles C. Clear III
wow@theartoflife.com • 401-862-7363
TheArtOfLife.com

Mosaic Design: Reflecting Pool at Rispin Mansion Park

“Currents of Time”



Dear Capitola Arts Council,

This is Miles Mathews. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to present to you again.

It was a true pleasure—and an eye-opening experience—to attend the meeting on Tuesday, September 8th. I greatly appreciated the transparency of the process, and I especially valued observing the way your committee listens to one another, considers different perspectives, makes decisions, and maintains such a thoughtful, functional, and harmonious energy as a group.

I wanted to provide two updates since the meeting:

1. Fabrication

I have shifted the fabrication of the mosaic to an in-house model, as Kathleen and Community Art Empowerment no longer wish to participate directly in the fabrication.

This shift will give me a more hands-on opportunity to be deeply involved in the fabrication process and to further develop and demonstrate my experience working with ceramic mosaic materials. I am excited by the opportunity to bring more of my own craftsmanship directly into the realization of the project

2. Existing Historic Concrete Border

I have also learned that the existing concrete border of the fountain bed is historically significant and therefore will not be altered. With this new understanding of the site, it is clear to me that my original design will need to be adjusted accordingly.

Revised Design: A Five-Foot Natural Stone Border

Instead of the garden path with native plants surrounding the central mandala, I am proposing a **five-foot border of natural rocks and painted community stones** surrounding the mosaic.

I believe this is an elegant solution for several reasons:

1. A Natural Protective Perimeter

The rock border would create a clear visual and physical boundary around the mosaic, helping to discourage foot traffic, skateboards, and other activity from entering the fountain bed and onto the artwork.

2. Aesthetic, Economical, and Connected to the Landscape

Using natural stone allows us to fill the surrounding space in a way that is beautiful and relatively economical within the budget we are working with. It also brings more of the natural world into the design and creates a stronger relationship between the mosaic, the surrounding landscape, Soquel Creek, and the historic character of the Rispin site.

3. A Meaningful Opportunity for Community Participation

This is perhaps my favorite part of the concept.

I would invite members of the Capitola and Santa Cruz County community to paint individual stones that would ultimately become part of the permanent installation.

Children, families, artists, neighbors, and community members could paint stones with colors, symbols, words, messages, or whatever they feel inspired to contribute. Each stone would then become part of the border surrounding the central mandala.

There is also something beautiful to me about the relationship between **permanence and change** within this concept.

The mosaic itself is designed as a permanent artwork, constructed from durable materials intended to endure for generations. The painted stones, however, will naturally change over time. I work with Nova Color mural paints, and I would encourage participants to use high-quality exterior acrylic paints whenever possible. I would then seal each completed stone with Nova Color outdoor acrylic sealer to provide additional longevity and protection.

Over many years, some natural wear and fading may occur. I actually see this potential weathering as a positive element rather than a flaw.

The gradual transformation of the painted stones would allow the installation to evolve naturally with the site. The changing stones become a reflection of the passage of time and of the many layers of history that exist at Rispin.

The site of the Rispin Mansion has itself experienced tremendous change over time. In that sense, allowing the stones to change and weather alongside the site creates a meaningful connection between the artwork and the history of the place.

There is something particularly appropriate about creating a contemporary artwork for a historic site that has, over the years, developed a history of its own.

A child who paints a stone for this project could return years later and still find the stone they contributed sitting within the installation. Their small act of creativity becomes part of the physical history of Capitola.

The Central Mosaic

Regarding the central mosaic itself, while we obviously would not encourage people to intentionally walk or skateboard on the mandala, I also want to acknowledge the remarkable durability of this type of mosaic work.

Since the meeting, I have also returned to the Rispin fountain bed to take additional measurements and better understand the proportions of the site. Based on those measurements, I believe a **20-foot-diameter central mandala surrounded by a five-foot natural-stone border** creates a strong and balanced composition.

Even with the additional border, the central mandala remains very substantial and visually dominant. The surrounding stone field provides a transition between the artwork and the existing historic concrete border while allowing the mandala itself to remain the visual centerpiece.

I have included a photograph showing the proportions I am envisioning, along with reference photographs of natural stone borders and landscape treatments around Santa Cruz.

Overall, I envision the design as an offering of **peace, serenity, movement and beauty**, rooted in the natural elements, local flora and fauna, and character of our landscape. I hope it creates a sense of connection and community while honoring the Rispin Mansion, the City of Capitola, and our beautiful Santa Cruz County.

I want to end by expressing how honored I feel to be considered for the opportunity to represent the community of Santa Cruz County through this mosaic.

Being selected to present my design to the committee, and already experiencing so much thoughtfulness, grace, and beauty throughout the process, has been a real blessing.

Thank you sincerely for your time, consideration, and care in reviewing this proposal and this addendum to the design.

With gratitude,

Miles Mathews



New Design Proposal



Current fountain bed with 5 foot measurement



Rocks in concrete example

Art & Cultural Commission

Agenda Report

Meeting: October 13, 2026

From: Community Services & Recreation Department

Subject: Bandstand Weathervane Public Art Project



Recommended Action: Receive the ad hoc committee recommendation and recommend to the City Council an artist for a services agreement for the Bandstand Weathervane Public Art Project.

Background: The City's Public Art Program, governed by Chapter 2.58 of the Capitola Municipal Code supports investment in art to enhance the visual environment and cultural vibrancy of Capitola. The Art & Cultural Commission, as established in Chapter 2.56, advises the City Council on the use of public art funds and recommends annual priorities for new projects.

During July 8, 2025, regular meeting, the Art & Cultural Commission expressed interest in developing a public art project to install a weathervane atop the Bandstand in Esplanade Park. A project ad hoc committee was formed, according to the Brown Act. Staff prepared a Call to Artist for the project and City Council approved a Public Art Fund allocation for the project at the August 28, 2025, meeting. The approved budget included funds to hire an engineer to develop technical specifications for installation, to ensure any proposed weathervane design can be properly evaluated for structural feasibility, safety and code compliance.

Discussion: A Call to Artist for the Bandstand Weathervane Project was released in November 2025 with an application deadline of January 28, 2026. The City received one application. At its March 10, 2026, regular meeting, the Art & Cultural Commission reviewed the submission and, in an effort to encourage greater competition and a broader range of artistic concepts, elected to reissue the Call to Artist.

The second Call to Artist closed on April 26, 2026, and the City received two applications. At its June 9, 2026, regular meeting, the Commission reviewed both submissions and voted to invite each artist to prepare and present a concept proposal. The Commission also provided additional design direction for the proposals, requesting that the artwork be of a size that is clearly visible from a distance, function as an operational weathervane, be fabricated from copper, and incorporate a native bird commonly found along the Capitola watershed.

At the August 11, 2026, regular meeting, both artists presented concept proposals for the Commission's consideration. Following the presentations, the Commission referred the item back to the ad hoc committee for further deliberation and a recommendation regarding artist selection. The ad hoc committee met on August 26, 2026, and recommended that the Commission select Thomas Nawrocki for consideration by the City Council.

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact associated with receiving this report. The Public Art Fund currently has a balance of approximately \$132,429, with \$60,000 in commitments to other in-progress projects. The project allocation for the Bandstand Weathervane is \$5,000 for engineering services and \$5,000 for artist contract from the Public Art Fund.

Attachments:

1. Thomas Nawrocki Concept Proposal

Alignment with 2025-2029 Strategic Plan Priority: Accountable Government; Healthy Families, Community, and Environment;

Report Prepared By: Nikki Bryant; Community Services & Recreation Director

This is an update to my previous proposal for fabricating a weathervane to be installed on top of the Capitola City Bandstand.

I am suggesting a Brown Pelican in flight as representative of the avian life around the Monterey Bay (see drawings). The Pelican would have outstretched

wings with a wingspan of approx. 38". The body, in the position shown, would be approx. 20" in length. Fabricated entirely from hand-shaped copper

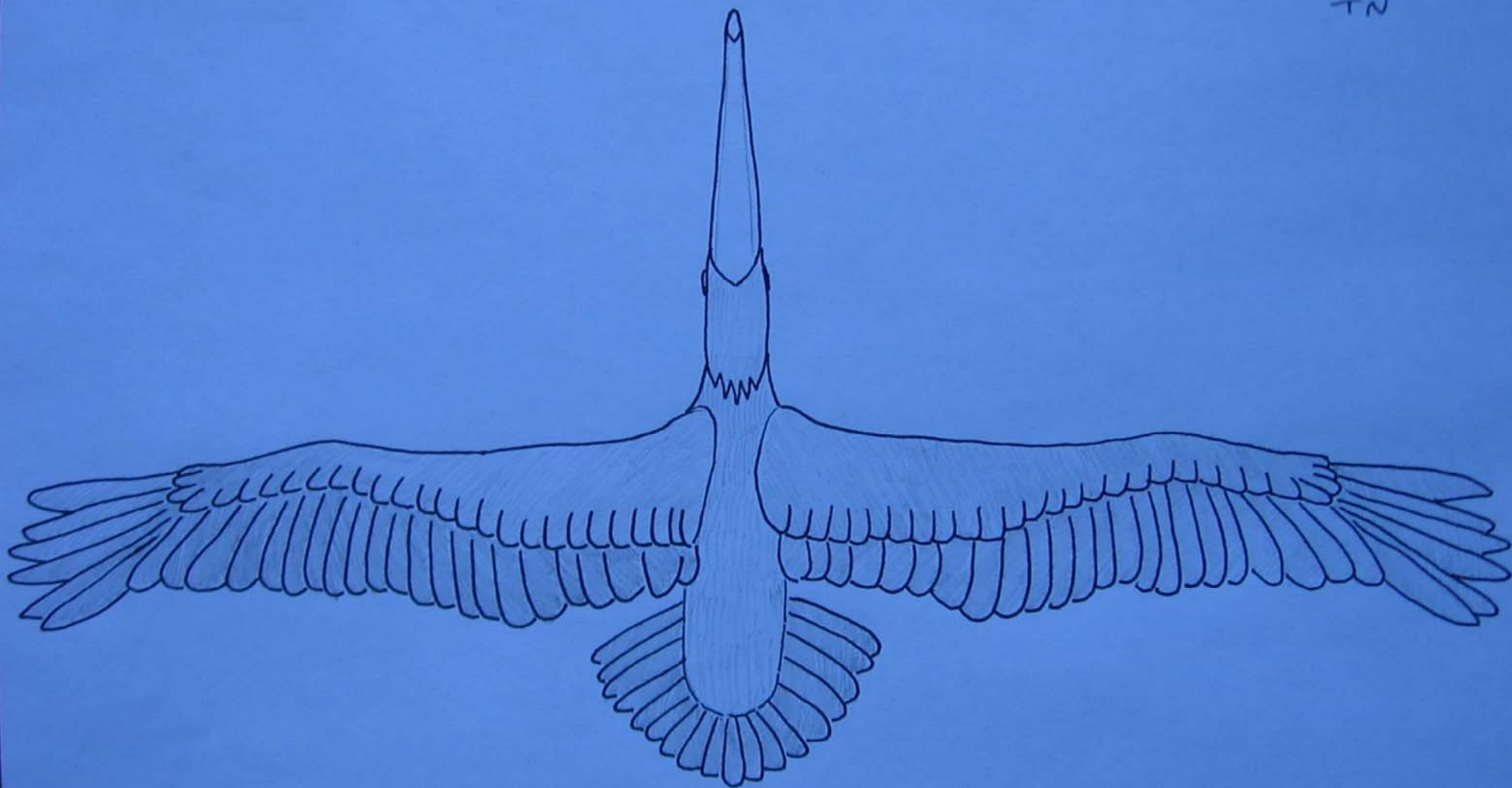
sheet, it would feature a high amount of feather and face detail as well as glass taxidermy eyes. I would provide the additional items for installation:

brass directionals (N,S,E,W), 3/4" diam. stainless steel spire, two copper globes, and ball bearing. I would not do the installation myself but could

consult with the contractor if desired. Total materials and construction cost to the city would be \$4000. Thank you for your consideration.

Thomas Nawrocki July, 2026.

Brown Pelican
Top View
July 2026
TN



July 2026
TN

Item 8 B.

