

BACKGROUND

Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) is an innovative, 32-bed center with temporary housing located at 2202 Soquel Ave. The center will provide comprehensive services to individuals with behavioral health conditions that may be preventing them from accessing help and transitioning out of homelessness.



Input from various groups, including individuals with lived experience of mental illness, has emphasized the urgent need for housing solutions with integrated behavioral health services. The first of its kind in Santa Cruz County, this referral-based center represents a significant step forward in addressing the intersection of homelessness and behavioral health challenges in our community.

Residents will have private rooms and communal dining and gathering areas. The County has contracted with Housing Matters to manage and operate the facility and, in collaboration with the County Behavioral Health Division, provide comprehensive care and support for residents.

APPLICATION PROCESS

All proposals must be submitted via email in one combined PDF not-to-exceed 10 MB. All pages of your application should be presented in the order listed below. Proposals are subject to the Public Records Act and will be provided upon request; identifying information about the artist will be redacted.

Present your materials in the following order:

- A cover page with artist’s name, project title, address, phone, and email address.
- A written proposal, not to exceed two pages, which addresses the artist’s specific approach and design concept for this project, and references installation location(s).
- Visual support, including conceptual drawings which reflect the overall design concept.
- Fabrication and installation Explain your proposed schedule, process, and medium. Describe the anticipated fabrication and installation needs, special equipment or other needs which would require approval.
- A current resume of no more than two typed pages detailing professional artistic accomplishments and at least two references who can speak to your work and qualifications. Teams must submit a short resume for each member.
- Up to ten images of recent relevant work, each annotated with the artist’s name, title (if applicable) location of work, medium, date of work, and dimensions. Indicate budget where applicable.

Email proposals to
kathy.dewild@santacruzcountyca.gov

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
Dept. of Parks, Open Space & Cultural Services
979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062



CALL TO ARTISTS

Public Art Project

Behavioral Health Bridge Housing
Low Barrier Navigation Center



An artist will be selected to create a site-specific public art piece for the new housing navigation center in Santa Cruz, California

ARTWORK LOCATIONS

Artists’ proposals must address the areas outlined in the image below. Artists are encouraged to review the information provided on the County Parks website, including potential installation locations, site plans, images, and an example of the artist contract which show required insurance types and limits. <https://www.secparks.com/Home/AboutUs/WorkWithUs/CalltoArtists.aspx>



BUDGET - \$26,000

The budget includes all costs associated with, but not limited to design, materials, travel, insurance, fabrication, installation, and documentation of the artwork.

ESTIMATED PROJECT TIMELINE

Although every effort will be made to follow the timeline, the schedule is contingent upon meetings with the selection panel and the County Board of Supervisors.

- **September 12**
Proposals must be received by midnight on the due date. Proposals received after the deadline will not be accepted.
- **mid-September** - Public Art Selection Panel (Panel) meets to review proposals, select finalists.
- **late September** - Panel interviews finalists and selects artist to continue in the process.
- **October** - Arts Commission considers panel’s recommendation of public artist.
- **December** - Board of Supervisors consider artist proposal and agreement.
- **Winter/Spring 2026** - Installation

QUESTIONS?

Email kathy.dewild@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The proposed site-specific artwork should enhance the experience of residents, staff, and facility visitors. Proposal imagery must be appropriate for the facility, which provides a space for treatment and recovery while creating a pathway to long-term housing. Proposals must address one of the areas outlined on the site map: 1) fencing facing Soquel Ave.; 2) free-standing sculpture in the courtyard area; 3) existing guardrail facing Soquel Ave. See images at left for details.

Artwork must satisfy reasonable standards of permanence and safety, meet all relevant codes required for public places, and offer reasonable proof of soundness against theft, vandalism or excessive maintenance and repair. Artists materials and construction must be of permanent quality. All work must be of an appropriate size and design so that it will not create a hazard for residents or the use of maintenance equipment.

In making their decision, the Selection Panel will consider the artistic merit of concept proposal and sketch, artist’s professional qualifications; proven ability to undertake projects of a similar scope; artistic merit as evidenced by the submitted materials; and demonstrated ability to work with a team.

ELIGIBILITY

The project is open to all experienced professional artists. The selected artist must provide proof of general liability insurance coverage, and others types if applicable. Please review the contract example on the parks website for details.