



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

ARTS COMMISSION – AGENDA

Monday, March 2, 2026
4:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Simpkins Swim Ctr./Live Oak Library Activity Rm.
979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR APPROVAL

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Any person may address the Commission during its Oral Communication period. Speakers must not exceed two (2) minutes in length, or the time limit established by the Chair, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications. All Oral Communication must be directed to an item listed on today's Consent Agenda, yet to be heard on Regular Agenda, or a topic not on the agenda that is within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Commission members will not take actions or respond immediately to any Oral communication presented regarding topics not on the agenda but may choose to follow up later, either individually or on a subsequent Commission Agenda. Oral communications will normally be received by the Commission for a period not to exceed thirty (30) minutes. If, at the end of this period, additional persons wish to address the Commission, the Oral Communication period may be continued to the last item on the agenda.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approve meeting minutes from November 17, 2025 Pages 2-3

V. STAFF REPORTS

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Information/Discussion Items

1. Commissioner updates – resignations and new appointments
2. Percent for Arts in Private Development – subcommittee report

B. Action Items

1. Approve Panel recommendation of public artist for Pace Trails Pages 4-8
2. Legacy Award – approve final draft of criteria and application..... Pages 9-10
3. Approve Arts Advisory Panel donation recommendation..... Pages 10-16

VII. AGENDA / MEETING FOR: May 4, 2026 – 4:30 PM

VIII. ADJOURNMENT



County of Santa Cruz

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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR OF PARKS

ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES
November 17, 2025 – 3:00 p.m. – 979 17th Ave., Santa Cruz

DRAFT

I. Called to order: 3:14 p.m. Present: Niven*, Phillips, Singer, Kroslowitz, Stabile, McGowen, Miranda, Leclerc+
Absent / Excused: Rogers Vacant seats: 1 (+left early, *arrived late)
Staff: Sarah Shea, Kathy DeWild

II. Approved Agenda - Motion/Second: Stabile/Kroslowitz

AYES: 7
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

III. Oral Communications – None

VI. Approved Consent Agenda - Motion/Second: Phillips/Kroslowitz

AYES: 7
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 2

V. Staff reports

Bruce Harman's proposal for the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing project goes to the Board of Supervisors for consideration on Dec. 9. A Call to Artists for the Pace Trails public art project went out, with proposals due from artists on Dec. 12. Applications for exhibitions at County Gov. facilities are due from artists on Nov. 30.

The 2025 Winter Wonderland: Breakfast with the Grinch and Holiday Market will be held on Saturday, Dec. 13 at the Simpkins Swim Center; this fun, festive, and family-friendly holiday celebration filled with cheer and community spirit. The Parks planning team is moving forward with plans to create affordable overnight cabins and an environmental education center at Greyhound Rock.

VI. Regular Agenda

A. Information and Discussion Items

1. Arts Commission Attendance record for 2024 and 2025 was provided to the commission for reference
2. Percent for Arts in Private Development – subcommittee members reported on their progress towards a draft policy.

B. Action Items

1. Approved the 2026 Public Art Plan

Motion/Second: Stabile/Miranda

AYES: 8
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1

2. Approved the 2026 Arts Commission meeting schedule

Motion/Second: Kroslowitz/McGowen

AYES: 7

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 2

3. Finalized the Legacy Award criteria and process; will review and approve the edits at the next commission meeting

Motion/Second: Stabile/Phillips

AYES: 8

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1

4. Approved updates to the Spotlight Award nomination process and rating form

Motion/Second: Stabile/Miranda

AYES: 8

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1

5. Approved updates to the Artist of the Year criteria and scoring sheet

Motion/Second: McGowen/Phillips

AYES: 7

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 2

VII. Next meeting date: March 2, 2026 – 4:30 PM.

VIII. Adjournment – 5:46 p.m.

Motion/Second: Kroslowitz/Stabile

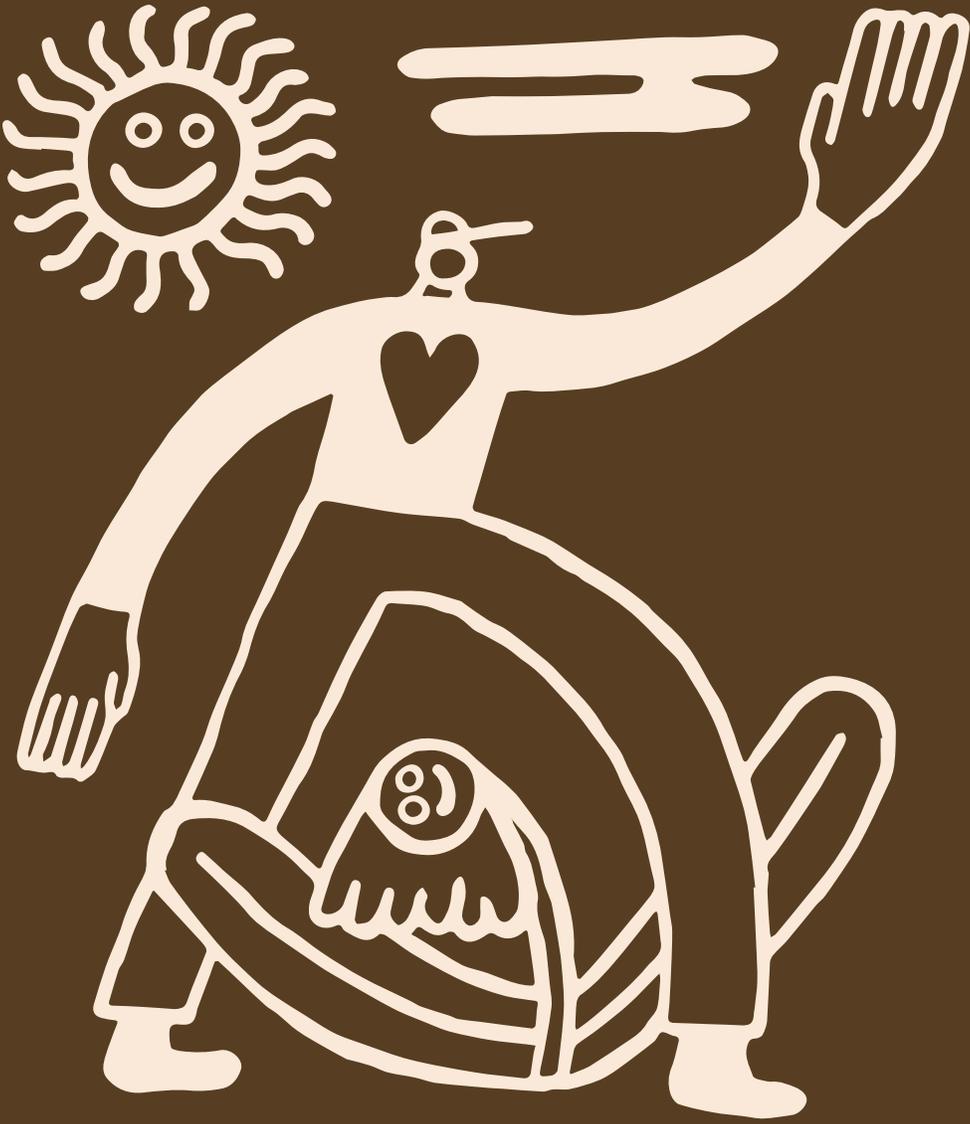
AYES: 8

NOES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1

Pace Trails Construction Project Public Art Project Proposal



Wyatt Hersey
Project Title: Sandhill Sentinels

Notes for Proposal V2

The following proposal contains updated information aimed at addressing the panel's questions including:

- an exploration of a field reversal of the images to create more durable sign construction.
- installation methods elaboration / rendering
- addressing use of thicker steel sheet
- English and Spanish signage

Project Proposal

Project Title: Sandhills Sentinels: Sculptures for the Pace Trail

Project Vision and Approach

The Pace property represents one of Santa Cruz County's most remarkable natural assets—an ecologically unique landscape shaped by sandhills habitat, endemic species, and quiet pockets of oak woodland and stunted redwoods. My proposed project, Sandhills Sentinels, is a series of four powder-coated steel sculptures installed along the new Pace Trail, designed to enrich visitors' understanding and appreciation of the area's rare biological heritage while maintaining a low-impact, durable, and site-integrated presence.

Each sculpture will highlight a species or ecological feature native to the Pace property:

- Ben Lomond Spineflower
- Ben Lomond Wallflower
- Mount Hermon June Beetle
- Zayante Band-Winged Grasshopper

These species are emblematic of the imperiled sandhills environment. Representing them through clean, graphic silhouettes in steel allows the artwork to become both an interpretive moment and a visual celebration of the land's distinct natural history.

The works will be designed in a style consistent with my practice: bold, modern linework translated into sculptural form through precisely CNC-cut steel, finished in durable, UV-stable powder coat. This aesthetic harmonizes well with the understated character of the trail network while offering impactful visual markers for hikers encountering the artworks.

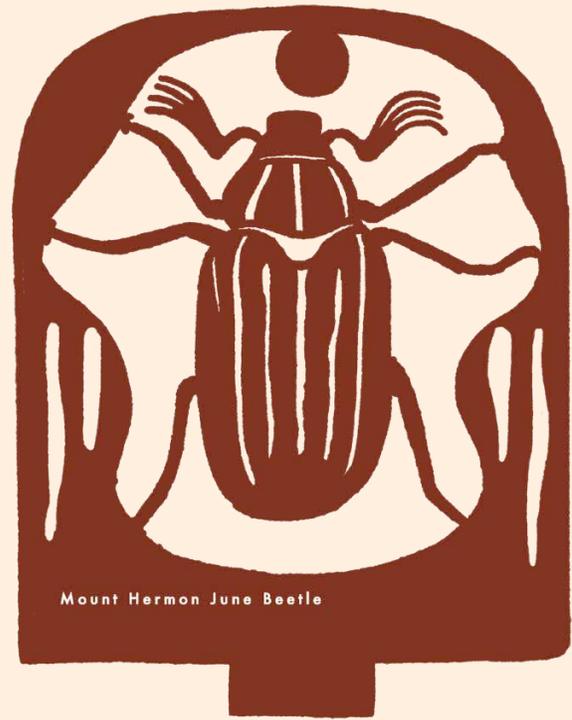
Site Integration and Installation Concept

The sculptures will be mounted on posts (material tbd) set into the earth with a small poured cement anchor, allowing installation using only hand tools and minimal ground disturbance in accordance with the Pace property deed and habitat-protection requirements.

- Primary installation preference: At or near the trailhead where the Pace Access Trail joins the Quail Hollow Sunset Trail (as encouraged in the RFP). This placement creates an immediate educational and aesthetic experience for hikers as they enter the sensitive sandhills landscape.
- Secondary placements: Along the Loop Trail at natural pauses—overlooks, junctions, or transitions between habitat zones. The sculptures function as gentle markers that unfold the ecological story as hikers progress through the trail network.

Each post-mounted sculpture will stand approximately 3–4 feet above grade, ensuring visibility while maintaining an unobtrusive footprint. The works will require no concrete footings and will be installed using tamped native soil and compact hand-dug post holes to protect the fragile terrain.

Visual Support (updated)



These concepts have been updated to result in signs with a greater structural integrity than the originally proposed concepts. These will be executed as powder coated steel cutouts, similar to 'Relevant Work Sample 1 & 2'. These could potentially range in size from 12''x12'' up to 15''x45'' or higher depending on parks' recommendations for the site, as well as cost of fabrication.

Note about language: these names will be written in both English and Spanish, and I would like to consult the panel regarding selection of names. These are very rare and specialized plants and the spanish names are not easily found online. I included one spanish name as an example of how they would look.

Fabrication and Materials

All four sculptures will be fabricated from durable 1/4" steel, CNC cut and welded by Hirschfield Fabrications (Alameda, CA) using industry standard equipment. **1/4" steel will be very strong and durable and will create a sign with an expected lifetime of 25 years on the low end.** Surfaces will be finished by Grizzly Powder Coating (Santa Cruz, CA) with outdoor-grade powder coating to withstand sun exposure, moisture, and general wear. Color choices will be natural, earthy, and in keeping with the surrounding environment—such as muted greens, rust tones, or charcoal—ensuring the artworks complement rather than interrupt the landscape.

The use of steel provides:

- High durability in an outdoor setting
- Minimal maintenance requirements
- Resistance to vandalism and weather
- Structural longevity suitable for public art

Posts will be sustainably sourced, rot-resistant 4x4 lumber or other material (e.g., cedar or redwood), hand-installed to meet County safety standards.

Fabrication & Installation Schedule

March–May 2026

- Final design development in collaboration with County Parks staff
- Fabrication drawings and engineering review (if required)

June–August 2026

- CNC cutting, surface preparation, and powder coating
- Preparation of mounting hardware and posts

Early Fall 2026

- On-site installation using hand tools only
- Documentation and final walkthrough with County representatives
- The entire project will be completed in alignment with the County's Fall 2026 installation target.

Maintenance, Durability, and Safety

The artworks are designed to meet public-art durability standards. Powder-coated steel is among the most resilient materials for outdoor environments, requiring only occasional cleaning and periodic inspection of mounting hardware. The post-mounted design decreases the risk of theft or displacement and requires little to no long-term maintenance.

Installation Method Elaboration / Rendering

The pieces will be installed mounted to rot resistant Redwood 4''x4'' beams. Each beam will be set into the ground with a concrete base, and the sign itself will be mounted using a custom bracket that will be welded onto the base of the sign. See below rendering to get an idea of what I'm thinking.



County of Santa Cruz Arts Commission - Living Legacy Award

Purpose

The Living Legacy Award recognizes and honors individuals who have made a significant, lasting impact on the arts in Santa Cruz County through a lifelong commitment to artistic practice, teaching, or leadership in the performing, literary, or visual arts. This award celebrates those whose work has enriched the cultural fabric of the community and continues to inspire future generations; it may be awarded posthumously.

Eligibility Criteria

Nominated artist must:

- Be a current or long-term resident of Santa Cruz County.
- Demonstrate a history of significant contribution to performing, literary, or visual arts.
- Show evidence of community engagement through arts-related teaching or mentorship
- Have a body of work or practice that reflects sustained artistic excellence and influence
- Be actively engaged in their artistic field or retired with an enduring legacy

Nomination Process

Nominations may be submitted by individuals, arts organizations, or community members. Each nomination must include:

- A completed nomination form that includes nominator and nominee contact information, as well as artist's website and social media links (if available)
- A résumé or biography of the nominee
- A letter of support outlining the nominee's contributions and impact
- Examples of the nominee's work, as follows:
 - Visual Artists: Email up to 5 digital images no larger than 2 MB each that best represent the nominee's body of work, with a corresponding PDF list that identifies the piece with title, media, date created, and dimensions (if appropriate). Please do not submit original artwork.
 - Performing Artists: Submit a video (MP4, WMV, or YouTube link) or Audio file (.MP3) - that best represents the artist's work, up to three 2- minute files.
 - Literary Artists: A PDF that includes up to 3 samples of the artist's work, not to exceed 10 pages.

Selection Process

The Santa Cruz County Arts Commission will review nominations annually based on the award criteria. One recipient will be selected annually, unless the Commission determines none of the nominees meets the criteria. Nominations will be held for up to three years for the Commission's consideration.

Award Presentation

The Living Legacy Award will be presented publicly at an event determined by the Arts Commission. The recipient will receive formal recognition from the County Board of Supervisors and may be invited to share their work with the community through an exhibition, performance, reading, or talk.

Review and Amendments

This procedure will be reviewed periodically by the Arts Commission to ensure its relevance and effectiveness. Amendments may be proposed and adopted by a majority vote of the Commission.

Rating Criteria

Each criterion should be rated on a scale of **1-10**, with 1 representing "Needs Improvement" and 10 representing "Exceptional." The total possible score is 40 points.

Artistic Excellence (1-10)

Evaluate the nominee's body of work and its quality.

Sustained Artistic Practice (1-10)

Consider the longevity and consistency of the nominee's artistic output and dedication to their craft.

Community Impact (1-10)

Assess the nominee's influence within the local community and beyond.

Leadership and Advocacy for the Arts (1-5)

Evaluate the nominee's involvement in arts advocacy, leadership roles, organizing arts-related events or programs, and teaching or mentorship

Rating Explanation:

- **1-2 – Needs Improvement:** The nominee shows minimal contribution or achievement in this area.
- **3-4 – Fair:** The nominee has some contribution, but there is room for growth in this area.
- **5-6 – Good:** The nominee meets expectations, with solid contributions in this area.
- **7-8 – Very Good:** The nominee excels in this area and shows strong, consistent impact.
- **9-10 – Exceptional:** The nominee demonstrates outstanding achievement, leadership, or impact in this area.

TO HONOR THE WOMEN OF THE WATER

Santa Cruz is widely recognized as the birthplace of surfing on the mainland United States. In 1885, three young Hawaiian princes introduced the sport to California by riding waves on redwood boards at the mouth of the San Lorenzo River, igniting a legacy that has defined the city's identity for over 140 years. Surfing is deeply woven into our cultural fabric and economy.

For more than 30 years, the iconic bronze statue "**To Honor Surfing**" has stood sentinel on West Cliff Drive, overlooking the legendary surf breaks of Steamer Lane and symbolizing this enduring heritage. The male figure is not modeled after any specific person; it represents the archetypal surfer and the spirit of surfing itself.



Now, we are bringing balance and completeness to this tribute with a companion female surfer statue on East Cliff Drive, titled "**To Honor the Women of the Water**". Like her male counterpart, she is not a depiction of any one individual—she stands as an archetype, representing all women who embrace the ocean.

Mirroring the original in pose, stature, and artistic vision, she will be bronzed in a wetsuit (a nod to modern practicality and the evolution of surfing).

She will gaze stoically out over the surf break—timeless, resolute, and enduring in her presence. Together, they will unite Santa Cruz by framing East and West, giving each of our most iconic surf breaks—Steamer Lane and now Pleasure Point—its own dedicated landmark.

While rooted in surfing, "Honoring the Women of the Water" celebrates a broader community: the trailblazing women who surf, paddleboard, boat, swim, and simply love the ocean. It recognizes their strength, grace, and contributions across all water pursuits, expanding the legacy to include every woman who finds joy, challenge, and connection in our waves and waters.

The bronze statue is being crafted by the same renowned artists as the original, Brian W. Curtis and Thomas Marsh, ensuring seamless continuity between the two. Alison Hobbs is the project's lead designer while legendary Santa Cruz shaper Bob Pearson (Pearson Arrow Surfboards) is designing the board. And, Tom Raston is creating and constructing the concrete footing and surrounding benches.

ROOTED IN SURFING... CELEBRATING THE COMMUNITY WHO SIMPLY LOVES THE OCEAN

The installation will feature three curved benches framing a welcoming promenade around the statue, creating an inviting gathering space for reflection and ocean views.

Located next to the palm trees at the "Dirt Farm" on East Cliff Drive near Manzanita, this prime spot offers stunning vistas of Pleasure Point and easy public access.



VIEW FROM
WALKWAY APPROACH

Like her counterpart, she will become such a part of our daily lives here in Santa Cruz. We will ride by her, walk by her, sit by her on those curved benches. She will watch us surf, gaze at sunrises and sunsets over the Monterey Bay, and stand as a constant, quiet presence through every season and tide.

PROJECT TIMELINE

February 2026

Public notices
County Arts Commission Proposal

April 2026

Zoning Administrator meeting
Official start to fundraising
Building permit & final art review

Spring-Summer 2026

Sculpture drawings and moldings

Fall-Winter 2026

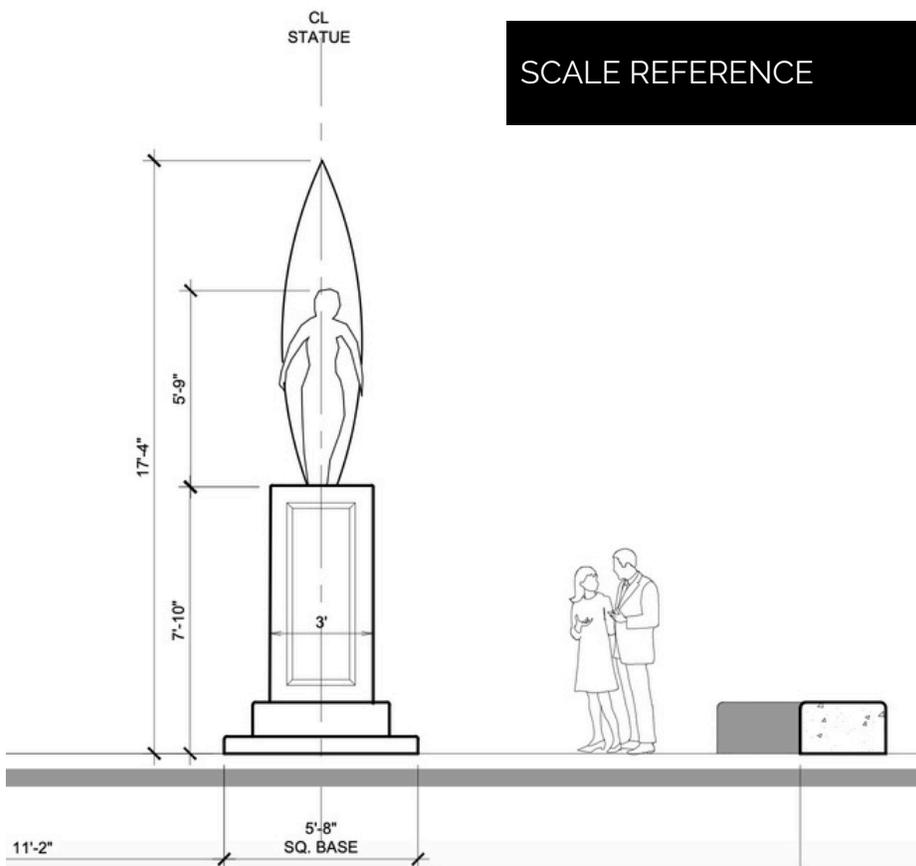
Molds shipped to foundry
Building of internal armor
Bronzecasting

Early 2027

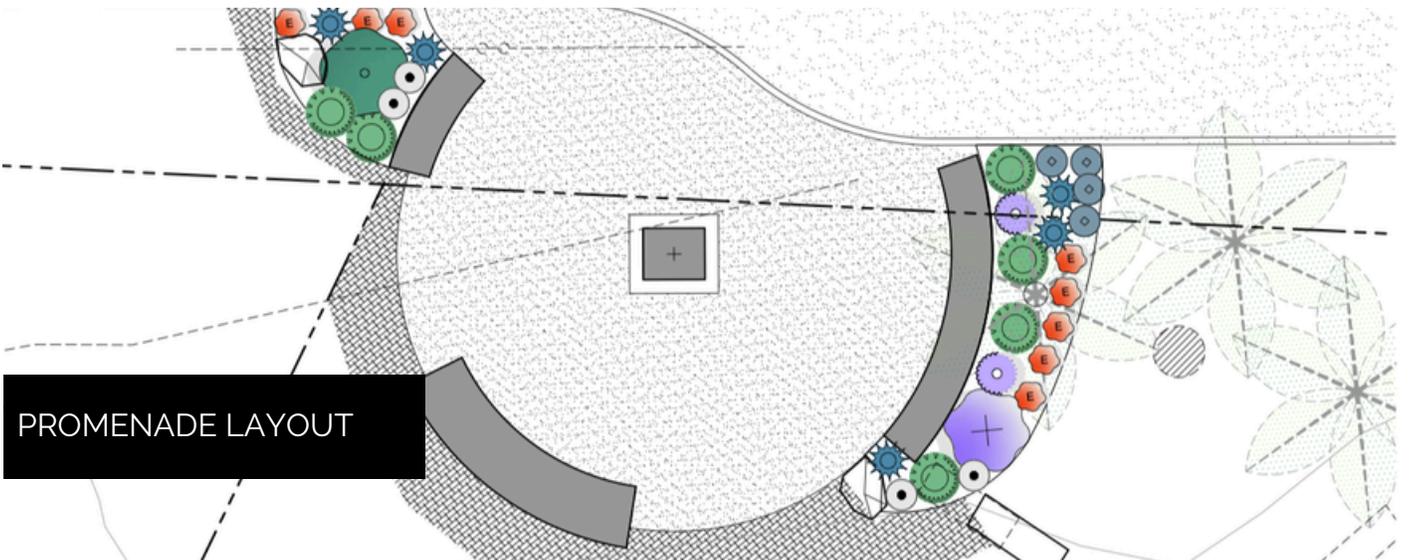
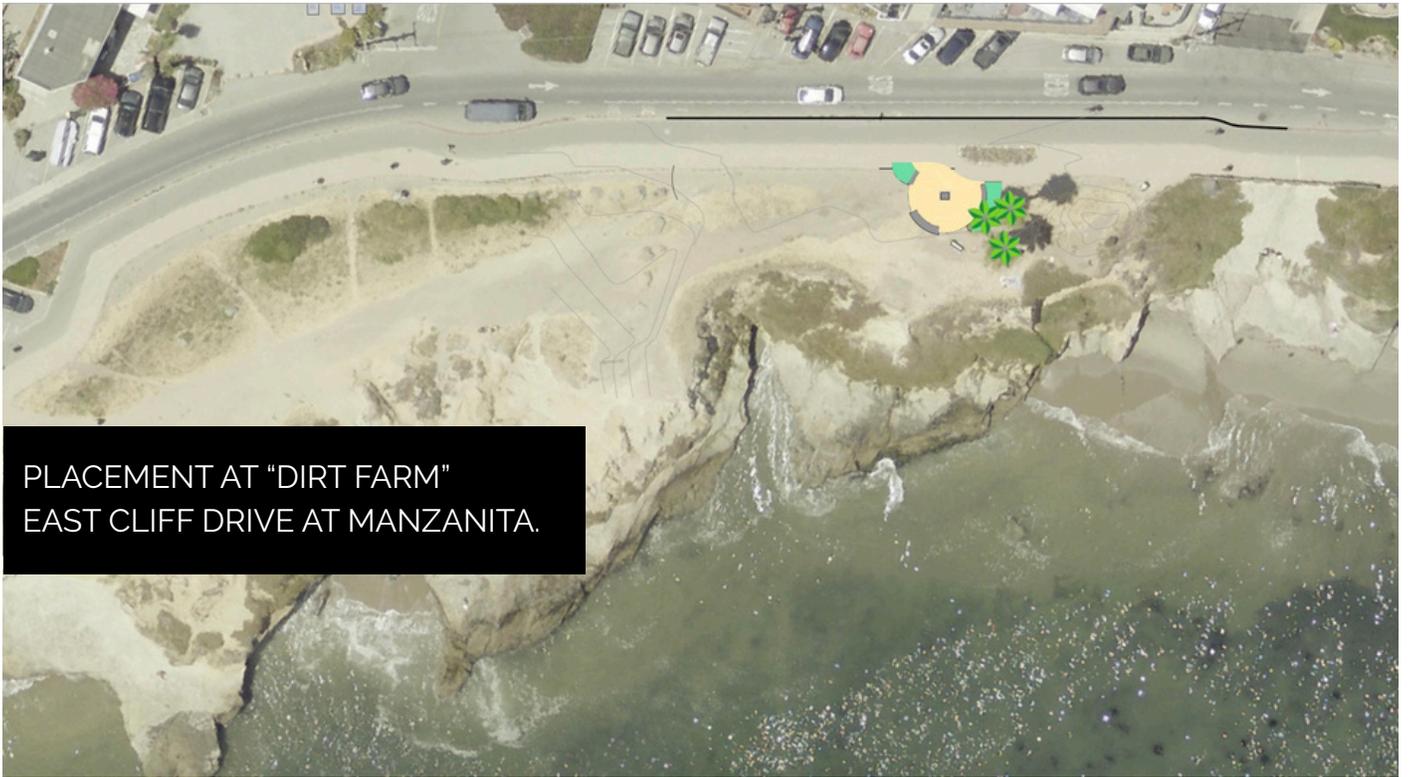
Site preparation

Spring-Early Summer 2027

Project installation



SITE PLANS



ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Thomas Marsh is a renowned American classical figurative sculptor specializing in bronze works. After earning a BFA in painting from the Layton School of Art in Milwaukee in 1974 and an MFA in sculpture from California State University, Long Beach in 1977, he apprenticed under sculptor Milton Hebold in Rome, Italy, where he honed his classical training and won the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Award. Marsh has created numerous prominent public monuments and installations across the United States, including the iconic surfing statue "To Honor Surfing" in Santa Cruz, California; the Goddess of Democracy in San Francisco's Chinatown (1994); Called to Rise at 235 Pine Street in San Francisco; the Victims of Communism Memorial in Washington, D.C. (featuring his recreation of the Tiananmen Square Goddess of Democracy); John the Baptist at Mission San Juan Bautista; sanctuary sculptures such as the Crucifix and "I Thirst" at St. Mary Catholic Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia; and a Marian rosary walk with "Regina Coeli Christus Rex" at St. Isidore the Farmer Church in Orange, California. His pieces grace churches, shrines, memorials, and public spaces nationwide and in Europe, reflecting a deep mastery of anatomy and form to embody spiritual and human narratives.

Brian Curtis is a Santa Cruz native and sculptor best known for his collaboration on the iconic bronze surfing monument "To Honor Surfing" along West Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz, California. Curtis studied art at California State University, Long Beach, where he took classes under sculptor Thomas Marsh, becoming his student and later friend. In the late 1980s, while living on the East Coast, Curtis learned of a national competition to create a surfing monument in his hometown and reached out to Marsh to propose a joint submission. They advanced as finalists among dozens of entries, submitting three maquettes together; their design was selected in 1989. The collaborative bronze work—engineered to withstand earthquakes and high winds, featuring a period-style redwood surfboard pattern by local shapers—was dedicated in May 1992 at Lighthouse Point near Steamer Lane and the Santa Cruz Surfing Museum. It honors surfers past, present, and future and remains one of Santa Cruz's most recognized public artworks.

ESTIMATE AND FUNDING

The sculpture has an anticipated cost of \$250,000.

Fundraising for the entire project will be through a campaign by County Park Friends, including funds for at least 5 conservation treatments.

MAINTENANCE PLAN

Routine Maintenance

- Regular Inspections – The statue should be checked weekly or at least monthly for signs of corrosion, graffiti, or damage.
- Cleaning – The statue should be gently cleaned with water and a soft-bristle brush to remove dirt, bird droppings, and salt deposits. A garden hose with a sprayer is sufficient for general upkeep.
- Graffiti Removal – In case of vandalism, consulting a conservator is advised. Hot water may help remove graffiti without damaging the wax coating.

Conservation Treatments

Conservation consultant has recommended every 1-5 years. West Cliff statue has only had this done 1 time in 2023, 30 years after the installation.

- Cleaning and Wax Reapplication – The statue should be cleaned more thoroughly with a cold water pressure wash and re-coated with a microcrystalline wax to protect against corrosion.
- Spot Repagination – Areas with fading or worn patina may need touch-ups with patination chemicals to maintain the original aesthetic.
- Anti-Corrosion Treatment – Application of benzotriazole solutions can help slow the effects of environmental salts.

Estimated Costs

- Routine maintenance materials and supplies: \$375-500 annually
- Conservation treatments estimate \$5,000-10,000