



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION AGENDA
MAY 15, 2024
100 VILLA AVENUE, LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM
4:00 PM**

Dornaz Memarzia, Chair
Bent Jensen, Vice Chair
Maureen Cappon-Javey, Commissioner
Anne Lamborn, Commissioner
Cristiano Colantoni, Commissioner
Thomas Spilsbury, Commissioner
Gwyneth Pang, Youth Commissioner
Pravin Balasingham, Alt Youth Commissioner

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The Town of Los Gatos strongly encourages your active participation in the public process. If you are interested in providing oral comments during the meeting, you must attend in-person, complete a speaker's card, and return it to the staff. If you wish to speak to an item on the agenda, please list the item number on the speaker card. The time allocated to speakers may change to better facilitate the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting in-person, you are welcome to submit written comments via email to rbaker@losgatosca.gov.

Public Comment During the Meeting:

When called to speak, please limit your comments to three (3) minutes, or such other time as the Chair may decide, consistent with the time limit for speakers at a Town meeting.

Speakers at public meetings may be asked to provide their name and to state whether they are a resident of the Town of Los Gatos. Providing this information is not required.

Deadlines to Submit Written Comments:

If you are unable to participate in person, you may email rbaker@losgatosca.gov with the subject line "Public Comment Item #_" (insert the item number relevant to your comment). Persons wishing to submit written comments to be included in the materials provided to the Commission must provide the comments as follows:

For inclusion in the agenda packet: by 11:00 a.m. the Thursday before the Commission meeting.

For inclusion in the agenda packet supplemental materials: by 11:00 a.m. the day before the Commission meeting.

For inclusion in a desk item: by 11:00 a.m. the day of the Commission meeting.

Persons wishing to make an audio/visual presentation on any agenda item must submit the presentation electronically, either in person or via email by 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

CONSENT ITEMS *(Items appearing on the Consent are considered routine Town business and may be approved by one motion. Members of the public may provide input on any Consent Item(s) when the Chair asks for public comment on the Consent Items.)*

1. Approve Draft Minutes of the March 20, 2024 Regular Meeting

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS *(Members of the public are welcome to address the Arts and Culture Commission on any matter that is not listed on the agenda and is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. To ensure all agenda items are heard, this portion of the agenda is limited to 30 minutes. In the event additional speakers were not able to be heard during the initial Verbal Communications portion of the agenda, an additional Verbal Communications will be opened prior to adjournment. Each speaker is limited to three minutes or such time as authorized by the Chair.)*

OTHER BUSINESS *(Up to three minutes may be allotted to each speaker on any of the following items.)*

2. Highway 17 Bicycle/Pedestrian Overcrossing Project – Discussion of Architectural Themes, Thematic Element Locations, Thematic Elements, and Art Project Locations
3. Discuss Community Input Workshop for Arts Master Plan

ADJOURNMENT

ADA NOTICE In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk's Office at (408) 354- 6834. Notification at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting date will enable the Town to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28 CFR §35.102-35.104]



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
ARTS AND CULTURE
COMMISSION MEETING**

MEETING DATE: 05/15/2024

ITEM NO: 1

**DRAFT
Minutes of the Arts and Culture Commission Meeting
March 20, 2024**

The Arts and Culture Commission conducted a regular meeting in person on March 20, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 4:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Memarzia, Vice Chair Jensen, Commissioner Colantoni, Commissioner Cappon-Javey, Commissioner Lamborn, Youth Commissioner Pang

Absent: Commissioner Spilsbury

Also Present: Staff Liaison Baker

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Youth Commissioner Pang's design for a ACC brochure was presented.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Introduction of Planning Manager Armer and overview of Public Art Fund Process.

Jennifer Armer, Los Gatos Planning Manager, gave an update on the ordinance requiring 1% fee for art on new constructions. The new requirement document (drafted by Thomas Spilsbury) is now in place. Builders will either pay 1% of the construction cost or can use the option to install artwork themselves. Collected fees will go to the Commission, who will also review artwork installed by builders. The ordinance describes the requirements. Artwork installed by the builder is owned by the builder who is also responsible for the maintenance.

2. Oral Report by Commissioner Lamborn regarding Footbridge Mural Restoration.

Ann Lamborn reported, that she has added a sealer and primer on the artwork, and she has invited an artist from Portland to help restore the mural. In the follow-on discussion some commissioners expressed concern over the viability of restoring the mural, since the damage is mostly from moisture which can enter the wall from behind, making a sealer on the front less useful.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Colantoni to discontinue the project. **Seconded** by Chair Cappon-Javey.

VOTE: Passed 4 – 1 , Commissioner Lamborn voting against.

3. Upcoming report regarding upcoming SVCcreates Workshops.

SVCcreates has an online workshop on April 24 1:00 – 2:30PM: “Grant writing demystified: Applying to the California Arts Council.”

Commissioners Jensen and Memarzia volunteered to attend a Municipal Arts Roundtable.

4. Discussion of calendar dates for public input meeting and special ACC meeting.

The commission discussed possible dates.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true
and correct copy of the minutes of the
March 20, 2024 meeting as approved by the
Arts and Culture Commission.

Ryan Baker, Library Director



TOWN OF LOS GATOS
ARTS AND CULTURE
COMMISSION

MEETING DATE: 05/15/2024

ITEM NO.: XXXX

DATE: May 15, 2024
TO: Arts and Culture Commission
FROM: Ryan Baker, Library Director
SUBJECT: Highway 17 Bicycle/Pedestrian Overcrossing Project – Discussion of Architectural Themes, Thematic Element Locations, Thematic Elements, and Art Project Locations

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a brief presentation from staff and provide input on themes, thematic element locations, and future art project locations.

BACKGROUND:

The Highway 17 Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing Project is a high priority project in the Town's adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (Plan) most recently adopted by the Town Council in 2020. As identified in the Plan, the project will improve bicycle and pedestrian mobility, encourage active transportation, close a gap in the Town's bicycle network, and enhance safety for all modes of travel on Blossom Hill Road between Roberts Road West and Roberts Road East.

The project will include a new 20' wide bicycle/pedestrian bridge over Highway 17 on Blossom Hill Road just south of the existing bridge, and construct approximately ¼ mile of dedicated 20' wide approach paths on the west and east sides of the overcrossing. The approach paths will include new retaining walls on the outside and inside of the path throughout portions of the project limits.

The project's design scope of work includes an architectural component that is focused on the aesthetics and artistic elements of the structures that will be built with the project, including but not necessarily limited to the bridge, retaining walls, deck, railings, benches/resting areas, and trailheads. As the design heads from the concept to the final design phase, the design team is seeking input from the Arts and Culture Commission on the following items:

PREPARED BY: Sean Rose
Special Projects Manager, Parks and Public Works Department

1. The **architectural theme(s)** that could be implemented on the project to inform the architectural/artistic content at the thematic element locations. The thematic elements will be designed and constructed as part of the project. Potential themes for consideration are provided in Attachment 1. The design team is looking for no more than 2-3 themes for the project.
2. The **thematic element locations** within the project structure(s) that will be designed with thematic elements that support the themes selected in Item 1 above. Examples of thematic element locations are the inside and outside of the overcrossing barrier and surfaces of the retaining walls. Potential locations are shown in Attachment 2.
3. **Thematic elements** that could be presented in the thematic element locations. Examples of thematic elements on other similar projects are presented in Attachment 3.
4. **Future art project locations**. The thematic elements discussed above will be designed and constructed as part of this project. Future art project locations are locations within the project limits where art projects could be implemented after construction of the this project. The project team has included a 1% art budget in its project estimates for grant funding applications that may be utilized as part of a future art project(s) within the project area. Although the art project(s) would occur after the project construction is complete, we are seeking the Commission's input now on where those locations could be so that the design team can set aside areas for their implementation. For example, if the inner bridge barriers were identified for a future art project (similar to the existing ped/bike bridge to Los Gatos High School) then we could include insets in the barrier that could be used to mount art in the future. Examples of art could be murals, paintings, sculptures, statues, etc. Examples of public art on other similar projects is shown in Attachment 4.

At this meeting, staff will provide a brief presentation on the above topics, followed by a discussion between the Commission and the project team, and is seeking input at this meeting that will inform the project's final design phase that will commence in the coming months.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The architectural design of the themes, thematic locations, and thematic elements is included in the design scope of work and budget previously approved by the Town Council. The additional funding for art project(s) would likely come from a combination of grants and/or Town funds.

Attachment 1 – Potential project themes

Attachment 2 – Thematic element locations

Attachment 3 – Examples of thematic elements

Attachment 4 – Public art installations on similar transportation projects

Attachment 1 – Potential project themes

I. PUBLIC ART THEME ALTERNATIVES (LONG LIST)

• **Theme 1 – “The Cats”**

- Description – Not just any “cats”, but the 2 cats Los Gatos is named after: Cougar (Mountain Lion), and Bobcat. Celebrates the name and ecology of Town’s location, the Alta California land grant *La Rinconada de Los Gatos*. Theme could focus on the 2 cats or expand to include natural ecology of the Town’s site and Santa Cruz Mountains.
- Theme Type – Nature, Natural History, Ecology

• **Theme 2 – “Cats”**

- Description – All things “cat”, not just Cougar and Bobcat. Celebrates the subfamily *Felinae* which includes cougars, bobcats and domestic cats. Broader than Theme 1, theme embraces cats culturally as well as naturally or ecologically – lots of possibilities with domestic cats in particular!
- Theme Type – Ecology, Human/Cat interaction, Culture – including “Pop Culture”

• **Theme 3 – “Native Americans”**

- Description – Celebrating the history, culture, present, and future of the Ohlone community. Theme is special opportunity to engage Ohlone community directly in development and/or management of arts program as well as creating the art.
- Theme Type – Cultural History, Community Self-Expression

• **Theme 4 – “Art about Art”**

- Description – Celebrates Town’s early/mid-20th Century role as an Arts Colony, including recognized artists, writers, musicians, actors, etc. with Los Gatos connections – examples include John Steinbeck, Neal Cassidy, Olivia de Havilland, Yehudi Menuhin, Marshal Merrit. Note: Similar theme could support Sports.
- Theme Type – Cultural History, Town History, Personal History

• **Theme 5 – “Trains and Trams”**

- Description – Town is at nexus of evolving railroad history, including passenger rail between South Bay and Santa Cruz, Bay Area tram and interurban services, historic narrow gage and steam trains, and - possibly? - future transit connections to VTA light rail. Theme could be general (South Bay/Monterey Bay rail) or element-specific.
- Theme Type – Cultural History, Town History, Railroad History, Railway Personalities

• **Theme 6 – “Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad”**

- Description – Key “specific” theme under “Trains and Trams”. Celebrates beloved miniature railroad in Vasona Park, near bridge. Theme could focus on life of Billy Jones,

BLOSSOM HILL/SR 17 BPOC – PUBLIC ART – THEMES & POSSIBILITIES – 2024

evolution of Wildcat Railroad, miniature railroads in CA or beyond, features of the railroad, railroad's future.

- Theme Type – Cultural History, Railroad History, Railway Personalities

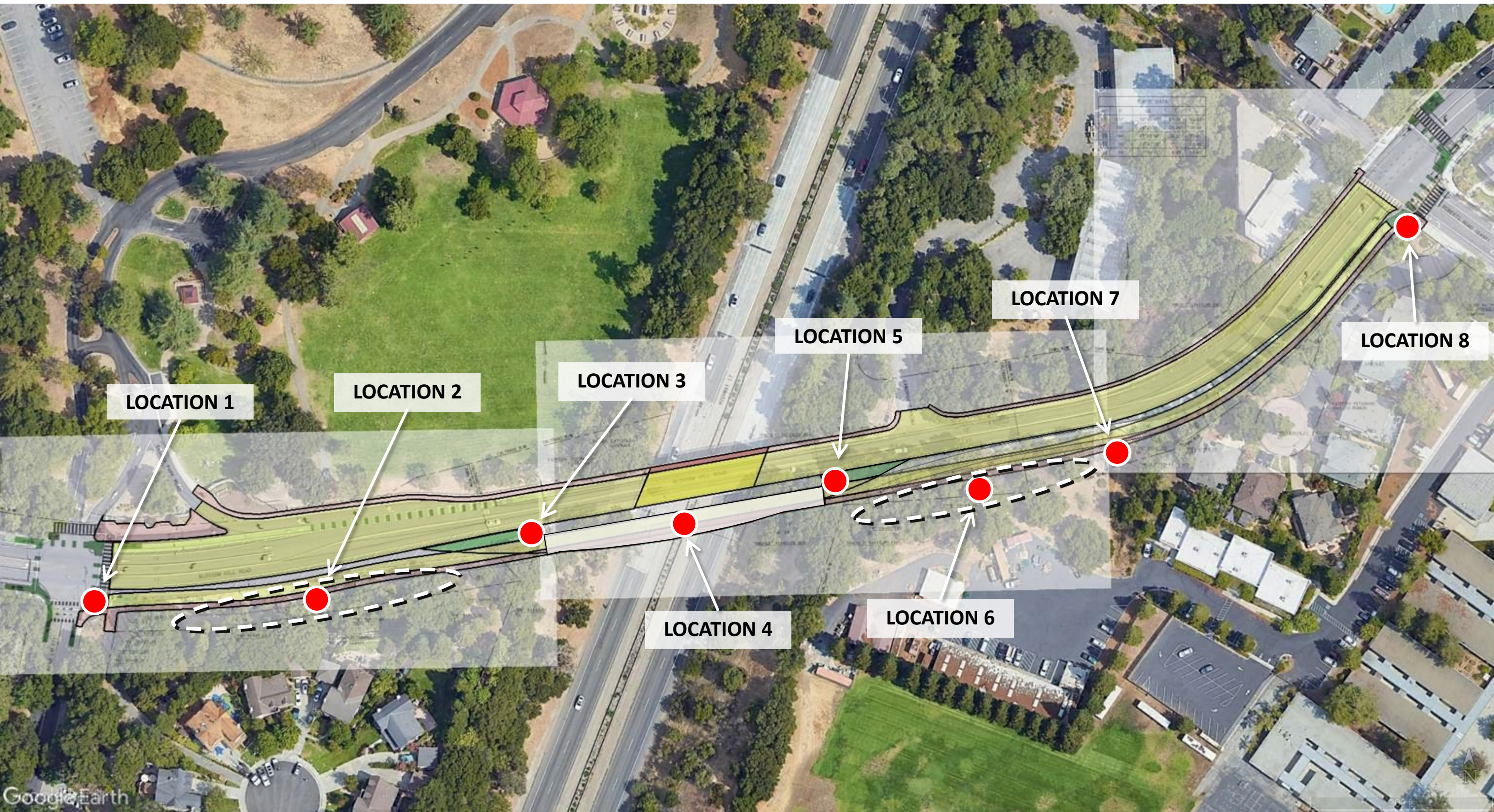
- **Theme 7 – “Vasona Park”**

- Description – Theme celebrates Town's principal (county) park on Los Gatos Creek, adjacent to bridge. Theme could be historic (how park developed), cultural (park activities, how people use the park), ecological (nature, creek/lake ecology, natural vs. human intervention), planning (park future). Note: Could also be element of Theme 8.
- Theme Type – Cultural History, Town History, Natural History, Ecology

- **Theme 8 – “Los Gatos Creek”**

- Description – Creek is Town's key organizing geographic feature, embedded in Town's history and culture. Theme could focus on creek as natural and recreational resource, ecological history, human intervention (hydraulic engineering), creek within Town or greater watershed. Note: “Specific” themes could include LG Creek Trail, Vasona Park.
- Theme Type – Cultural History, Town History, Ecological History, Engineering History

Attachment 2 – Thematic element locations



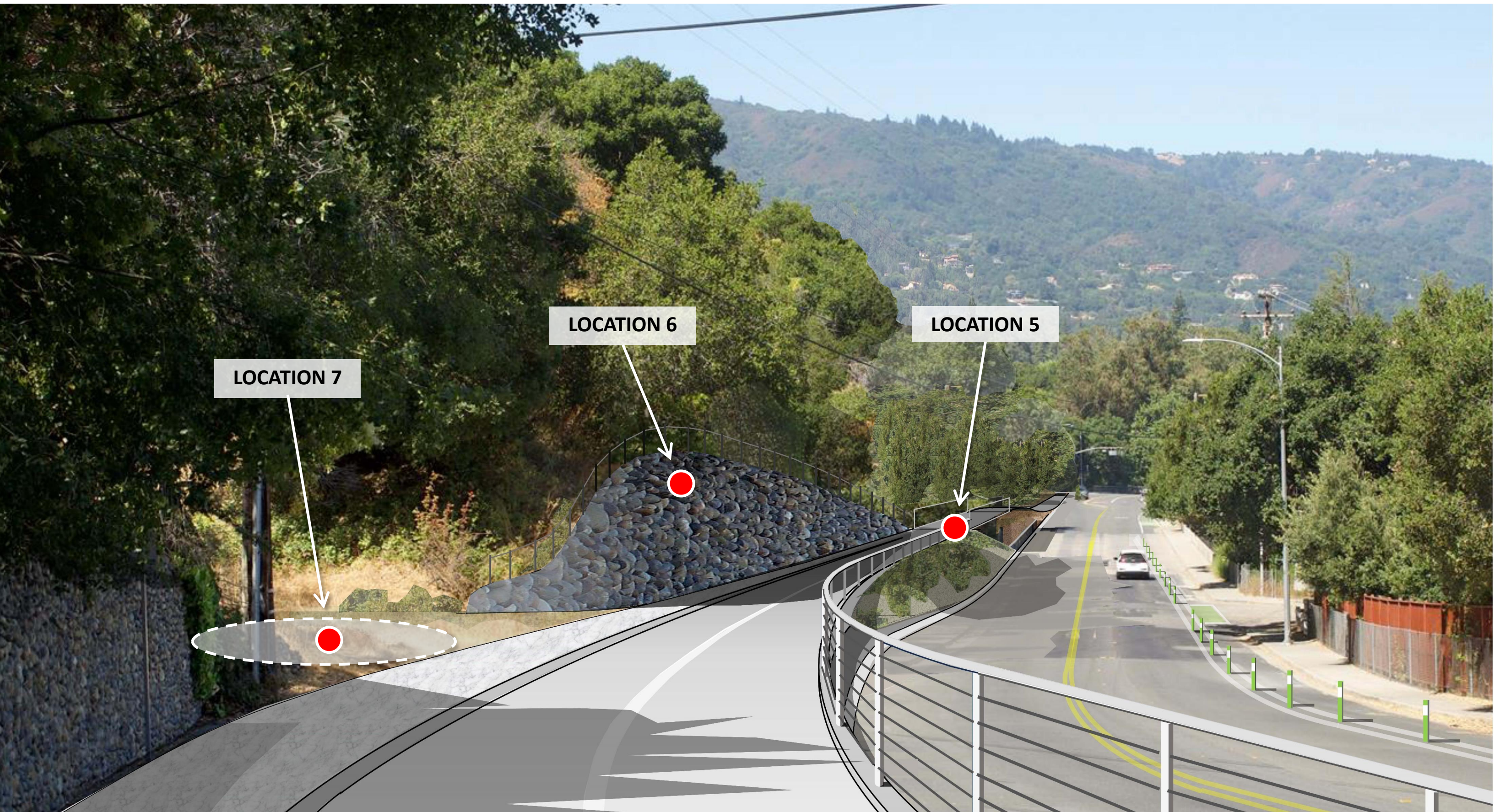
1 – BLOSSOM HILL / SR-17 BPOC – PUBLIC ART LOCATION PLAN



2 – BLOSSOM HILL / SR-17 BPOC – PUBLIC ART LOCATIONS – EAST-FACING VISUAL SIMULATION



3 – BLOSSOM HILL / SR-17 BPOC – PUBLIC ART LOCATIONS – NORTH-FACING VISUAL SIMULATION



4 – BLOSSOM HILL / SR-17 BPOC – PUBLIC ART LOCATIONS – WEST-FACING VISUAL SIMULATION

Attachment 3 – Examples of thematic elements

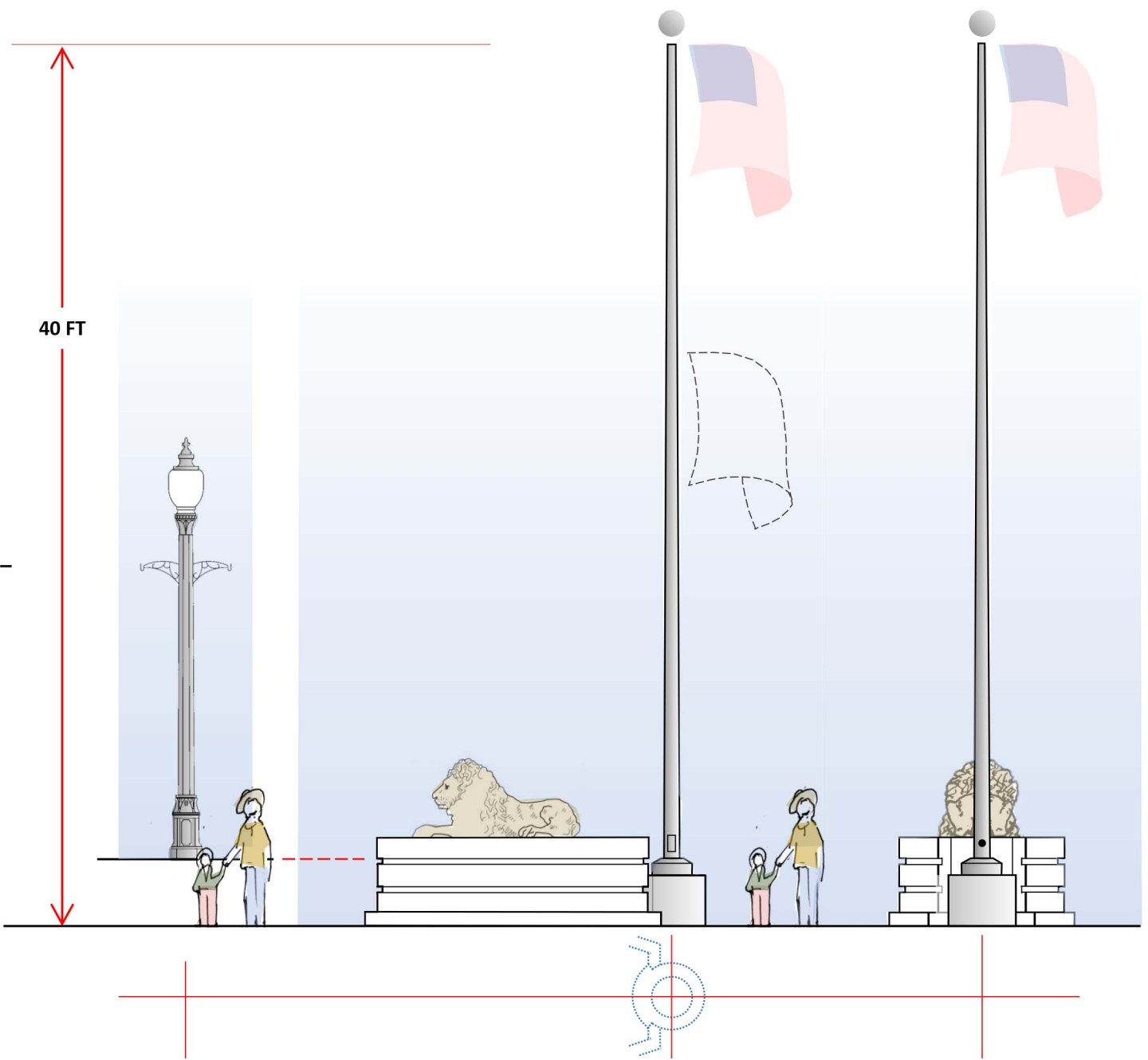
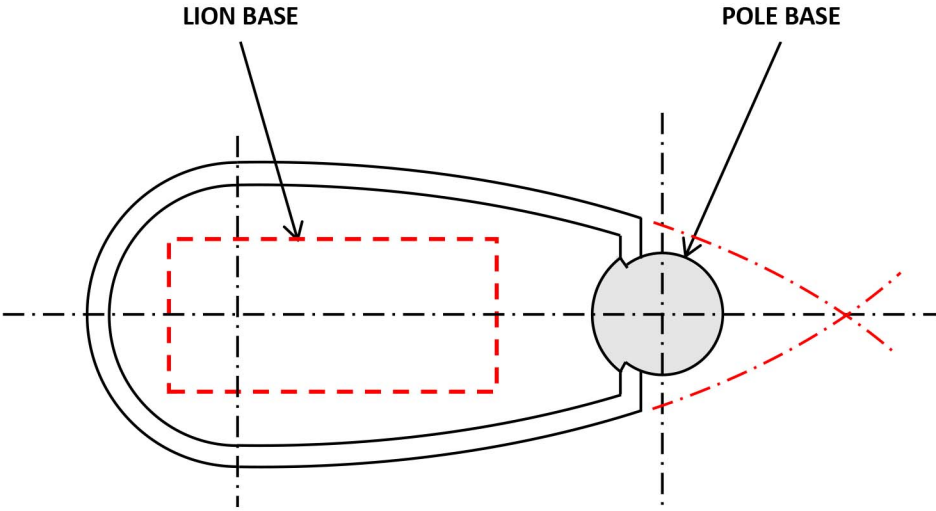








Attachment 4 – Public art installations on similar transportation projects











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**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
ARTS AND CULTURE
COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 5/15/2024

ITEM NO: 3

DATE: May 15, 2024
TO: Arts and Culture Commission
FROM: Ryan Baker, Library Director
SUBJECT: Discuss Community Input Workshop for Arts Master Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss community input workshop for Arts Master Plan.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Cappon-Javey and Commissioner Jensen brainstormed the following ideas for the workshop:

Title and messaging for workshop:

Public Arts Masterplan Brainstorming Sessions

Main takeaway goals for the Arts Commission:

1. To take away enough community ideas to define and craft the next step of the Arts Master Plan.

Ground Rules:

- These responses will shape the Arts Master Plan and the next steps in the process.
- All ideas are welcome. We want this to be a firehose of ideas.
- Don't shoot down anyone else's ideas, build upon them.
- Ideas can be general or specific.
- Foster an environment of creative cooperation.
- For the purpose of this workshop, public arts is defined as physical arts or performing arts in any form that is freely accessible to the public in open public spaces.
- The timeline for the Arts Master Plan is one year from now, with additional opportunities for public input and draft review in fall, winter, and spring.

Format for input gathering:

Each question will have a station. Attendees will divide into five groups and move from station to station. Five stations will have butcher paper and one station will have a map of the Town.

PREPARED BY: Name: Ryan Baker
Title: Library Director

An ACC Commissioner or staff person will facilitate each station. Attendees will discuss and write ideas onto sticky notes to add to butcher paper.

Ask the following five questions of participants (one per station):

1. What are ideas for incorporating public arts into the Town's public parks and infrastructure such as sidewalks and streets?
2. What does Los Gatos currently lack for public arts?
3. Where are the best locations in Town for public arts (using map board and pins)?
4. Who are the stakeholders for public arts in Los Gatos? Who are we missing?
5. What are opportunities for public arts? What kinds of public arts would you like to have in Town?

Upon exiting, a survey card will be given asking:

1. Do you want to be added to a mailing list for the Arts Master Plan?
2. Would you be willing to be an active volunteer as this process continues (time commitment of 10 hours total)?
3. What question should we have asked today that we didn't?

The Commission will need to select a date for the workshop to take place:

Possible dates (weekends): June 8, June 9

Possible dates (evenings 7p): June 5, June 6, June 12, June 13, June 19, June 20

Advertising for the workshop could be done through:

Direct contact/invitation to Town Commissions, and arts agencies in Town

Town social media

Press releases for local newspapers

KCAT

Chamber

NUMU