

**(2:10PM) MURAL EVALUATION REPORT**

**3. 604 E ORTEGA ST**

Assessor's Parcel Number: 031-172-002  
 Zone: P-R  
 Application Number: PLN2019-00425  
 Owner: City of Santa Barbara  
 Applicant: Justin Van Mullem, Parks & Recreation Department

(Proposal for renovations for Ortega Park. Project consists of a new playing field, expanded pool, water slide, basketball court, skate park, bocce ball courts, corn hole courts, splash pad, shade structures, and two play structures. Also proposed are head-in parking spaces, reconfigured walkways, new pedestrian lighting, and new fencing and gates. This project will require Planning Commission review and has not been reviewed for compliance with the Santa Barbara Municipal Code Title 30.)

**A. Requesting acceptance of a Mural Evaluation Report, prepared by Site & Studio Conservation, LLC. The report concluded that seven of the murals are eligible to be designated Structures of Merit and evaluated and recommended treatment plans for the significant murals.**

**RECUSAL:** To avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest, Commissioner Manuel recused himself from hearing this item.

Present: Nicole Hernandez, Architectural Historian, City of Santa Barbara; Julia Pujo, Project Planner, City of Santa Barbara; Justin Van Mullem, Project Planner, City of Santa Barbara; Jill Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director, City of Santa Barbara; Andrew Bermond, Parks Capital Project Supervisor, City of Santa Barbara; Kiernan Graves, Site & Studio Conservation, LLC; and Stephanie Swanson, Associate Planner, City of Santa Barbara

Public comment opened at 2:54 p.m.

The following individuals spoke:

1. Anne Petersen
2. Barbara Parmet
3. Frederick Janka
4. Holly Barnet-Sanchez
5. Kai Tepper
6. Manuel Unzueta
7. Mike Imwalle
8. Mark Alvarado

Written correspondence from Adam Jahnke, Ann Hefferman, Anne Petersen, the Association of Raza Educators, Barbara Parmet, Chuck Flacks, Holly Barnet-Sanchez, and Mike Imwalle was acknowledged.

Public comment closed at 3:13 p.m.

**Motion: Continue indefinitely with comments:**

1. The report writer should return with an evaluation of the park as a historic resource.
2. In general, the Commission feels that the murals are of value as a cultural resource and supports some means to protect them, which needs to be further explored by staff.
3. Any decisions should have extensive community involvement.

Action: Mahan/Hausz, 7/1/0. (Lenvik opposed. Manuel absent.) Motion carried.

Individual Comments: Commissioner Lenvik opposed because he finds the request to be poorly defined and structured.

**B. Requesting acceptance of the Architectural Historian report evaluating the proposed mural relocation, demolition and reproduction for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to be included in the Mitigated Negative Declaration for final approval by Planning Commission.**

**Item 3.B not heard as acceptance of the report is contingent upon Item 3.A.**

**(3:00PM) MISCELLANEOUS ACTION ITEM: RESOLUTION OF INTENTION**

**4. 604 E ORTEGA ST**

Assessor's Parcel Number: 031-172-002  
Reference Number: PLN2021-00039  
Owner: City of Santa Barbara

(Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 22.22.035.(d)(2), the permit request of a possibly historic structure shall be scheduled at the Historic Landmarks Commission for a hearing on the application concurrently with a duly noticed hearing to allow the Commission to decide among the following options: 1) Listing on the Potential Historic Resources List, 2) Structure of Merit designation, or 3) City Landmark designation of seven of the Ortega Park Murals.)

**RECUSAL:** To avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest, Commissioner Manuel recused himself from hearing this item.

Actual time: 4:35 p.m.

Public comment opened at 4:35 p.m.

The following individual spoke:

1. Mark Alvarado

Public comment closed at 4:37 p.m.

**Motion: Continue indefinitely with the comment that consideration of the murals as a historic resource is contingent on the approval of the Mural Evaluation Report.**

Action: Hausz/Doordan, 8/0/0. (Manuel absent.) Motion carried.

**(2:55PM) CONTINUED ITEM: MURAL EVALUATION REPORT**

4. **604 E ORTEGA ST**  
Assessor's Parcel Number: 031-172-002  
Zone: P-R (P-R)  
Application Number: PLN2019-00425  
Owner: City of Santa Barbara  
Applicant: Justin Van Mullem, Parks & Recreation Department

(Proposal for renovations for Ortega Park. Project consists of a new playing field, expanded pool, water slide, basketball court, skate park, bocce ball courts, corn hole courts, splash pad, shade structures, and two play structures. Also proposed are head-in parking spaces, reconfigured walkways, new pedestrian lighting, and new fencing and gates. This project will require Planning Commission review and has not been reviewed for compliance with the Santa Barbara Municipal Code Title 30.)

**Requesting acceptance of a Mural Evaluation Report, prepared by Site & Studio Conservation, LLC. The report concluded that five of the murals are individually significant and evaluated and recommended treatment plans for the significant murals. The Mural Evaluation Report was last reviewed at Full Commission on February 3, 2021.**

**RECUSAL:** To avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest, Commissioner Manuel recused himself from hearing this item due to a conflict of interest with the Owner.

Actual time: 2:52 p.m.

Present: Justin Van Mullem, Project Planner, City of Santa Barbara; and Julia Pujo, Environmental Analyst, City of Santa Barbara

Public comment opened at 3:25 p.m.,

The following individual(s) spoke:

1. Frederick Janka
2. Kathy McGill
3. Lisa Valencia Sherratt
4. Mark Alvarado
5. Sarah Rubin
6. Marina Martinez

Written correspondence from Cassandra Ensberg and Michael Imwalle was acknowledged.

Public comment closed at 3:40 p.m.

**Motion: Accept the Mural Evaluation Report as submitted.**

Action: Mahan/Ooley, 8/0/0. (Manuel absent.) Motion carried.



Public Comment Received for:  
Item 4: 604 E Ortega St  
(PLN2019-00425)

Name of Sender	Distributed prior to hearing	Distributed after the hearing
1. Cassandra Ensberg	x	
2. Michael Imwalle	x	
3. Marina Martinez		x

**From:** [cass ensberg](#)  
**To:** [Community Development HLCsecretary](#)  
**Cc:** [Riviera HA BM; Nicole Hernandez; Anne Petersen](#)  
**Subject:** Ortega Park - a historical treasure  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021 10:12:03 AM

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## EXTERNAL

Honorable HLC Honorable Chair Grumbine and Commissioners,  
(I do not have Commissioners Edmonds or Manuel email address - i hope that they will also receive this)

### **For your consideration regarding the proposed new Ortega Park-**

In my humble opinion this park - not only the murals but the park itself - as it currently exists - is what I would call "the real deal", a treasure and a Santa Barbara original. It is unique to Santa Barbara and I believe that places like this are essential to maintain and preserve if we wish to keep our Santa Barbara history, character, and aesthetic.

Functionally - Ortega Park serves an important role as expansion of outdoor recreation and living space for so many who live in the smaller homes surrounding the park - readily accessible and with the comfort of familiarity and the inspiration that the murals provide.

Ortega Park is a treasure - again - in my opinion - deserves to be preserved and restored - as the small local neighborhood park that it is. All should be repaired or replaced as originally designed.

I would also like to see the Junior High restored as well as the stunning backdrop to Ortega Park. This work focus would instill community pride and should be a high priority as one of Santa Barbara's most beautiful and important buildings.

With all due respect - I believe that the proposed design with fences, gates, increased parking, the big pool, and regulation size soccer field are unnecessary and out of scale for this park that whose primary function needs to continue to serve the surrounding neighborhood - just like Alameda Park, Shoreline Park and so many others in our community. Neighborhoods all need their accessible open park spaces.

I would note that regarding inappropriate activity that has occurred and that is commonly mentioned as the reason for fencing and gates is not unique to Ortega Park only. There are better ways to address these issues and I would even venture to suggest that the proposed park design could, in fact, exacerbate these social problems.

Finally - with regard to grants - It seems to me that we have somehow gotten to a place where available grants are driving our process. I believe this is out of order and gets us into trouble. I believe that we should start with our need and the solution and then find the funding from the community through a foundation (like was done at the SB Bowl) or through a grant that might fit the need.

I will stop there and appreciate your consideration of these thoughts.

With gratitude to HLC for your important work to preserve our history and authenticity.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Ensberg

Cassandra Ensberg FAIA, LEED AP  
Cell: 805 455 8332

*This message is intended only for the individual named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the addressee, please respond via email to notify us that you have received this email by error, and please delete all email and contents permanently.*

## Public Comment #2

**From:** [Mike Imwalle](#)  
**To:** [Community Development HLCsecretary](#)  
**Cc:** [Anne Petersen](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item No. 4, Ortega Park Mural Evaluation Report  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021 11:27:10 AM

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EXTERNAL

HLC Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this item. My name is Michael Imwalle. I am the Associate Executive Director of Cultural Resources for the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP). As an organization, we have been following this item very closely over the last several months. SBTHP is supportive of the preservation of five of the murals and that they have been identified in the revised evaluation report as Significant Cultural Resources.

We are also supportive of the recommendation to include a new mural depicting a Chumash settlement on the former Estero and that this mural be created under the guidance of Chumash artists. SBTHP further recommends consultation with Barbareño Chumash artists on any murals being recreated or re-envisioned that contain content related to Chumash culture or symbolism.

Lastly, SBTHP would be supportive of community-based efforts to remove and preserve the de-accessioned murals so that they could be stored and potentially reinstalled elsewhere to be enjoyed by the community.

Sincerely,

**Michael H. Imwalle**

Associate Executive Director of Cultural Resources  
Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation  
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
805-962-2101 (off.)  
805-452-7546 (cell)  
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email signature 2



## PLEASE BE ADVISED

The following public comment was not received in time to process. Distribution to the Historic Landmarks Commission occurred after the meeting.

## Public Comment #3

**From:** [M. Martinez](#)  
**To:** [Community Development HLCsecretary](#)  
**Cc:** [Jill Zachary](#); [Ricardo Venegas](#)  
**Subject:** Statement & Recommendation from SOPAC...  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 21, 2021 1:59:55 PM

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EXTERNAL

To the Historic Landmarks Commission,

After making several recommendations to City Council and having participated in the murals working group meeting, to satisfy the request of the City Council, we the members of SOPAC support the recommendations being presented by the Parks and Recreation Department today. We have compromised and have come to a consensus and a meeting of the minds with various players recently involved in the Ortega Park Renewal Project efforts. Given this, your decision to approve the project as it is being recommended today should be very simple, a no-brainer.

Our community deserves this much needed park renovation and there should be nothing impeding this project from moving forward at this point. Please keep in mind that this request also comes as a result of health and safety concerns regarding the condition of the park that the community has voiced to the City over the years. This project is long overdue and we have been asking for the renovation for 25 plus years.

We look forward to moving on with the project and to your response. Please ensure that this statement and recommendation is included in the public comments for the HLC meeting today.

Thank you for your time,

Marina Martinez

c/s

Muralist/Ortega Park 2001-2007

Executive Board member of the Save Ortega Park Art Committee (SOPAC)

El Congreso de UCSB Alumni