

# AGENDA REPORT

## City Council

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**MEETING DATE:** May 10, 2023

**PREPARED BY:** Collette Murphy,  
Arts Administrator

**DEPT. DIRECTOR:** Travis M. Karlen

**DEPARTMENT:** Parks, Recreation,  
and Cultural Arts

**CITY MANAGER:** Pamela Antil

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**SUBJECT:**

El Portal Undercrossing Mosaic Design Approval

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Accept the Commission for the Arts' recommendation and vote to approve the El Portal Undercrossing mosaic design for fabrication.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The action being considered by the City Council is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a "project" under Section 15378(b)(5) of CEQA Guidelines. The action involves an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in the direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

This item is not related to the Climate Action Plan.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

The El Portal Undercrossing mosaic involves ideas and design concepts from the Paul Ecke Central School students that have been rendered by the professional artist team and installed along a well-traveled path connecting Coast Hwy and Vulcan Avenue. It benefits the following focus areas of the Strategic Plan: Evolving & Preserving Community Character, Engagement & Education.

**FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

An appropriation of \$129,800 was approved on June 9, 2021, for the El Portal Undercrossing Public Art project (CP22B) which included artist fees of \$115,000 and a contingency of \$14,800 but did not include installation.

Funding for future installation of the artwork was approved on October 12, 2022 with the adoption of Resolution No. 2022-98 amending the FY 2022-23 budget and transferring \$20,000 from the El Portal Undercrossing project (CS16F) to the El Portal Undercrossing Public Art Project (CP22B). A separate solicitation of bids will be performed for the installation of the project.

## **BACKGROUND:**

As part of the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) Coastal Rail Corridor Program, and in conjunction with Leucadia Streetscape, the City of Encinitas partnered with San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and North County Transit District (NCTD) to construct a grade-separated pedestrian undercrossing between Highway 101 and Vulcan Avenue, east of El Portal Street and west of Paul Ecke Central School (PECS).

The City had the opportunity to work with NCTD on adding artistic elements to the side walls of the undercrossing as a planned part of the project which includes approximately 300 total square feet of tile comprised of 186 linear feet of 6-inch-tall segments and 207 linear feet of 12-inch-tall segments at various elevations on six (6) walls and two (2) cairns (Attachment 2). The artistic elements are intended to be created by a professional artist or artist team who will work with students from PECS to incorporate the children's creative contributions on the theme of Encinitas history into the completed artwork.

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for artists was issued by the City on March 17, 2022. No proposals were received.

The RFQ was reissued on May 9, 2022 and three (3) artist proposals were received. Two (2) of the proposals met the RFQ guidelines for consideration. A five (5) member ad hoc committee was formed to reviewed and ranked the two proposals. By a unanimous vote, the committee selected Campana Studios as their recommendation for the El Portal Undercrossing Public Art project.

City Council voted to award the contract to Campana Studios on October 12, 2022. The contract's scope of work is included as Attachment 1.

## **ANALYSIS:**

The artist team with Campana Studios held a number of workshops with the Paul Ecke Central Elementary school students in January-March, 2023. The students contributed design concepts, themes, and ideas for the mosaic content based on Encinitas history. The artist team rendered the students' contributions as a design for the mosaic panels and cairns. It is staff's assessment that the artist team has met the design requirements in the scope of work. On May 1, Campana Studios presented the mosaic design to the Commission for the Arts (Attachment 2).

The commission voted to recommend for City Council to approve the El Portal Undercrossing Mosaic design. The City Council is asked to review the commission's recommendation and approve the design for fabrication.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Agreement scope of work for Mosaic Artist For El Portal Undercrossing
2. Campana Studios design presentation

## ATTACHMENT A

### SCOPE OF WORK

**Artist:** Campana Studios

**Project:** El Portal Undercrossing Art Project

**Location:** The El Portal Undercrossing is located in the City of Encinitas in the San Diego County segment of the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) rail corridor. The undercrossing connects North Coast Highway 101 to Vulcan Avenue and is located east of El Portal Street (see EXHIBIT A). The majority of the project is within the North County Transit District (NCTD) right-of-way. The area is adjacent to the LOSSAN rail corridor within the following boundaries:

- North Coast Highway 101 to the west
- Vulcan Avenue to the east
- North Court (west of the tracks) and Union Street (east of the tracks) to the north
- El Portal Street (west of the tracks) and Halcyon Road (east of the tracks) to the south

**Described Services:** Artist shall perform the services in the following manner:

1. Mosaic tiles at the El Portal Undercrossing
  - a. The mosaic tiles must convey community-centric art and design features representative of Encinitas' rich and diverse history at a scale that is site-specific. The aesthetic impact should be dynamic and bold while taking the wall's existing texture into consideration (see EXHIBIT B).
  - b. Design of the finished tiles will be inspired by workshops with students from Paul Ecke Central Elementary School. The Artist is responsible for coordinating and participating in all necessary meetings and workshops.
  - c. Final artistic design shall comply with the CalTrans Transportation Art Requirements (<https://bit.ly/transportationart>) and be recommended by the Encinitas Commission for the Arts to the City Council for final approval.
  - d. The project includes approximately 300 total square feet of tile comprised of 186 linear feet of 6-inch-tall segments and 207 linear feet of 12-inch-tall segments at various elevations on six (6) walls and two (2) cairns at the El Portal Undercrossing.
  - e. The mosaic tiles shall be designed and fabricated by a professional artist or artist team, according to their placement on the walls and cairns.
  - f. The approved artwork will be fabricated into mosaic tiles with finished dimensions that are either 6 or 12 inches high, approximately three-quarters of an inch deep, and varying widths that take into consideration any wall curvature as well as the weakened plane joints and the expansion joints.
  - g. See EXHIBIT C for plans that detail the walls and cairns including locations of weakened plane joints and expansion joints as well as wall curvatures. **Note: There is no longer mosaic tile included on Accent Wall 2.**
  - h. Artist is responsible for confirming measurements.

2. Students at Paul Ecke Central Elementary School

- a. The Artist will work with students in grades 3-6 to generate inspiration for artwork with themes that are representative of Encinitas' rich and diverse history.
- b. The Artist will review relevant concepts with the students including scale, color palettes, level of content detail, sightlines, and simplicity of theme appropriate for mosaic tiles in each of the wall and cairn placements.
- c. Artwork will include scenes and subjects that reflect Encinitas history and serve as significant and recognizable student inspiration for the mosaic tiles created by the Artist.
- d. The Artist will render proposed mosaic tile designs for review and recommendation by the Encinitas Commission for the Arts to the City Council for approval prior to tile fabrication.

3. Installation

- a. The City of Encinitas will contract with a qualified individual or business to install the mosaic tiles as part of a separate contract.
- b. The Artist shall be on site at the El Portal Undercrossing at their own expense during installation to oversee the process and ensure tiles are installed in the correct locations with the proper orientation.

# **El Portal Undercrossing Design Presentation**

**Encinitas City Council  
May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**2023-05-10**

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# **Campana Studios is grassroots nonprofit that creates platforms for visual artists to engage with our communities**

**Encinitas City Council  
May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**2023-05-10**

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**In the fall of 2022, Campana Studios was selected to work with students in grades 3-6 at Paul Ecke Central to design and fabricate tile mosaics for 17 panels, a 6" tile ribbon and 2 cairns at the El Portal Undercrossing**

**Encinitas City Council  
May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**2023-05-10**

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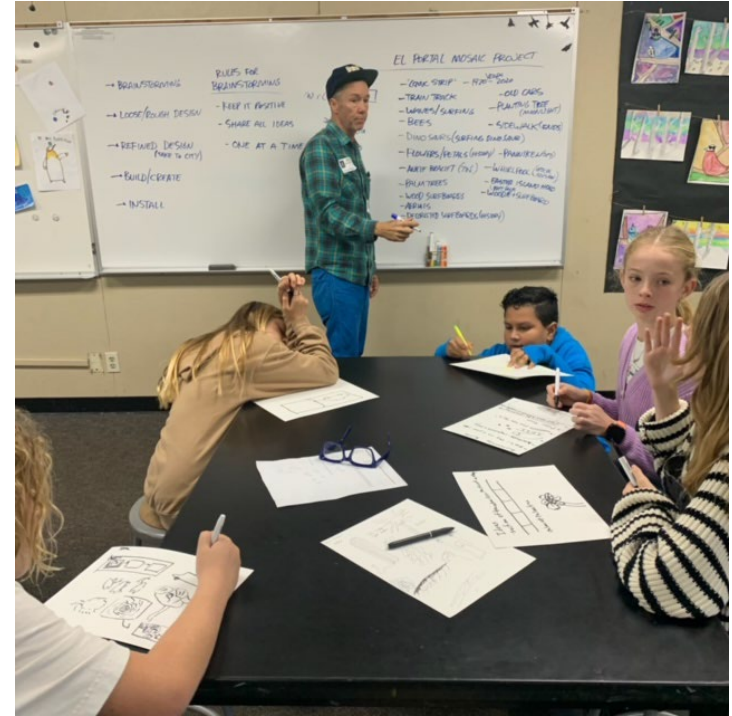
**Led by local artist, Jerm Wright, the PEC students developed concepts and designs that reflect their vision of the history of Encinitas.**







2023-05-10



## Design Committee Meetings

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## Design Development



2023-05-10



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**From this process, the PEC students developed unique designs for each of the 17 panels, along with 5 key, iconic design tiles that will unify the panels, cairns and ribbon tiles**



PANEL 1



PANEL 2

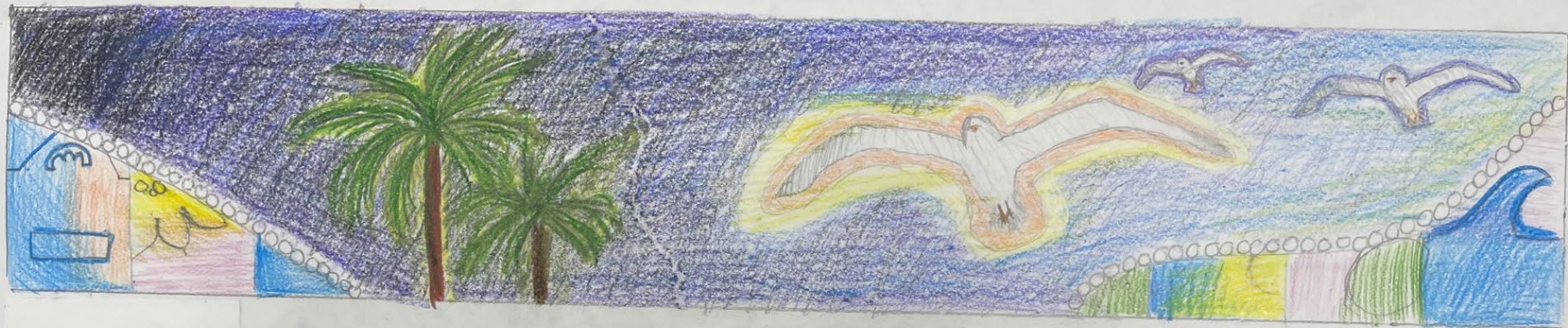


PANEL 3

PANEL 4







PANEL 5



PANEL 6

PANEL 7



PANEL 8

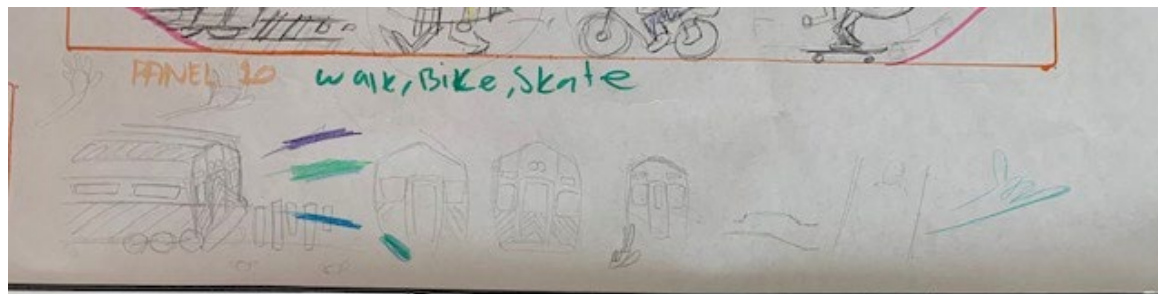




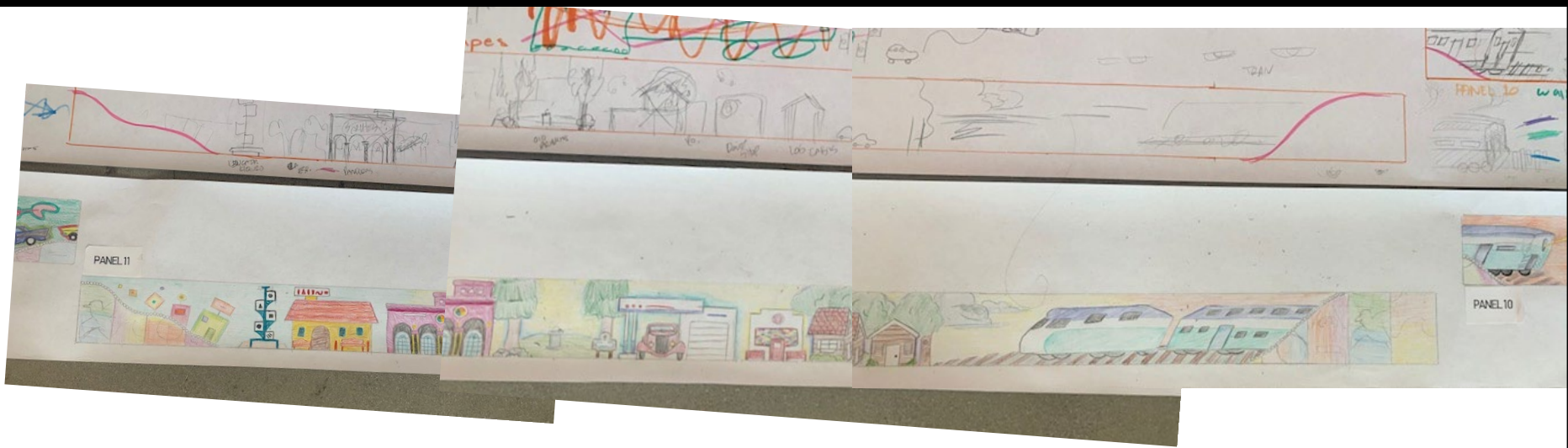


↑ BOTTOMS  
OF  
COFFEE  
CUPS  
FOR  
WHEELS

PANEL 9



PANEL 10



PANEL 12



PANEL 13



PANEL 14



PANEL 15



PANEL 16

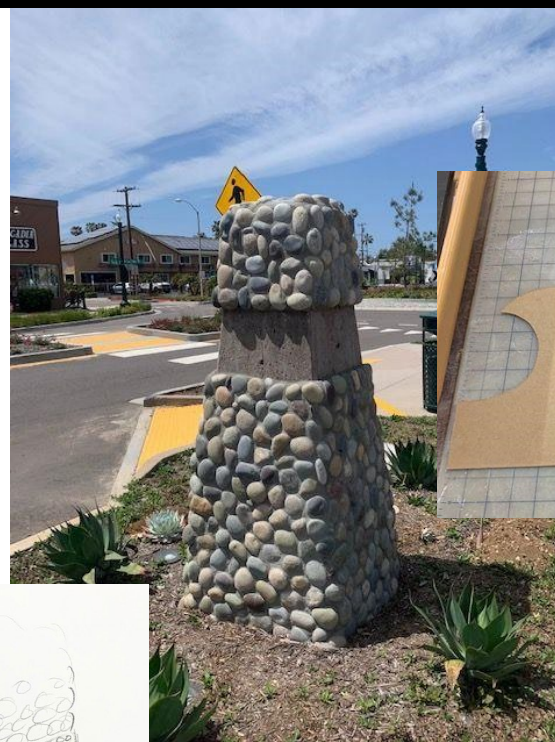
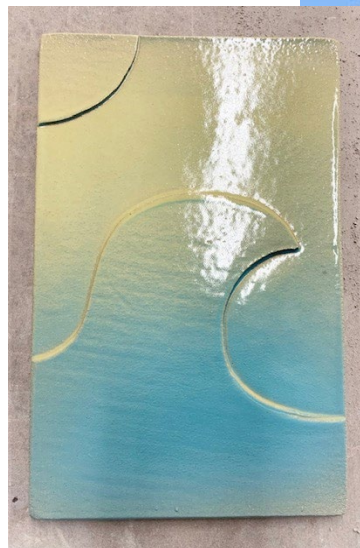




**Decorative ribbon**







## West & East Cairns

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**Every student from PEC  
to have a thumb-print tile**

2023-05-19

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**SDA Top of Stairs Mosaic**  
 (Example drawing/ mosaic translation)

**2023-05-10**



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