

City of Capitola

Arts and Cultural Commission Meeting

Agenda

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, 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, August 11, 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. Rispin Reflecting Pool Public Art Project

Receive the artist's concept proposals, select an artist to recommend to the City Council, and recommend approval of an Artist Services Agreement for the Rispin Reflecting Pool Public Art Project.

9. Adjournment: The next regular Art & Cultural Commission meeting is on October 13, 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.*

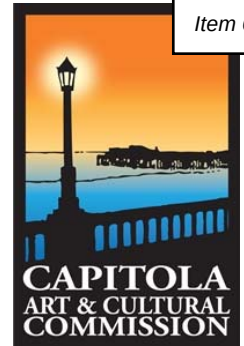
City of Capitola

Art & Cultural Commission: Draft Minutes

Tuesday, August 11, 2026 – 6:30 PM

Council Chambers

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, Dolmo, Holmberg, Johnson, Lengre, Sylvan. Absent: Christinsen

2. **Additional Materials**

Item 6: Minor revision of the minutes, notes in red font. Commission should use this version for approval.

Item 8a: Revised version of Alan Cable's presentation

3. **Public Oral Communication**

None

4. **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Sylvan commented on the addition of the branded pop-up tent at the Twilight Concerts and appreciation of staff

Commissioner Dolmo commented on the shirt sizes and agreed the branded pop up is great
Chair Cahalen commented on social media promotions for Twilight Concerts and the
Commission agreed to agendize social media promotions

5. **Staff Comments**

Artists have been contacted for the Rispin Reflecting Pool concept proposals. The Commission has selected 4 to invite and 2 as alternates. All 6 were contacted and 4 will be presenting in September.

Staff connected with the Chamber of Commerce regarding the recognition of the Monterey Railing Project for September 13th. Staff will begin preparations.

Commissioner applications are open on the City website.

6. **Approval of Minutes- January 13, 2026**

Motion to approve the revised Minutes published in additional materials: Commissioner Lengre
Second: Commissioner Sylvan

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

7. **Program/Committee Reports**

Commissioner Lengre and Vice Chair Anderson commented on the Plein Air jury process. The Ad Hoc Committee reviewed 68 artists and selected 40.

8. General Business

a. Bandstand Weathervane Public Art Project

Report given by Staff. Artist Alan Cable presented a letter C and bird concept. The Commission asked questions and provided feedback on the use of the letter C. Artist Thomas Narwocki presented on a pelican concept. The Commission asked questions and provided feedback on change of bird. Councilmember Clarke commented on a preference of a cormorant and returning the item to ad hoc committee for deliberation and recommendation to the Commission. Commissioner Holmberg commented on a preference of a peregrine falcon. Commissioner Lengre agreed to return the item to the ad hoc committee.

Public Comment: Celine Greene

Motion to approve the Ad Hoc Committee review the item and return to the Commission with a recommendation about artists selection at the October regular meeting:

Commissioner Holmberg

Second: Councilmember Clarke

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

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM to the next regular Art & Cultural Commission meeting on September 8, 2026.

ATTEST:

Nikki Bryant

Art & Cultural Commission

Agenda Report

Meeting: September 8, 2026

From: Community Services & Recreation Department

Subject: Rispin Reflecting Pool Public Art Project



Recommended Action: Receive the artist's concept proposals, select an artist to recommend to the City Council, and recommend approval of an Artist 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. The City received more than 20 applications in response to the Call to Artist. An ad hoc committee was formed to review all submissions and identify a shortlist of top candidates for consideration by the full Commission. The Commission reviewed the ad hoc committees six (6) companies/artist for review on May 12, 2026, and selected four (4) to invite for proposal and two (2) as alternates. The artists were contacted and informed of the final budget of \$80,000 with the NEA grant award. Four artists have elected to provide concept proposals for the commission.

The Public Works Director has reviewed the submitted proposals to identify potential site preparation and installation considerations associated with each concept. Because each proposed artwork has different designs, the extent of site preparation and coordination with Public Works will vary by concept. Once the Art & Cultural 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.

Several site constraints will need to be considered as the project moves forward. The exterior concrete edge of the reflecting pool cannot be modified due to the historic nature of the structure. In addition, the path surrounding the reflecting pool is planned to receive a new paver installation and will not be the current decomposed granite.

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. Alex Kaufman
2. The Art of Life
3. Faducci LLC
4. Miles Mathews

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

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

Rispin Mansion Reflecting Pool Mosaic Project

Prepared by Alex Kaufman for the City of Capitola

Forward

The goal of the Rispin Reflecting Pool Mosaic Project is to create a unique and tranquil artwork inspired by Capitola's coastal character and the Mediterranean Revival architecture of the Rispin Mansion. The mosaic is envisioned as a contemplative place within the park—an inviting space to pause, reflect, and experience the history and natural beauty of the site in a quiet, memorable way.

Notes About Budget

At an \$80,000 project budget and approximately 800 square feet of reflecting-pool surface, a full mosaic installation is not feasible without significantly compromising the quality of the artwork. Large-scale custom mosaic work typically falls in the range of approximately \$200–\$400 per square foot, with my process tending toward the higher end due to the complexity of the design, custom fabrication, and extensive hands-on production involved.

To work responsibly within the available budget, the proposed mosaic has been intentionally scaled down and simplified, using the existing concrete basin as negative space rather than attempting to cover the entire surface. The design presented here represents a balance between scale, visual impact, craftsmanship, and value, allowing the available funds to be concentrated where they will have the greatest artistic effect.

Representation Design

It is not feasible within the finalist timeframe to develop the mosaic to the same level of detail as the final artwork. For my process, the most time-intensive phase is the design itself, and a completed mosaic of this scale would require months of careful drawing, refinement, and development.

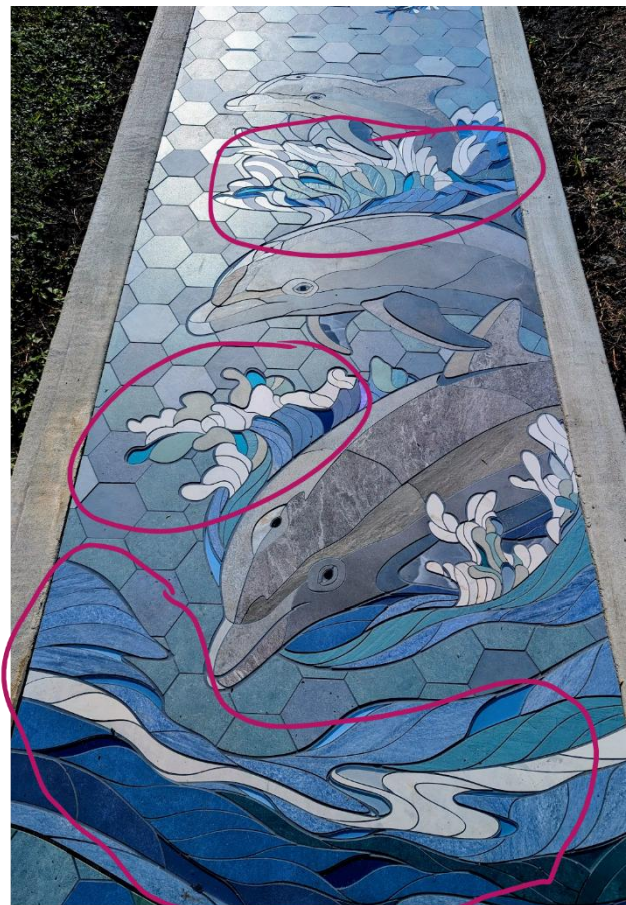
The imagery presented here should therefore be understood as a conceptual direction, establishing the intended scale, composition, visual hierarchy, palette, and overall character of the work rather than representing the final number or placement of individual mosaic pieces.

My public art process has always been collaborative, and it is common for a selected concept to continue evolving through conversations with the City, committee, and project stakeholders. If the overall artistic approach and direction resonate, I am very open to refining and developing the design further in response to feedback before moving into final fabrication.

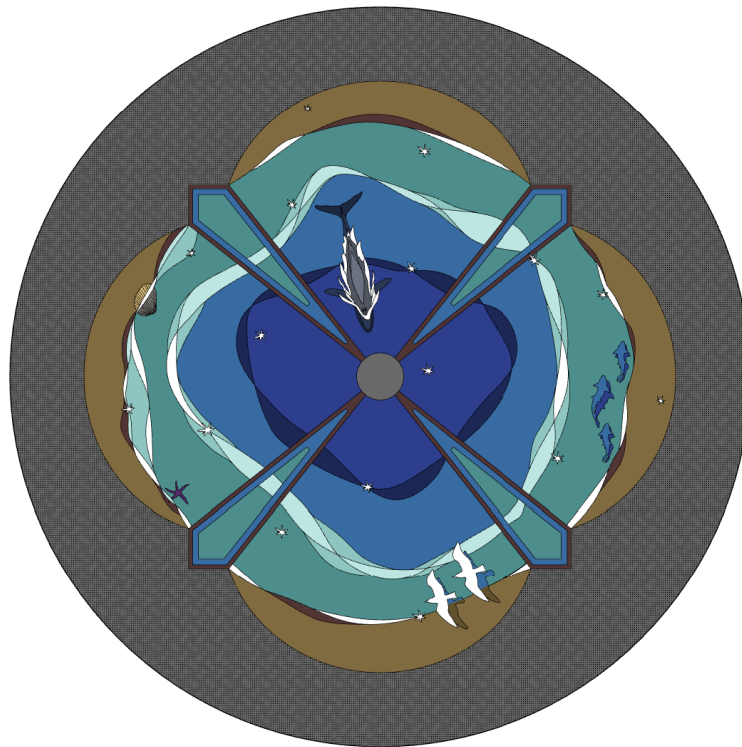
Inspiration from Former Projects

In *The Sunshine City Mosaic*, my 175-foot, 15,000-piece mosaic in Florida, some of my favorite design elements were not the primary characters, but the flowing patterns woven through the water and sand. The ability to shape movement through the composition, while layering a wide range of blues, beiges, textures, and subtle color shifts, created a richness that became central to the character of the piece.

That same approach would strongly influence the Rispin mosaic. Rather than relying on an abundance of individual subjects, the design would use flowing forms, layered color, and texture to create movement, depth, and atmosphere across the composition.



Currents of Capitola by Alex Kaufman



AI Interpretation of the Design Illustrating Increased Mosaic Detail and Site Context

Conceptual Idea

The Mediterranean character of the Rispin Mansion and the architectural language of its era form the foundation of the mosaic's overall composition. The artwork is organized as a large quatrefoil, a form drawn from the ornamental vocabulary of Mediterranean and Spanish Revival architecture, set within an approximately 23-foot diameter and comprising roughly 350 square feet of mosaic. The geometry gives the piece a strong relationship to the historic setting while allowing the interior composition to feel fluid, contemporary, and connected to Capitola.

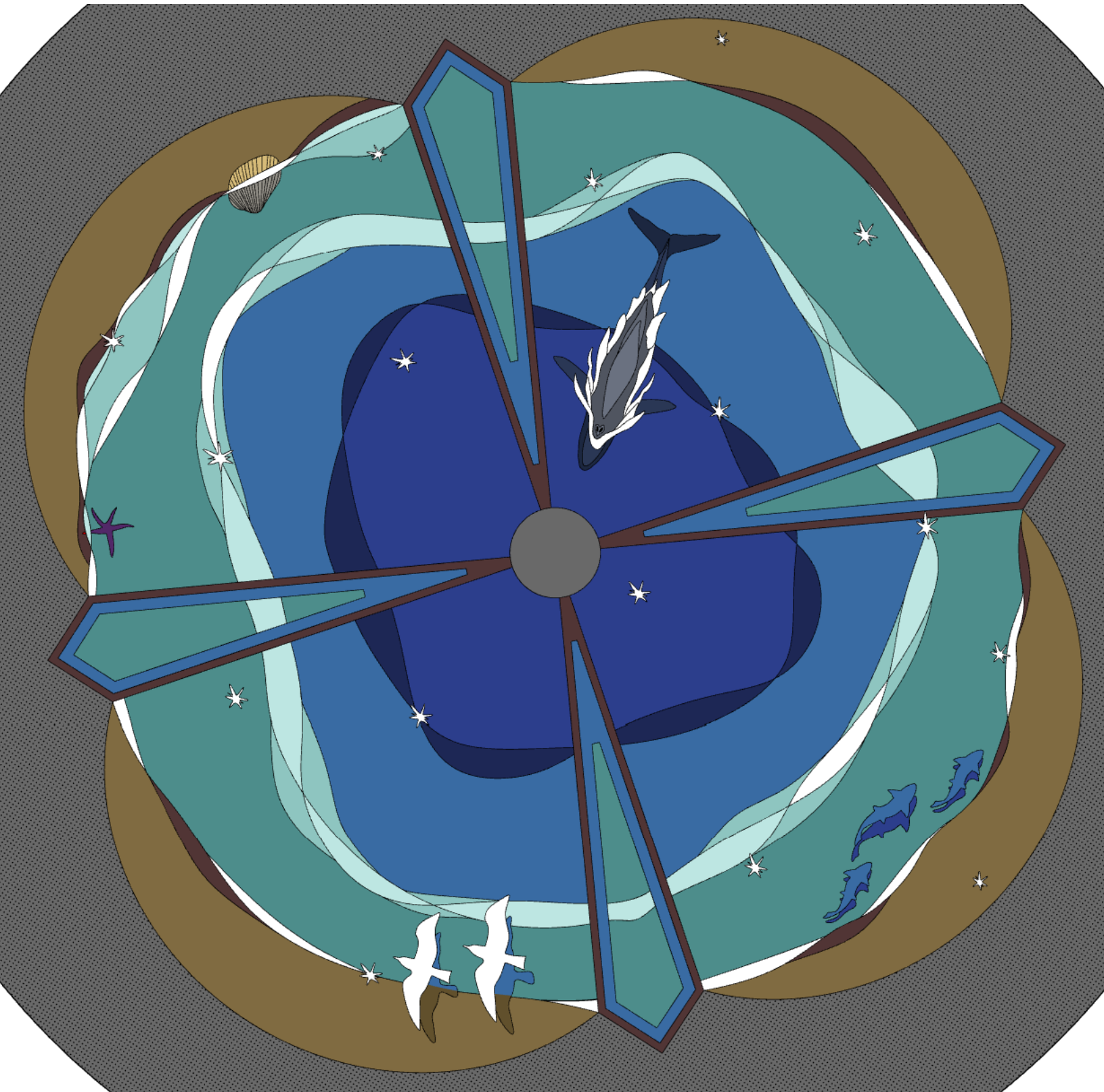


Within the four lobes, the design shifts into a coastal landscape inspired by Capitola's shoreline and natural environment. Sweeping bands of blue, turquoise, white, and sand move across the surface like currents, waves, and tidal lines. This flowing movement is central to the artwork, creating a composition that feels continuously in motion rather than static. The shoreline becomes both subject and metaphor: always changing, yet always present.

Throughout the mosaic are smaller moments intended to reveal themselves slowly as visitors move around the reflecting pool—glints of sunlight across the water, trout moving through the shallows, birds passing overhead, a humpback whale breaking the surface, and an ancient shell resting along the shore. These elements celebrate the wildlife and coastal character of Capitola while remaining secondary to the larger rhythm of the composition. They are intended as discoveries rather than illustrations, giving visitors reasons to return to the piece and experience it differently over time.

The four quadrants loosely suggest the passage of the seasons, allowing the mosaic to speak to cycles of change without illustrating them literally. At its core, the work considers the ebb and flow of time, transformation, and the persistence of place—a romantic reflection on the Rispin Mansion itself, which has endured through periods of ambition, decline, transformation, and renewal. The architectural arms radiating from the center reinforce this sense of movement, recalling both historic ornament and directional arrows, and suggesting not only where the site has been, but where it continues to go.

Together, the historic geometry, coastal imagery, local wildlife, and flowing water patterns create a work that feels central to Rispin Park while reflecting the broader character of Capitola.



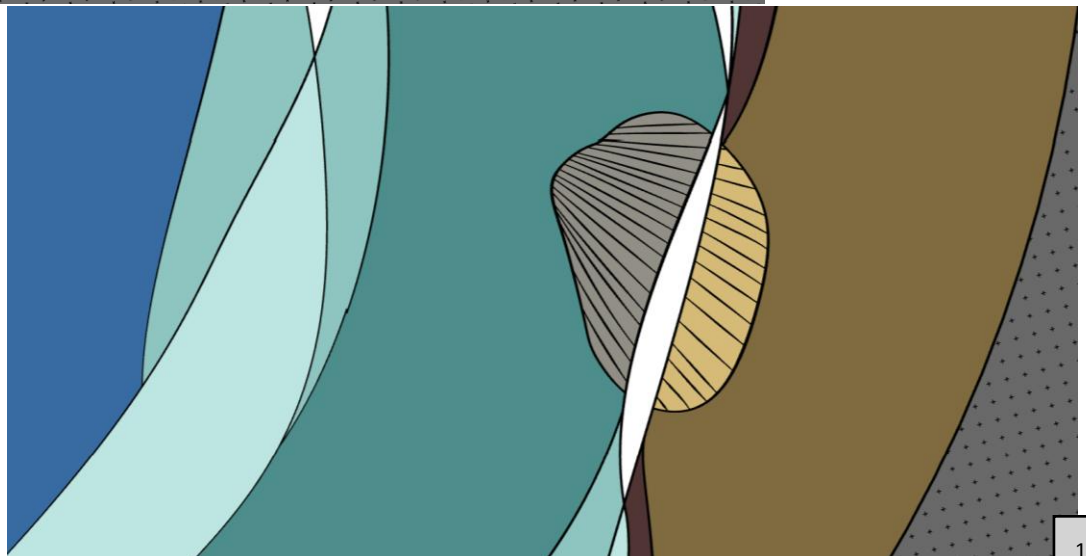
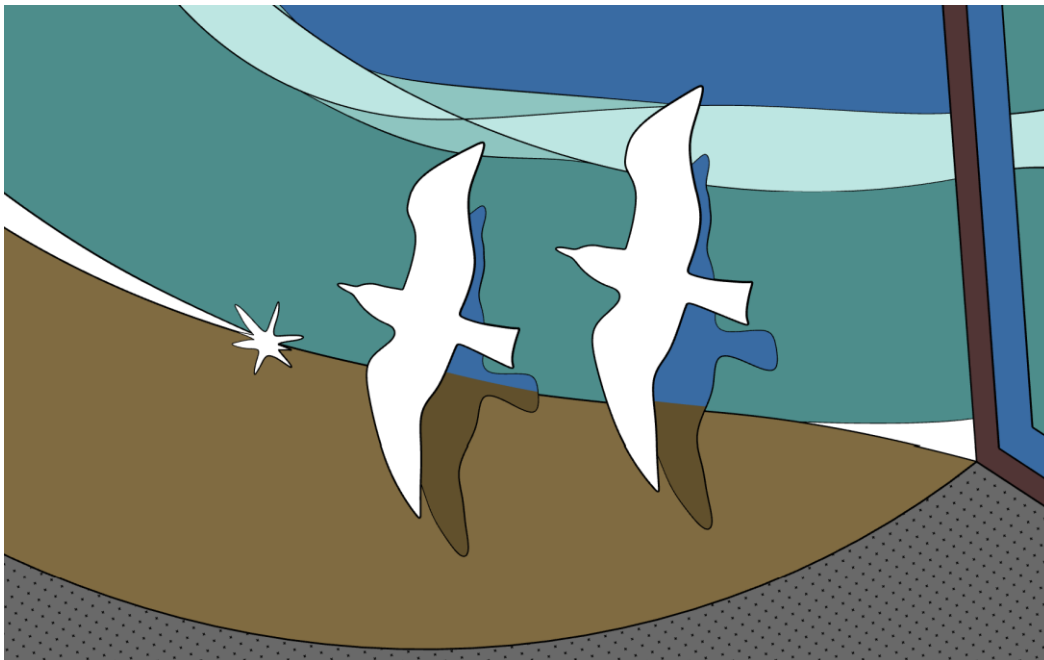
Current design of ***Currents of Capitola***

DESIGN MOTIFS

Color Gradation

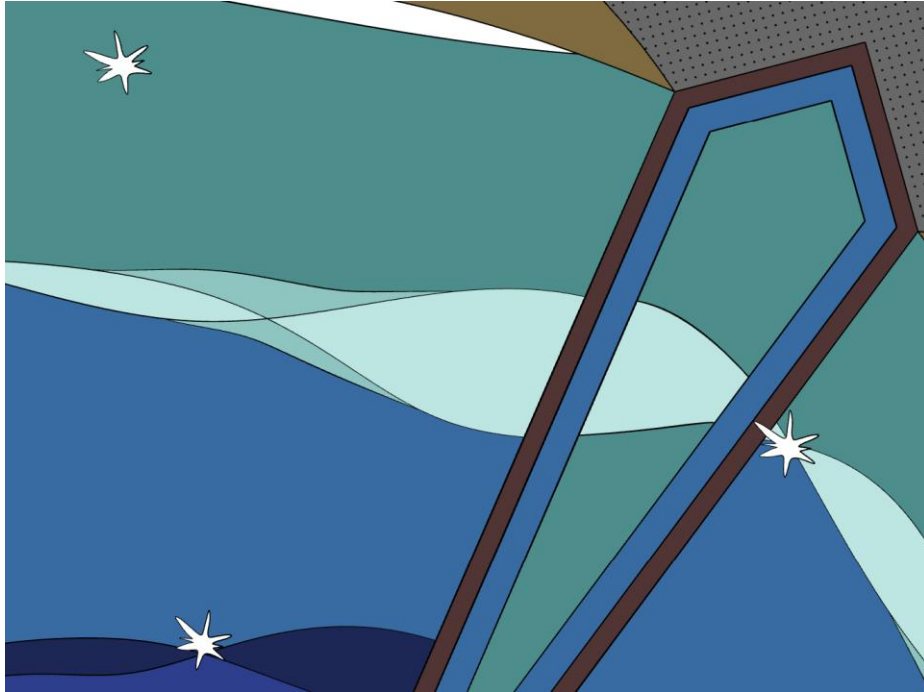
Throughout the mosaic, color gradation will be used to create depth, shadow, movement, and atmosphere rather than relying on flat areas of a single color. Subtle shifts between tones will allow forms to feel layered and dimensional, giving the surface a greater sense of richness when viewed both from a distance and up close.

This approach is particularly well suited to the Rispin design because of the broad range of available coastal blues, aquas, creams, sands, and warm beiges. By carefully transitioning between these tones, the mosaic can suggest changing water depth, reflected light, shoreline movement, and cast shadow while remaining entirely within the language of tile. The result is a more painterly use of mosaic—one in which individual pieces work together to create softness, variation, and visual depth across the composition.



Shimmers

Throughout the design, I have incorporated small “shimmers”—points of light that suggest sunlight catching the surface of the water. I would like to explore the selective use of mirror for these accents, allowing them to reflect the sky and surrounding landscape and subtly connect the mosaic to the changing environment around it. Used sparingly, the mirror would create a dynamic material effect while reinforcing the piece’s themes of light, reflection, and movement.



Humpback Whale

Most of the imagery within the mosaic is intended as a subtle reference to Capitola's coastal identity, but I would place particular emphasis on the humpback whale as a signature element of the composition.

For me, the whale becomes a metaphor for the Rispin Mansion itself: weathered, challenged, and at times beleaguered, yet still beautiful, significant, and worthy of preservation. Its presence suggests the rarity of places like Rispin—large, historic, character-rich sites that cannot simply be replaced once they are lost. In that sense, the whale becomes more than a local coastal reference; it becomes a quiet reminder of stewardship, endurance, and the value of caring for the remarkable things that have survived long enough to reach us.



AI Interpretation of design

Additional Conceptual Idea

I am also open to incorporating a short poetic phrase or quotation directly into the mosaic. As a community-engagement opportunity, the language could be developed in collaboration with a local poet, writer, Poet Laureate, or members of the Capitola community, creating an additional layer of meaning that is specific to the place and the people who experience it.

The text could reflect ideas already present within the artwork—change, reflection, the passage of time, the shoreline, or the relationship between land and sea—without becoming overly literal. The lettering would be fabricated from stainless steel and embedded directly into the mosaic, using a technique I have incorporated successfully in previous work, allowing the words to become a permanent and integrated part of the composition.



What is Currently Working

The overall scale, composition, and primary elements provide a strong backbone for the mosaic. The interplay between the animals, their shadows, and the contrasting tile treatments for above- and below-water areas creates rich opportunities for depth, movement, and visual discovery.

The humpback whale in particular has the potential to become a signature moment within the piece. At approximately **6 feet by 3 feet**, it would have enough scale to feel immersive and memorable while still remaining integrated into the larger composition.

What Needs Improvement

Overall, the concept has a strong foundation, but the composition is not yet fully resolved. The most noticeable area for improvement is the movement of the wave forms; the current flows do not yet connect and carry the eye through the piece as naturally or coherently as they should. The non-ocean portions of the quatrefoil also remain underdeveloped, and incorporating a more refined architectural motif drawn from the Rispin Mansion and the decorative language of its era would help elevate the work and strengthen its relationship to the site.

When I look at this design, I see the beginning of a piece that could benefit from several months of focused exploration, drawing, and refinement. I understand that it can be difficult for a committee to visualize beyond a conceptual proposal, but I believe there is significant potential here for a sophisticated, timeless, and memorable mosaic—one that feels specific to Rispin Park and worthy of becoming an important addition to Capitola's public art collection.

Material

The mosaic will be fabricated primarily from **porcelain tile**, custom-cut from my CAD drawings using a CNC waterjet. This process allows each tessera to be shaped intentionally, creating the flowing, interlocking forms that are central to the design rather than relying on standard square or rectangular tile.

I would also like to incorporate **mirror sparingly** as a special accent material, used to capture the effect of sunlight glittering across the surface of the water. If text is ultimately incorporated into the artwork, **stainless steel lettering** could be embedded directly into the mosaic as a durable and visually distinct element.

Budget

<i>RISPIN</i>	BUDGET
<i>MATERIAL + FABRICATION</i>	<i>\$46,000</i>
<i>TRANSPORT + INSTALL</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>
<i>CONTINGENCY [10%]</i>	<i>\$8,000</i>
<i>ARTIST FEE [20%]</i>	<i>\$16,000</i>
TOTAL	\$80,000

At **\$46,000 for approximately 385 square feet**, the mosaic is budgeted at about **\$119 per square foot**, well below typical pricing for custom mosaic work of this complexity. Given the historic importance and visibility of the site, I do not believe a smaller design would have the presence the project deserves, while a larger scope would not be financially feasible.

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



Virus-free. www.avast.com

THE ART OF LIFE

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 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

Mosaic Design: Reflecting Pool at 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 In Situ: Rispin Mansion Park

“Currents of Time”



THE ART OF LIFE

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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.

Faducci LLC

Solomon Bassoff & Domenica Mottarella
PO Box 923 North San Juan CA. 95960
530 913.9843 info@faducci.com www.faducci.com

Faducci's Proposal for the Rispin Mansion Property

Faducci proposes transforming the existing 800-square-foot reflecting pool at the historic Rispin Mansion into a vibrant, site-specific **public art mosaic centerpiece** that celebrates Capitola's natural beauty, cultural heritage, and connection to the coast. The artwork will become an integral part of Rispin Park, enhancing the historic setting while creating a meaningful place for community discovery, reflection, and engagement.

The mosaic will feature a dynamic **swirling composition of natural granite and marble tiles**, creating a sense of movement inspired by the flow of Soquel Creek, ocean currents, wind, and the ever-changing coastal landscape. The colors, textures, and natural variations of the stone will create a rich surface that complements the architecture of the Rispin Mansion while establishing a contemporary artistic expression within the historic site.

Integrated within the mosaic will be **eight sculptural balusters**, positioned just inside the perimeter of the fountain. Their profiles will be inspired by the architectural balusters of the Rispin Mansion, visually connecting the artwork to the historic property. Each baluster will support a square tile featuring a **laser-engraved image, text, or narrative element** celebrating the unique character of Rispin Park and Capitola.

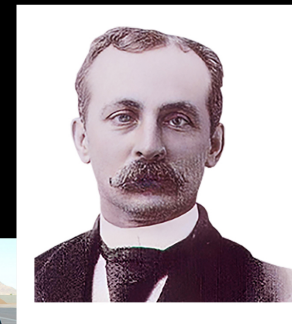
Community participation will be an important component of the project. Faducci will invite community members to contribute ideas, stories, imagery, and themes representing Capitola's history, culture, natural environment, and collective memories. These contributions will inform the imagery and scripts incorporated into the engraved tiles, creating a work that is not only about the community, but **made in partnership with the community**.

Durable natural stone, carefully selected for its performance in Capitola's coastal environment, will provide long-term beauty and resilience. Faducci will design and fabricate the artwork and oversee its installation, coordinating with the City and project consultants to meet all applicable structural, maintenance, accessibility, and safety requirements.

The completed mosaic will transform the existing fountain into a **living cultural landscape**—a place where history, architecture, nature, art, and community come together.



*Faducci Proposal
for Rispin Mansion
Reflecting Pool*



*Potential Images for Plaques around reflecting pool
at Rispin Mansion*

A PROPOSAL FOR PUBLIC ART

Rispin Mansion Mosaic Project

Rispin Reflecting Pool Mosaic Project · Capitola, California

Submitted by **Miles Mathews & Kathleen Crocetti**

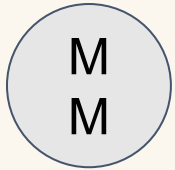
Community Arts & Empowerment · Watsonville, CA



THE APPLICANT TEAM

Co-Applicants for the Rispin Mansion Commission

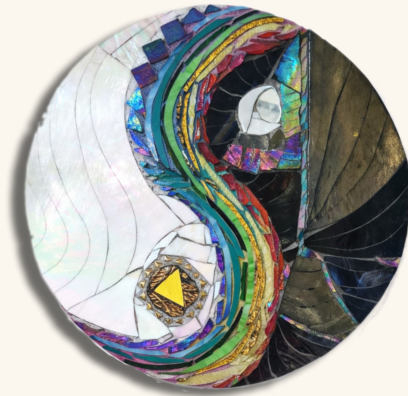
Why this partnership: Kathleen brings three decades of mosaic and public-art execution at civic scale; Miles brings hands-on mosaic and mural fabrication skill and a multi-medium studio practice to round out the team.



Miles Mathews: Designer and Project Lead

Mosaic & Glass Artist, Santa Cruz, CA

Santa Cruz-based artist working across mosaic, glass, mural, film, and installation. Describes his mosaic practice as “a disciplined dance between fragility and strength,” drawing on themes of unity and reverence for the natural world — a sensibility well matched to Kathleen's community-rooted, site-specific approach.



Sample work: Sofia Solua

Why this partnership: Kathleen brings three decades of mosaic and public-art execution at civic scale; Miles brings hands-on mosaic and mural fabrication skill and a multi-medium studio practice to round out the team.
milesmathews.com



Kathleen Crocetti: Mosaic Fabrication

Public Artist · Community Arts Organizer · Founder & Executive Director, CAE

Three decades building permanent public art across the Central Coast. Artistic Director of Watsonville Brillante, the multi-phase mosaic mural on the Watsonville Civic Parking Garage — recipient of the 2025 Helen Putnam Award and multiple national mosaic-arts honors. Founder of Community Arts & Empowerment and the Muzzio Mosaic Arts Center.

kathleencrocetti.com · communityartsempowerment.org

Coastal Gathering

If we go far enough back—beyond Rispin, beyond the Gold Rush, and even beyond the native americans and recorded history—what are we left with? **Pure water and nature.**

This mosaic calls upon the ecological identity of Capitola and the site-specific flora and fauna of the Central California coast and watershed. The composition is surrounded by native plant life: coastal oak, yarrow, California poppy and lupine, along with riparian sword ferns, native brushes, and sedges.

Moving toward the center of the composition, we encounter the local fauna that inhabit this landscape: the great blue heron, steelhead trout, California quail, Anna's hummingbird, California mule deer, and dragonflies. Together, they create a gathering of life around the water—a small portrait of the living ecosystem that surrounds us.

At the heart of the mosaic is a rushing river. This river represents **Soquel Creek**, while also honoring the origins of this space as a fountain and its relationship to flowing water. Water becomes both the subject and the connective force of the composition.

I call the work ***Coastal Gathering*** as a reference not only to the natural gathering of life around water, but also to the name Rispin itself, of German origin, meaning to *flock or gather*. In this sense, the mosaic connects to Rispin's vision of this land as a cultural Riviera—a place where people could come together, encounter beauty, and participate in community.

Like the water that flows from the mountains toward the sea, may this mosaic and its installation offer a moment of repose from the pace of urban life. Working in tandem with the Capitola Branch Library, I hope it can become a quiet gathering point for our community—a place to pause, reconnect, and rediscover our union with the natural world.



SELECTION CRITERION 1

Artistic Excellence & Originality

Miles Mathews

Miles' glass mosaic work and contemporary millennial lens continues to push what is possible both on the substrate and through the visionary realms. His work offers a whimsical spiritual folk style deeply rooted in his practices of eclectic indigenous wisdom, transcendent spiritual practices, and formal education in the arts, media, and human culture.



Ray-O-Light-Mathews



Gabriel ArchAngel -Mathews

Kathleen Crocetti

Kathleen's practice moves fluidly across sculptural mosaic, architectural mural, and site-specific installation — always grounded in cultural equity, storytelling, and a craftsman's command of glass, tile, and stone. Each piece is designed to belong to its site, not simply sit on it.

Selected Recognition

- 2026 — Best in Show, Mosaic Architectural & Site-Specific Intl.
- 2025 — Best Site-Specific Installation, Mosaic Arts Intl.
- 2025 — Helen Putnam Award, CA League of Cities
- 2023 — Best in Show, Mosaic Arts International
- 2019–20 — Best Community Project, Mosaic Arts Intl.



Chinatown Dragon Gate, Santa Cruz — Crocetti



In Memory of Allison Endert, mosaic bench — Crocetti

SELECTION CRITERION 2

Mosaic & Large-Scale Public Art Experience

Kathleen's Team:

Watsonville Brillante — a multi-phase permanent mosaic mural on the Watsonville Civic Parking Garage, completed in 2025 after six years of phased construction (2019–2025). It has drawn national recognition from mosaic arts, tile, and public-works organizations.

30+

years of public art practice

6

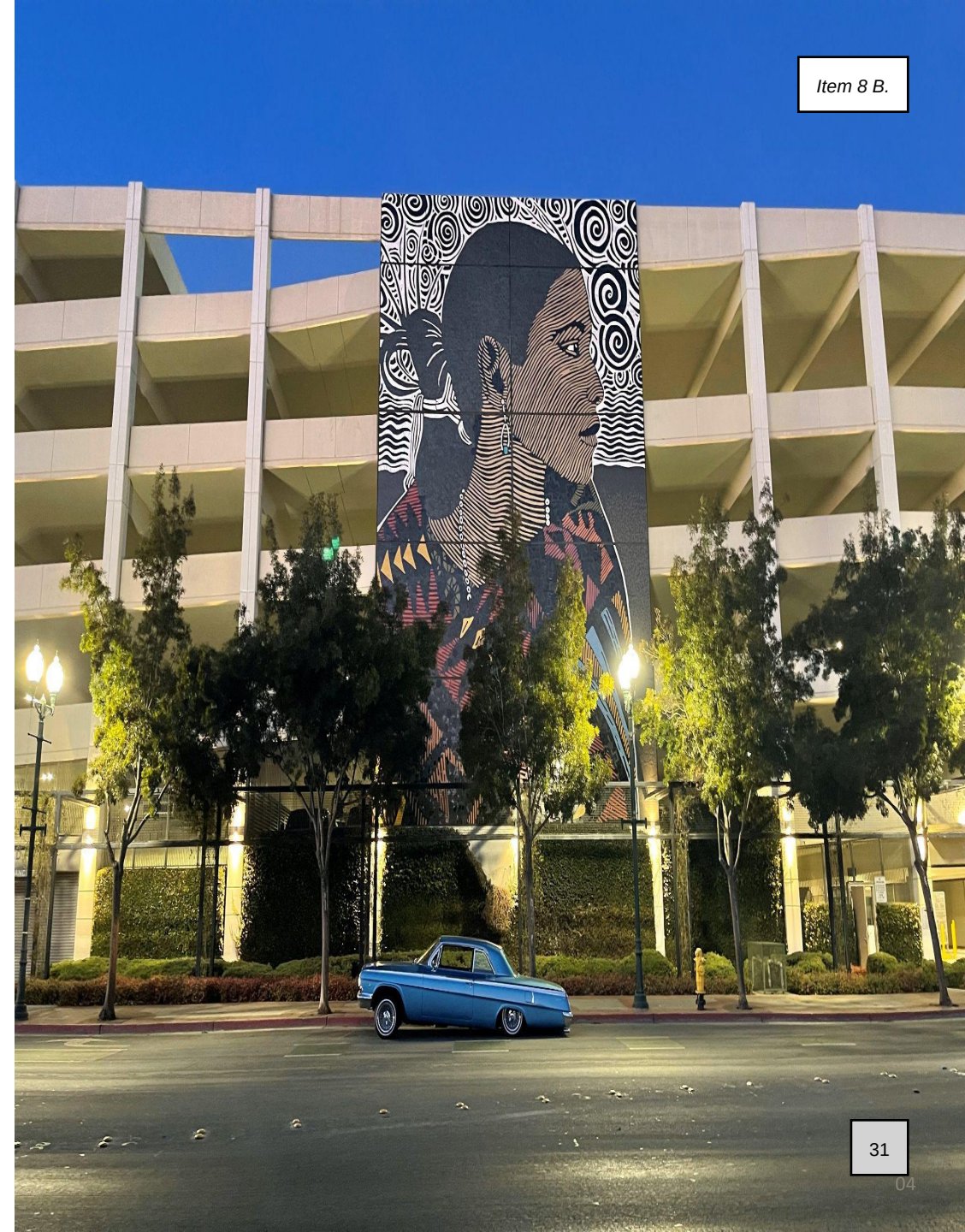
phases, Watsonville Brillante

3

major commissions underway
now

Current Large-Scale Commissions (2025–2026)

- Bethany Curve Bridge — 34 mosaic panels (26" × 8'), Santa Cruz, CA
- Ramsay Park — nine 5' medallions + 10' × 30' mural, Watsonville, CA
- Watsonville Civic Plaza — four 8–9' sculptures



SELECTION CRITERION 3

Completing Projects On Time & Within Budget

Kathleen’s Team:

2019–2025

Watsonville Brillante

Six-phase mosaic mural delivered in full, on the City of Watsonville's civic timeline.

2024

Capitola Wharf Donor Wall • Memorial Park Medallions • Bienestar Housing Seat Wall

Multiple concurrent municipal & affordable-housing commissions delivered the same year.

2023

Tabasa Garden Project (Eden Housing) • Dancing Waters, River Front Garage

Delivered alongside ongoing Brillante phases.

2021–2022

Hermanita (Brillante Phases 3–4) • Chinatown Dragon Gate • COVID-19 Memorial

Sustained multi-project output through a constrained construction period.

SELECTION CRITERION 4

Understanding Capitola's Character & History

- Built in 1921 by developer Henry Allen Rispin in the Mission / Spanish Revival style, on the banks of Soquel Creek.
- Rispin renamed the town “Capitola-by-the-Sea,” envisioning a coastal Riviera — the mansion was the showpiece of that ambition.
- Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991; the grounds are now becoming The Park at Rispin Mansion, with restored gardens, a grand staircase, reflecting pool, amphitheater, and public art.

Existing Local Connection

Kathleen has already delivered work in Capitola — the Capitola Wharf Donor Wall (2024) — giving this team a direct, working familiarity with the city, its permitting environment, and its coastal character.



Kathleen's team worked with the Capitola community for create the wharf mosaics.

SELECTION CRITERION 5

Strength of Community Engagement

As founder and Executive Director of Community Arts & Empowerment, Kathleen has built engagement directly into the fabrication process — community members cut, place, and grout tile alongside professional artists, turning each project into a shared civic experience rather than a delivered object.

- Runs the Muzzio Mosaic Arts Center, a standing community workshop space
- Kathleen's team has run 4 satellite studios for projects outside of Watsonville, including one at the Capitola Mall for the Capitola Wharf project
- Public unveiling of Watsonville Brillante drew large civic turnout
- Programming integrates cultural equity and local storytelling



Community volunteers assembling mosaic tiles at the Strawberry Festival.



Public unveiling day, Watsonville Civic Parking Garage

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, PROPOSED FOR CAPITOLA

Two Ways to Bring the Studio to Capitola

In response to the City's request for community engagement, we offer two formats — two high-visibility mobile events, or a sustained local presence for a month or for the duration of the project.

Mobile Mosaic Studio Visit

\$500 flat fee

- Mobile studio brought to Capitola for a single 4-hour session
- Low commitment, easy to schedule around a milestone or public event
- Hands-on tile-cutting and assembly for community participants on-site

Best for: a concentrated, high-visibility engagement moment tied to project kickoff or an unveiling.

Capitola Satellite Studio

Rent + management fee — TBD

- A temporary local studio space established in Capitola for the project duration
- Sustained, repeated community access throughout fabrication rather than a single day
- Additional cost for on-site management \$500 a week for 16 hours of community studio time: Minimum 4 weeks.

Best for: deeper, ongoing community involvement — final cost depends on the space secured and length of use.

PORTFOLIO: Kathleen Crocetti

Selected Public Artwork



Ramsay Park sculptures



1482 Freedom, Watsonville



Sidewalk medallion series



City of Watsonville seal



Bienestar Housing seat wall



Chinatown Dragon Gate



Allison Endert memorial bench



Monarch butterfly sculpture

Miles Mathews Work



Mosaic Fountain at the former Pacific Cultural Center Community Lead Mosaic Workshops



Working with the Youth in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District



Flat Glass Mosaic Studio Practice

PROPOSED SCOPE, Ground work

Sidewalk Medallions — A Walkable Companion Element

Material Specification

Fabricated in slip-resistant porcelain tile — rated for pedestrian foot traffic and appropriate for a public walking surface, unlike the glass and stone used on vertical or sculptural work.

- Precedent: an established sidewalk medallion series already installed across Watsonville and at Beinstar Housing Development on Capitola Rd.
- Flush-mounted, ADA-appropriate, and durable under regular pedestrian and maintenance traffic



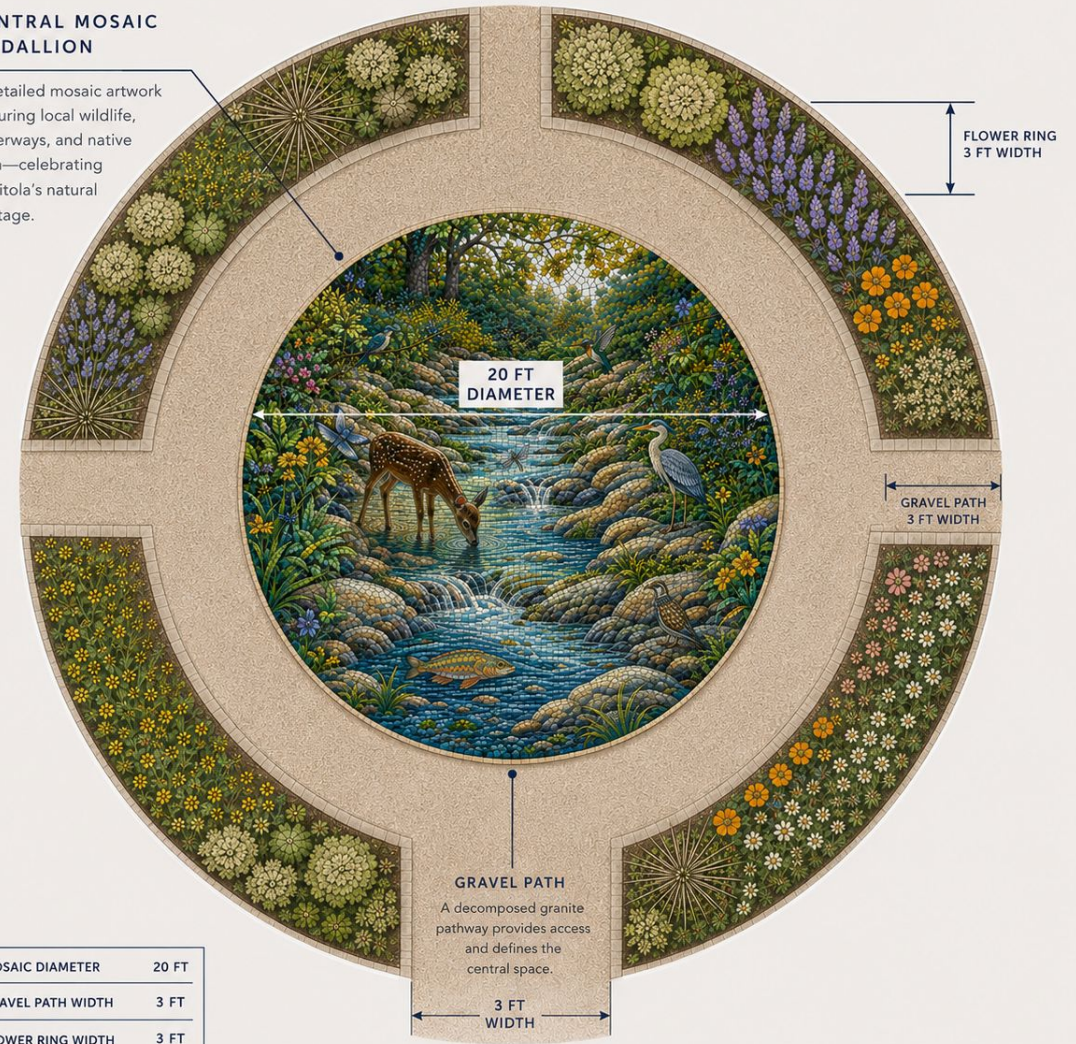
Set flush into a pedestrian path



Native-plant medallion design

CENTRAL MOSAIC MEDALLION

A detailed mosaic artwork featuring local wildlife, waterways, and native flora—celebrating Capitola's natural heritage.



Rispin Reflecting Pool Mosaic

PROJECT TIMELINE

From Artist Selection to Completion

The schedule below runs from the City's artist-selection date through fabrication and installation. Contract execution and the exact fabrication start date are set by the City's process and are shown here as pending.



Budget for Review

We have fixed costs that do not work within the City budget for 800 square feet of mosaics.

Fabrication at \$200/sq ft will allows us to create a 290 square footer mosaic resulting in a 19.5 ft diameter circle.

We are proposing a circular walking path within a circle of planting.

\$80,000 Budget Cap	
Solves for the mosaic area that fits inside \$80,000	
Fabrication (~290 sq ft) Kathleen Crocetti/Community Arts & Empowerment	\$58,000
Installation: Miles Mathews Team	\$5,000
Design fee (10%)	\$6,300
Administration (10%)	\$6,300
Community Engagement 2 x with mobile studio	\$1,000
Contingency (5%)	\$3,400
Total	~\$80,000
Holding the \$80,000 total fixed, the mosaic scope that fits is approximately 210 sq ft — well under the originally discussed 800 sq ft.	

Thank You

We look forward to bringing the Rispin Reflecting Pool Mosaic project to life.

Miles Mathews

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