



General Pubic Comment

Name of Sender	Distributed prior to hearing	Distributed after the hearing
1. George Nicks	x	
2. Anna Marie Gott	x	

From: [george nicks](#)
To: [Community Development HLCsecretary](#)
Subject: De la guerra Plaza
Date: Sunday, March 06, 2022 4:14:37 PM

You don't often get email from georgenicks@me.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

EXTERNAL

Dear Commissioners,

After seeing the ridiculous public response to the proposed renovation of De la Guerra Plaza, I wanted to voice my strong support for the planned improvements. At the moment, the plaza is almost never used due to the focus on parking making the tiny grass square ugly and sad. Thanks to just a handful of parking spots taking up most of the space, the square is essentially useless, and means that the wonderful historical buildings, including City Hall and the Casa de la Guerra are not supported in the way they should. Visit any weekday, and you are unlikely to see anyone utilizing the plaza as a place to hang out, have a picnic, or bring their kids to play.

Moreover, I'm sure a lot of water is wasted maintaining the useless lawn in the center. The original vision of the area has been destroyed to create a wasteful and ugly parking lot and I'd be glad to see it go. There is also plenty of parking nearby, and I see no reason why we need to devote so much space around some of the oldest and most beautiful buildings in Santa Barbara to parking when there are so many other places to park nearby. The traffic study supports the idea that the nearby parking lots can easily absorb the capacity.

If the plan is carried out successfully I could see the area becoming similar to the Courthouse and sunken gardens, if not even more popular due to its proximity to State Street. Also, by making the area more walkable it could reduce the overall need for cars in the area. In terms of business, the amount of business generated by car traffic on De la Guerra is essentially nothing. Connecting it to a walkable State Street would probably dramatically increase business and spread it further into businesses nearby. This phenomenon has been observed in cities across the world as they declare their city centers. As someone who walks consistently, I loathe spaces that are anti pedestrian, and see the closing of State Street to car traffic to be one of the best decisions ever made by our local government. I fervently support any attempt to make the city more walkable. Overall I hope this is just the beginning, a first step in recreating a walkable, bikeable, and more livable Santa Barbara.

Thank you,
George Nicks

Public Comment #2

From: [Anna Marie Gott](#)
To: [Leon Olson; Community Development ABRsecretary; Community Development HLCsecretary](#)
Subject: Public Comments: Your Fake Mural Guidelines
Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2022 9:38:55 PM
Attachments: [Funk Zone Mural Program - Email June 1, 2015 - Council Review.pdf](#)
[Funk Zone Mural Program - Draft 2014 - 4-28-14.pdf](#)
[Funk Zone - Mural Packet - 2015 Approval of Spaces - 5-17-17 NOTE.pdf](#)

EXTERNAL

Hi,

I heard that the Fake Mural Program reared its ugly head at the ABR this week for a project at 11 Anacapa. I also heard that a Staff Member failed to respond to Mr. Olson's questions about the program. I'm not sure how that happened because I made a huge stink about the Fake Mural Program for quite a while in 2019 and I doubt anyone forgot about it.

Perhaps it is time for the ABR and HLC to hold a joint hearing on this issue. Why? The documents the City had stuffed away on a program that was never approved illustrate to me the need put in place a strong ethics policy that holds Staff Members accountable to lying to the public and Board Members.

I for one am sorry Mr. Olson didn't have the information he needed and I am sorrier still that our ABR members are giving PDA to projects where Staff knows that there are problems such as the ones with the Fake Mural Program or the lack of a lighting plan for a facility that is likely going to be lit up like Las Vegas when it eventually comes back to the ABR.

Best,
A

PS

11 Anacapa is adjacent to a buildings in the HLC.

Do we really want outlandish huge murals (or signs posing as murals) lighting up this building?

And what are we going to do when an outlandish lighting system is installed before Final or After Final?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Anna Marie Gott** <anna.marie.gott@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Jul 30, 2019 at 11:06 AM

Subject: Your Fake Mural Guidelines for ABR -

To: Tava Ostrenger <TOstrenger@santabarbaraca.gov>, Nina Johnson

<njohnson@santabarbaraca.gov>, Matthew Ozyilmaz <MOzyilmaz@santabarbaraca.gov>

Cc: Ariel Calonne <acalonne@santabarbaraca.gov>, Paul Casey

<pcasey@santabarbaraca.gov>, Buell, George <gbuell@santabarbaraca.gov>, Irma Unzueta

<iunzueta@santabarbaraca.gov>, Brooke, Renee <RBrooke@santabarbaraca.gov>,

<torrie@artsfunds.org>, Community Development ABRsecretary

<abrsecretary@santabarbaraca.gov>, Community Development HLCsecretary

<HLCSecretary@santabarbaraca.gov>, Rick Closson <rgclosson@gmail.com>, Steve Dowty

<stevenedowty@gmail.com>, Donald Sharpe <donauldgsharpe@gmail.com>

HLC Secretary: Please forward to the HLC for Public Comment at the August 7th meeting.

Tava, Nina and Matthew,

The document you claim in yesterdays ABR meeting are the Funk Zone Mural Guidelines is the **draft from 2014**. The Applicant read from them in the meeting held that day and they were part of the materials for that meeting. These documents were submitted on 4/28/14. **They were never approved** and the City Attorney had no records of this program when I asked for them in February of this year. This leaves me to conclude that little work was done, if any, and that this program was not only not completed, but never approved whatever the intent for that was.

- **SEE:** FZMP - Draft 2014

On 4/28/14 the Board required this condition in the discussion: "After three years, the Board reserves the option to again review the art and mural program and analyze the success of the program."

- Luckily the ABR can change this soon to be horror show of logos, string lights, spot lights and other signs in the Funk Zone since you say they have the right to do so.
- This program **needs to go to the Arts Commission or someone else or a combination of entities**. The Arts Fund frankly isn't to be trusted at this point and they know it. If they can't be honest about the fact that NO final Mural Guidelines exist means no one should trust them.
- The Funk Zone sign is lit up like a Christmas tree and there are a lot of people upset over this. Much work went into ensuring that Santa Barbara doesn't look like Southern California with billboards, neon signs and tacky banners. The aesthetics help to drive the economy and few people really understand this. If Santa Barbara looked like Santa Maria would people really want to vacation here? The answer is: NO.
- This program which now includes the Funk Zone sign masquerading as a mural is the kind of thing that could harm what people have created for two reasons: greed and a sense of entitlement .- But that is what the Funk Zone is all about now. So, I shouldn't be surprised, but I am.

Attached is the email from the Applicant asking about REVISED language for the Mural Program dated 6/1/2015. **The Guidelines which I mentioned first were never approved and this again illustrates that undeniable fact.**

- "City Council review of your revised art mural language for the City as a whole."
 - **SEE:** FZMP Approval of Spaces.
 - **SEE:** FZMP Needs Council Review - 6-1-15.

In the 6/8/15 meeting at ABR Jamie specifically states that Council will review temporary art inside and outside of EPV. This again backs up what is mentioned above.

- Council never approve these Guidelines or saw this program as mentioned at the meeting
 - **SEE:** [6/8/15 \(Video 48 minutes\)](#)

- There was no resolution at ABR, HLC or City Council,
- **Further, they violate the Sign Ordinance and CEQA if there are historical structures involved and there is no mention of the HLC's role with regards to the El Pueblo Viejo which encompasses areas of the Funk Zone.**

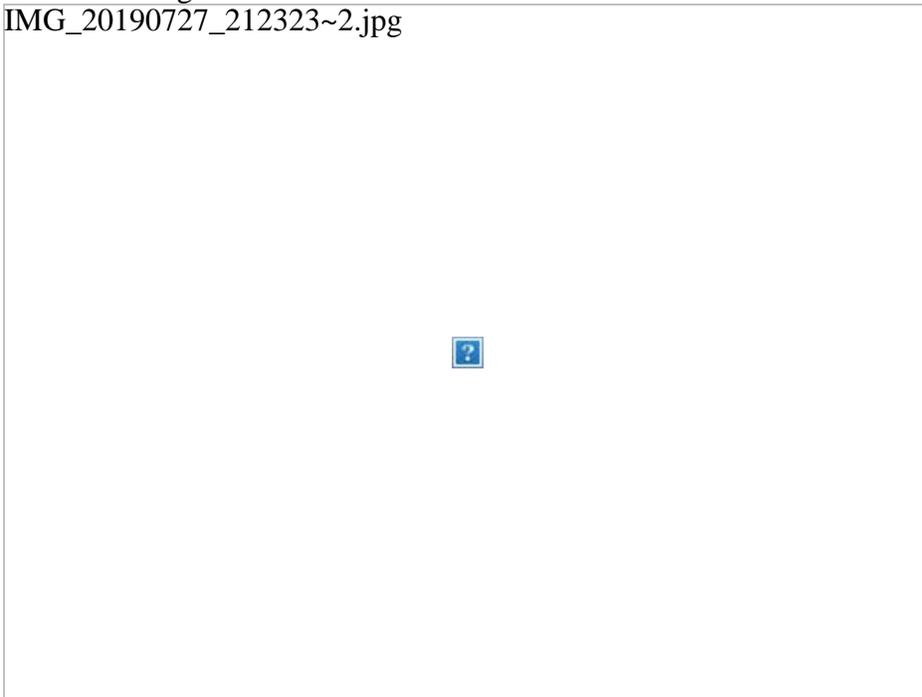
If Staff continues to declare that there is a Funk Zone Mural Guideline Program that was properly approved then they are abusing the trust the ABR has in Staff. Why? Facilitating the deception that this is some sort of approved program that the ABR should continue to use to permit more approvals is dishonest.

So, I ask you to review this information and the facts and then scrape together some integrity in order to have an honest discussion with the ABR over this mess so they, the HLC and the City can fix this mess.

Regards,
A

Funk Zone Sign:

IMG_20190727_212323~2.jpg



1 Location: MUNICIPAL Winery
Address: 22 Anacapa Street
Owner: Kim Hughes

ABR



of Murals: 1
Dimensions: 39'x8'
Artist Coordinator: The Arts Fund

Notes:
Mural by Youth Interactive / VADA students

033-113-008



ALL APPROVED
AS OF 5/17/17

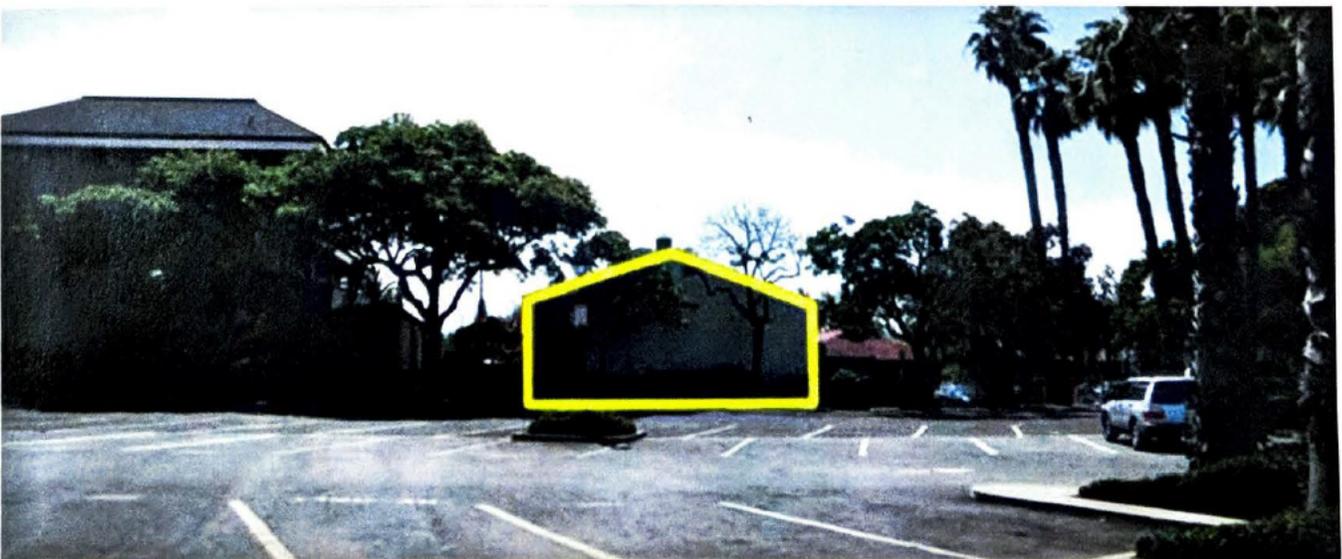
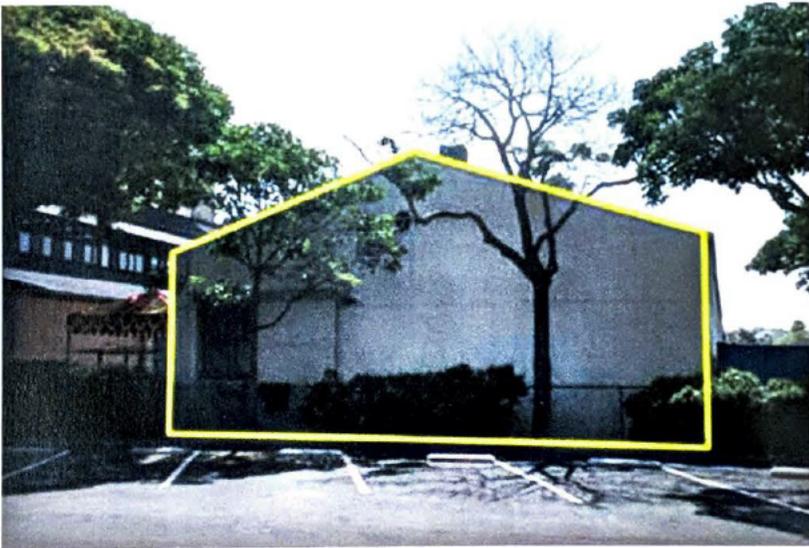
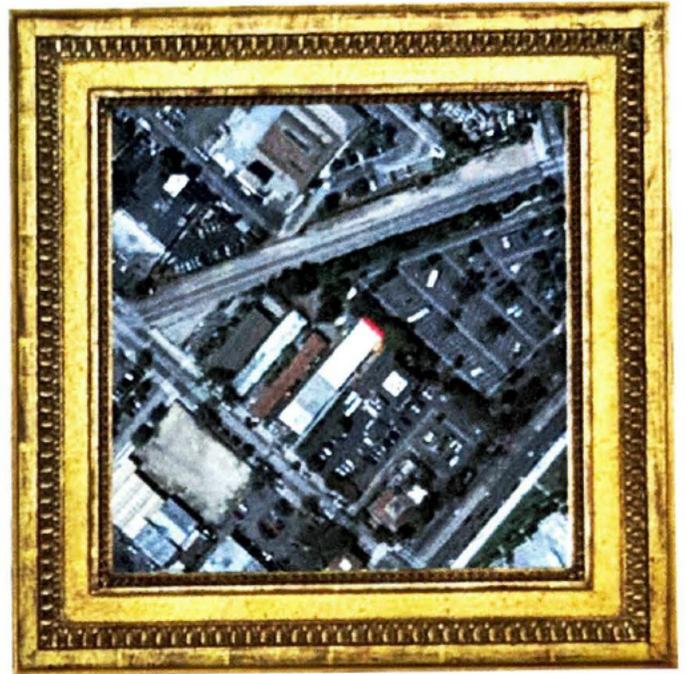


ABR reviewed all locations

2 Address: 22 Anacapa Street
Owner: Kim Hughes

AKR

of Murals: 1
Dimensions: 40'x13-20'
Artist Coordinator: The Arts Fund
Notes:
Artist TBD



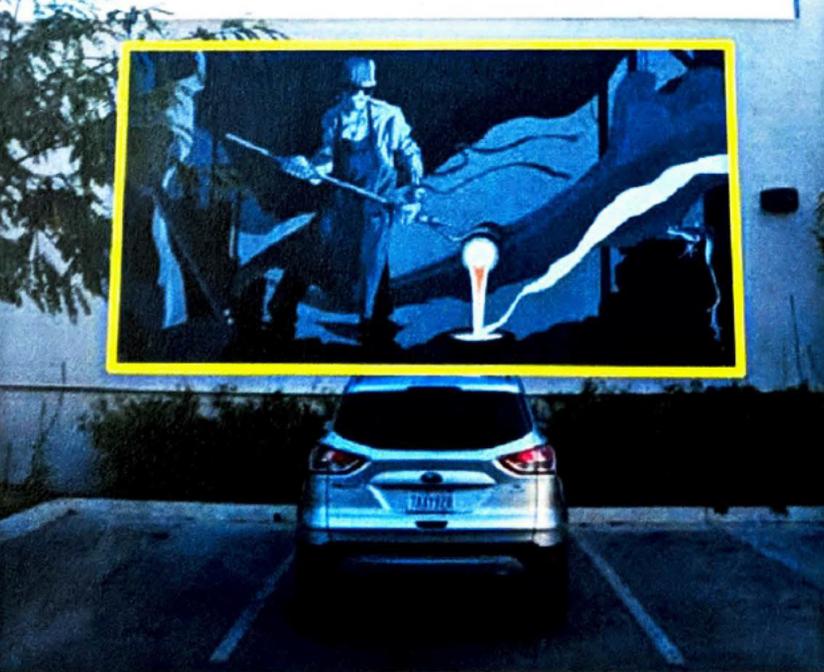
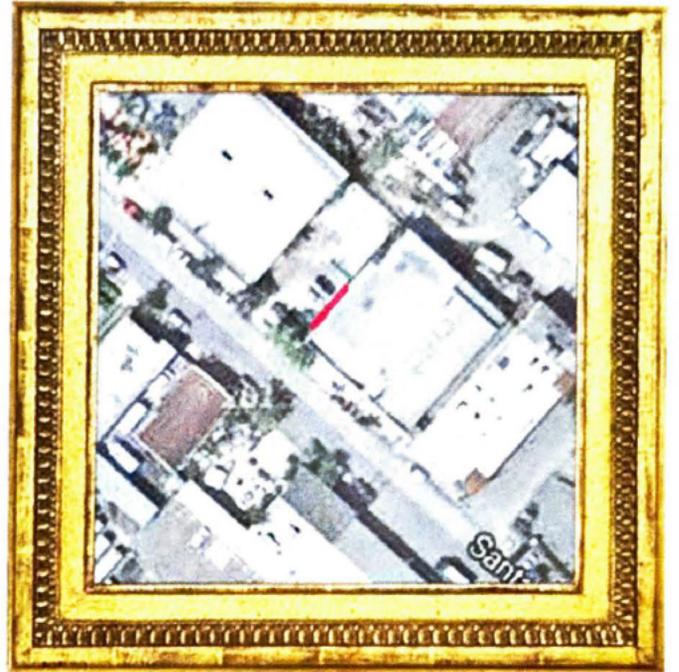
3 Location: The Guided Table
Address: 120 Santa Barbara St
Owner/Manager: Kassie Kukura

AKK

of Murals: 1
Dimensions: +/-25'x13'
Artist Coordinator: The Arts Fund

Notes: Current mural by Thatcher Hillegas

017-022-003



4 Location: BLUE LINE Paddle Sports

Address: ~~52 Helena Ave.~~ 24 E Mason

Owner: Sanchez Family

HLC

of Murals: 1

Dimensions: +/- 21'x12-17'

Artist Coordinator: The Arts Fund

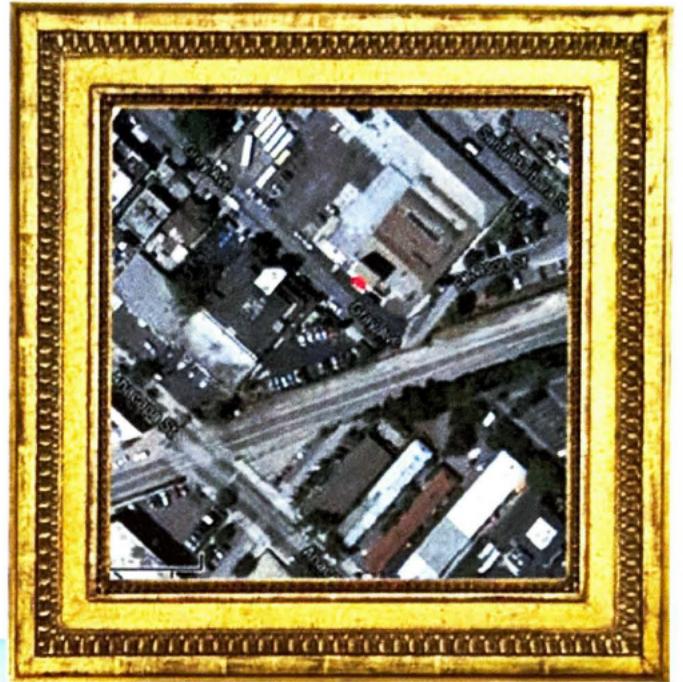
Notes: Current Mural by Pete Gately



033-112-001



5 Location: Old Grain Tower
Address: ~~128 Gray Street~~ 121 E MASON ST
Owner: Mesa Lane Partners / SOMO SB
of Murals: 1
Dimensions: +/- 33'x45'
Artist Coordinator: The Arts Fund
Notes:
Mural tower mock-up below by photogra-
pher Lindsey Ross
other artists, TBD



033-084-005



6 Location: Irwin Art Studio / Paddles-ports
Address: 121 Santa Barbara Street
Owner: Mesa Lane Partners / SOMO SB
of Murals: 1
Dimensions: +/- 40'x20'
Artist Coordinator: The Arts Fund
Notes:
artist, TBD

ABR

033-084-005



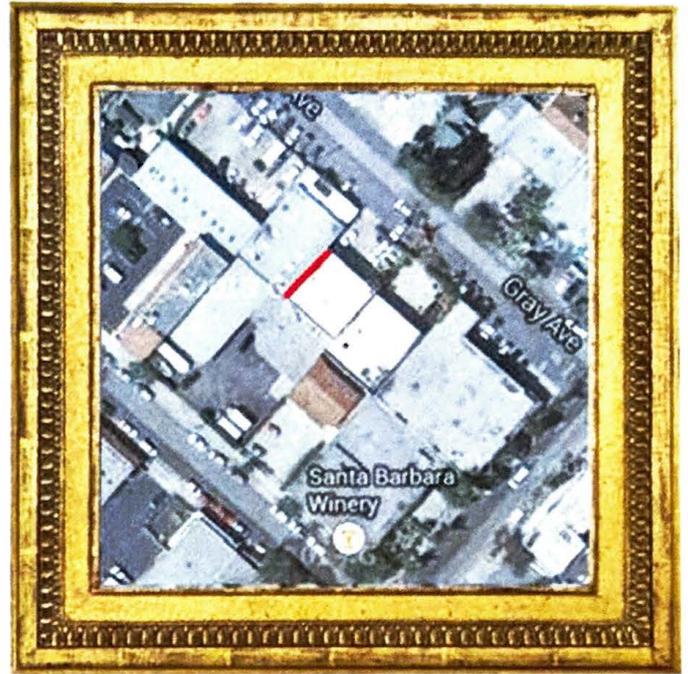
7 Location: GONE Gallery
Address: ~~223 Gray Ave~~ 215 Gray
Owner: Wilson Plumbing

ABR

of Murals: 1
Dimensions: +/-40'x7'

Artist Coordinator: The Arts Fund

Notes: 033-053-007



8 Location: GONE Gallery
Address: 223 Gray Ave
Owner: Skye Gwilliam

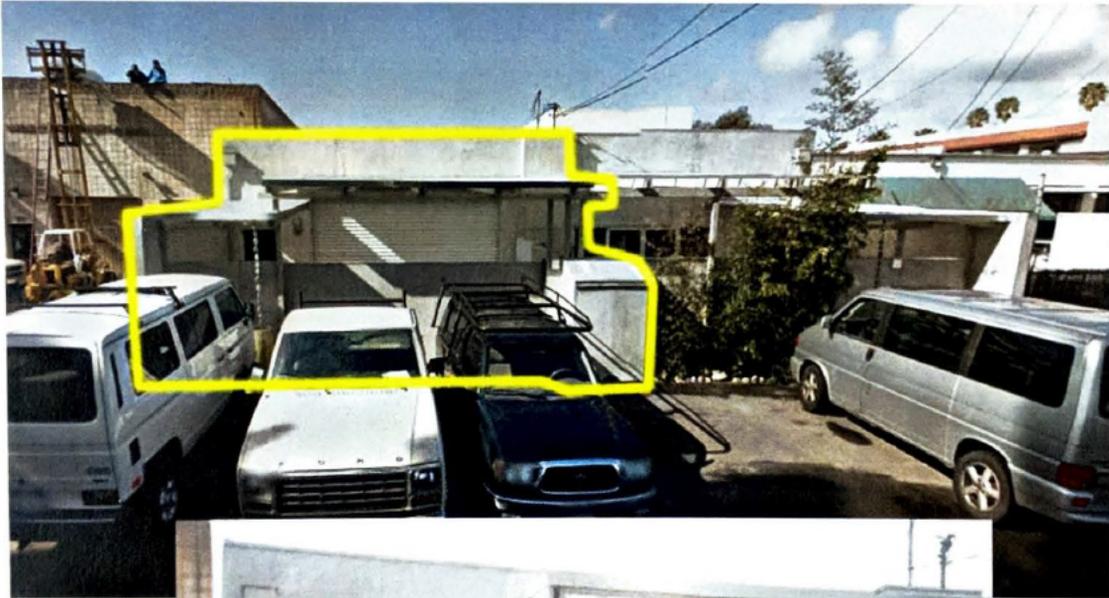
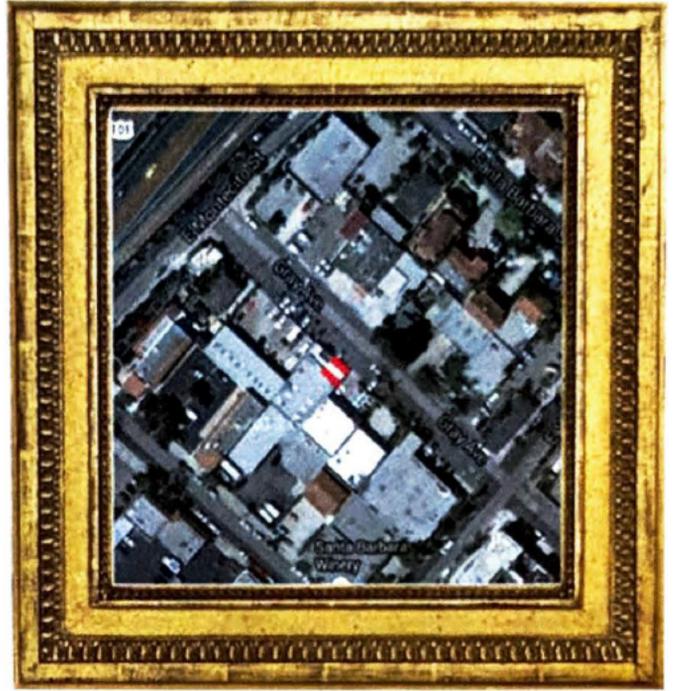
ACK

of Murals: 1
Dimensions: +/-28'x13'

Artist Coordinator: The Arts Fund

Notes: Desire to paint the entire Street facing facade of the Gallery

033-053-024



9 Location: The ARTS FUND
Address: 205c Santa Barbara St
Owner: The Castagnola Family Trust

ABR



of Murals: 1
Dimensions: +/-66'x18'

Artist Coordinator: The Arts Fund

Notes: Pre-approved art taken through ABR process separate to this program but now interested in joining.

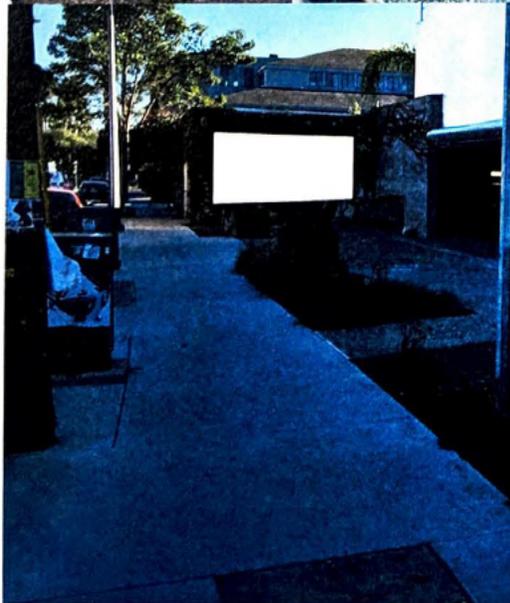
033-054-028



10 Location: Funk Zone Studios
Address: 127 Gray Avenue
Owner: Joseph Garred
of Murals: 1
Dimensions: +/- 7'x12'
Artist Coordinator: The Arts Fund

AKK

033-180-CA1

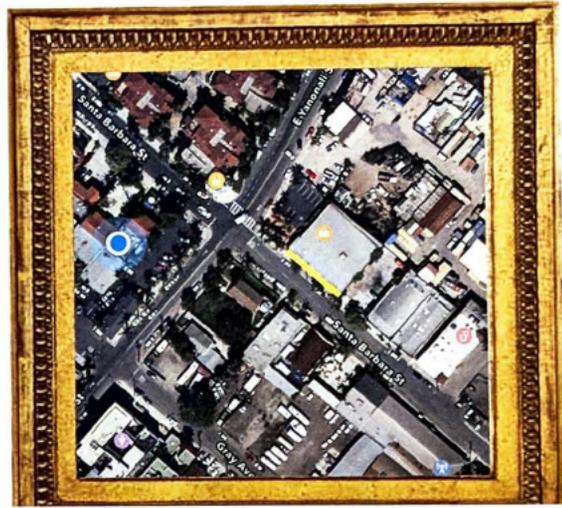


AKX

11

Location: MichaelKate Interiors & Art Gallery
Address: 132 Santa Barbara Street
Owner: The Castagnola Family Trust
Artist Coordinator: The Arts Fund
of Murals: 1
Dimensions: 18' x 100'

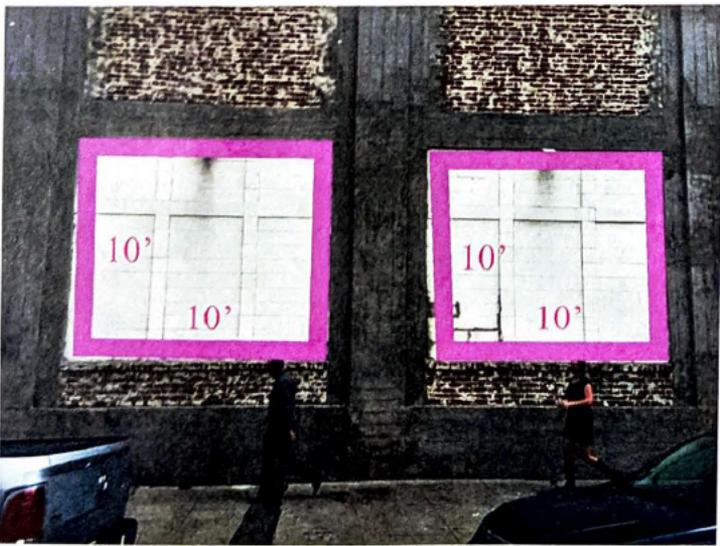
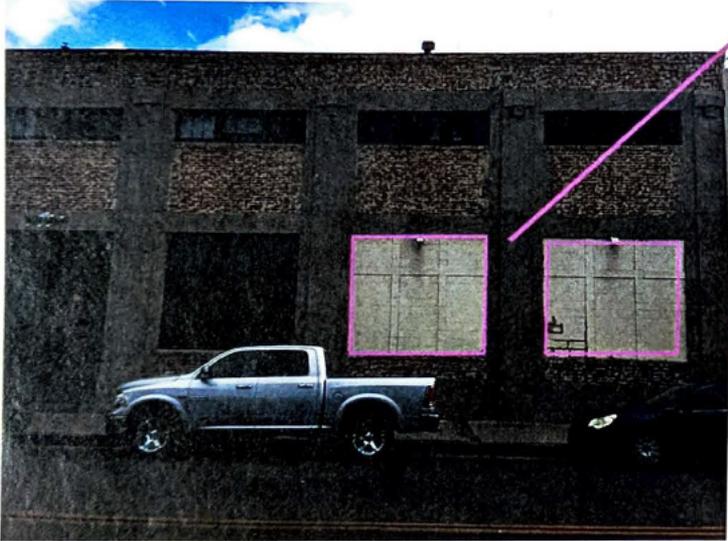
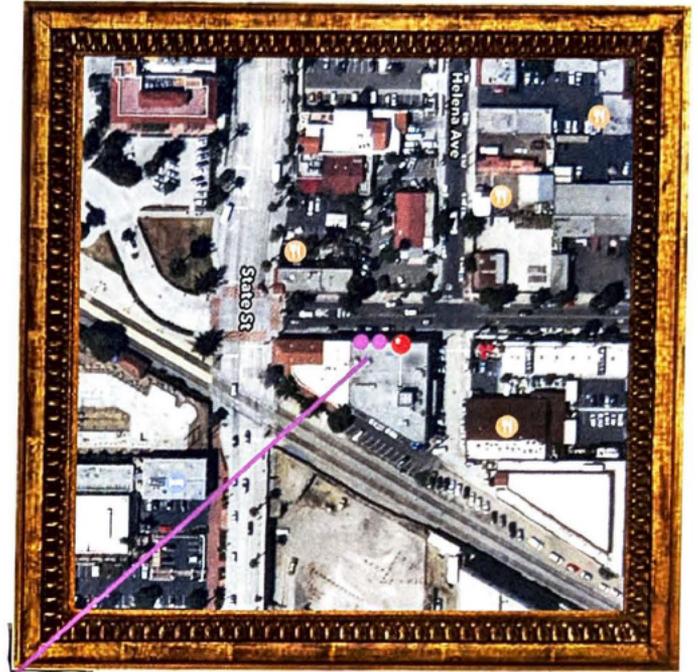
017-022-009



12 Location: Miramar Building
Address: 10 East Yanonali
Owner: Yanonali Properties LLC
of Murals: 2
Dimensions: +/- 10' x 10', 10'x10'
Artist Coordinator: The Arts Fund

HLC

200-180-530

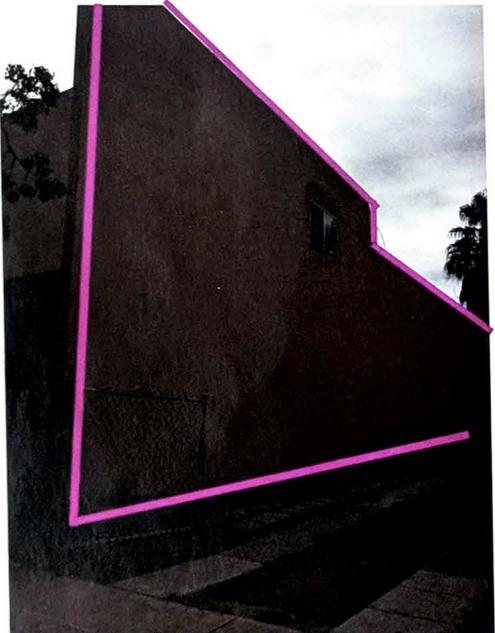


ABR

13 Location: Channel Coast Coroporation
Address: 123 Santa Barbara St.
Owner: Mesa Lane Partners
of Murals: 1
Dimensions: +/- 20'x60'
Artist Coordinator: The Arts Fund



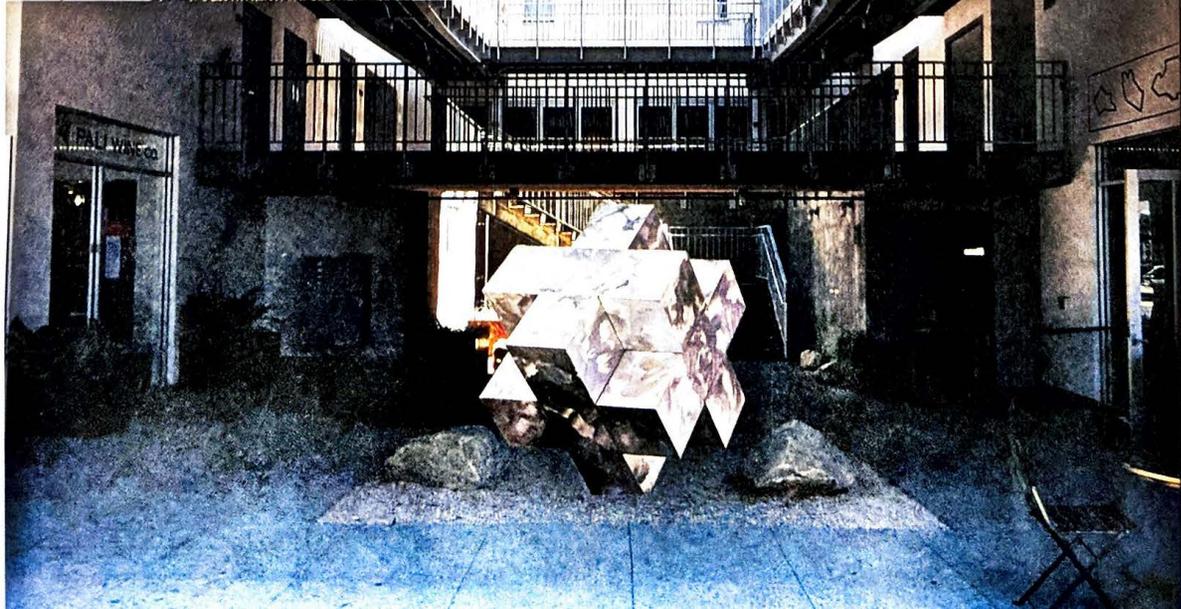
033-084-004



15 Location: Pali/AVA Wineries
Address: 116 Yanonali Street
Owner: SB6 Group, LLC
of Sculptures: 1
Dimensions: +/- 5 x 5'
Artist Coordinator: The Arts Fund

AKR

033-210-007



PUBLIC ART LOCATION MAP...

ESTABLISHING AN ARTS HUB IN THE FUNK ZONE

(MAP SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS TIME
PASSES / PROGRAM DEVELOPS.)



map legend (— denotes border of OC funk ZONE arts district)

- proposed art location
- currently doomed art
- potential art location being discussed for future inclusion
- neighboring mural locations in El Pueblo Viejo
- previously approved art location

*4-28-14
ABRFB
PDATFAS 651
a 3 yr
period.*

Can the City let go of absolute control, before local artist's let go of hope?

Goal

The goal of this project is to establish mural locations in the 'OC' Funk Zone with the permission of property owners, and sanctioned by the city to keep art alive in the area. As wineries and other retailers pop up in the neighborhood with increasing rents and with the AMASS Gallery at the corner of Mason and Helena Streets soon to be demolished, there is the possibility that the creative signature of the area will be lost in the gentrification. As the City's own zoning supports the use of the area for the arts, the program is a way for the City to proactively support the artists by letting go over some of the beaurocratic control.

The vision is for property owners and tenants to work directly with artists and for their art to change as often as the individual property owner determines. Some may want a regular turnover every 6 to 12 months, while others may wish to contract with established artists and leave it up for years, it's up to them. As all public art must be temporary in nature, a period of 3 years is suggested as the maximum return on investment. And the program encourage business owners to pay artists to create the dynamic environment that will attract a more sophisticated crowd that the one that is only after alcohol. This is a way for the City to encourage an Arts Zone for the Funk Zone that is slowly becoming just another drunk zone.

Process

A select group of neighborhood arts enthusiasts, speaheaded by Laura Inks of the Creative Collaboration Network, and in conjunction with a grant from the Santa Barbara Foundation have taken it upon themselves to connect with building owners and tenants in the name of creating a neighborhood wide public art program now.

The idea of the program, as presented here to ABR, is that it consists of a set of guidelines delineating appropriate content along with a series of pages indicating locations. Each location is indicated with a map, street address, owner name, and photographs of the site, along with dimensions and boundaries. Once ABR approves the program as a whole, individual locations could be added or deleted via the consent calendar. We will encourage owners and tenants to coordinate the repainting process of their locations with a yearly Funk Zone Arts Festival, typically held in the fall.

This is not cookie cutter however, as each owner has different needs and ideas and needs special attention. We will coordinate and help curate the locations to maintain a high standard of quality, to make sure that the boundaries as indicated on the approved maps described herein are adhered to, that surrounding horizontal and vertical surfaces are to be protected. etc Several of the property owners that are represented by property management companies wanted contracts and liability insurance during the painting/installation of the murals. Luckily the Fishbon Arts Collaborative was able to provide the needed coverage. Such arrangements will be handled on a case by case basis.

We will also be encouraing owners/tenants to set aside a percentage for the arts, to help pay for supplies and artist's efforts, such that it creates a win-win for both sides of the equation. We will also be working with the Fishbon and SB Arts Collaborative non-profits to assist in generating funds from sponsors and arts philanthropists.

History

In 2004, after 6 years of pulbic process, the island area known as the Funk Zone was rezoned away from more hotel and motel related uses to one centered on its tradional role in Ocean related business and opening itself to all Arts related uses. To celebrate this change and emphasis on the Arts, Architect Nils Hammerbeck, arts enthusiast Nathan Vonk, Red's business owner Dana Walters and other neighborhood artists and small business

owners, in conjunction with then County Arts Commissioner Patrick Davis, spearheaded the initial focus on the Funk Zone events (2004 & 2005) with lively arts oriented street parties. The group was also in the beginning phases of creating a mural program with spaces identified throughout the neighborhood.

Carey Berkus's Blur at the Bekins 'pop up' arts gallery and Pulse events activated old empty buildings with active arts events, bringing the local arts community together in celebration. The activities were all supported by the County Arts Commission's Visual Arts Coordinator Ginny Brush. The first mural was painted on the side of Red's Coffee Bar located at 211 Helena Ave without prior approval from the typical City process. At that time the mural came to review, VAPP was open to the idea of a neighborhood wide mural program as the typical process was stifling to the artist's true creative energy. Unfortunately, there was not enough sustained support from busy business owners and struggling artists to make it happen, and the initiative died.

The Funk Zone started to come alive with art again in 2009, when the property owner at the corner of Mason and Helena gave Laura Inks permission to replace broken glass windows and blighted walls with art panels. The transformation was substantial. Everyone loved the project and while the City/HLC did not give explicit approval, they did nothing to deter the art, as it was a building slated for demolition. Nathan, along with Laura, Clay Bodine, Brad Nack, Catherine Gee, Crista Dix, and a host of others reinitiated the Funk Zone Arts Festival concept in the hopes of maintaining the arts amidst the wine and food and growing neighborhood wide gentrification and rent increases.

Accomplishments

One of our most significant accomplishments was revealed during a meeting with owner Debbie Sanchez, while selecting a muralist for their building. It was reported that since the murals went up five years ago, the neighborhood has become neutral territory for gangs, reducing the need to clean up tagging and graffiti. "You have no idea how much you have improved the properties around here, and we own several." Indeed, the murals themselves have rarely been tagged or defaced. Only in two instances where art either stayed up too long or as a personal message to the artist have tags occurred in five years.

Political Capital

The Artists Making a Street Scene (AMASS) Gallery, developed by Laura Inks, was instrumental in helping to identify the Funk Zone area as an artisan zone and helping to eliminate blight at the same time. Recognizing the temporary nature of the site and the positive impact on the area during the years of stalled Entrada construction, the City has maintained a laissez-faire approach to these temporary mural projects. Through further efforts by the Creative Collaboration Network and assistance from grants provided by the Santa Barbara Foundation, property owners within the official boundaries of the OC Zone interested in supporting the Arts were identified and paired with artists, to expand the reach of the benefit, or at least replace its energy before the buildings were demolished.

We (Nils, Laura, & Clay) recently met with Assistant City Administrator, Paul Casey and with Jaime Limon. County Arts Commissioner Ginny Brush represented support from the City's Arts Advisory and Visual Art in Public Places committees. We outlined a program whereby the Architectural Board of Review (ABR) will be presented, for approval, a "Public Art & Mural Program" specifically designed for the Funk Zone. The program will have pre-identified spaces where art would occur within the ten block neighborhood, and as such the ABR would approve the program in total without needing to have each mural/arts installation come before them individually for fees & approval. Mural/art location changes will be submitted to the Arts Advisory group for consent approval. The goal would be to save the arts from disappearing, which within the current confinement, is bound to happen.

WHEREAS,

the OC Zone is a small inner island of land sandwiched on three sides by the El Pueblo Viejo Historic District, and by the 101 Freeway on the North; ...

AND the OC Funk Zone is a unique industrial arts area with a vibrant history and colorful character that many have described as Santa Barbara's Cannery Row; ...

AND the OC Funk Zone occupies land that has historically been a haven for artists and artistic expression; and as the CA Coastal Act was created to forbid the privatization of our waterfront community spaces...

AND the OC Funk Zone is undergoing tremendous growth, with increasing rents, and many artists, creatives, and craftspeople are being marginalized; ...

AND the OC Zoning exists as the only zone within the City of Santa Barbara Municipal Code that includes and encourages all arts uses; ...

AND the ABR reviews art based on having jurisdiction of exterior paint color of non-residential buildings or structures as defined in Municipal Code Section 22.68.015 E3; ...

AND the VAPP Public Art Review Guidelines adopted in 2003 are written expressly for the review of public art projects within publicly owned land and not for review of art efforts on private property unless said art is part of a development application;...

AND WHEREAS numerous murals have been created in the neighborhood over the past 10 years without official City oversight or pre-approval, and problems like graffiti have gone away and no negative backlash from the community has occurred.

NOW THEREFORE, the Funk Zone Arts District Arts Community requests an official simplification for the pre-approval review process by adopting A "Temporary Experimental Art Zone" within the OC boundaries, where public art in a variety of forms can take place in an organic, grassroots manner, within the proposed Guidelines, and adopted locations. We further ask that the Arts Community, made up of local artists, SB Arts organizations, land and business owners, and neighborhood community, can self regulate its decisions and process for appropriate art. The program will return to the ABR whenever locations are in flux, with either owners opting out and/or new locations wanting to join...

BE IT REQUESTED that the Architectural Board of Review acknowledge the following:

- 1.) That a temporary work of art in any form is different than a building permit application for a permanent development or structure.
- 2.) That in order to proactively encourage the Arts and help local artists to survive and thrive in a unique part of the City undergoing massive change, the process needs to be simplified to an agreement between a building owner and an artist, the artist and the community, and then artist and their empty canvas or space.
- 3.) That the City of Santa Barbara will prevent a "free-for-all", with respect to public art by adopting the guidelines listed below and having the right to vote on each proposed location on an individual basis.

The OC Art Program and Guidelines will apply to TEMPORARY murals and TEMPORARY three-dimensional art, such as sculptures, structures, performing arts spaces, art storage, creative artist workshop space, and other installation art, ALL within the approved GUIDELINES below;

- 1.) An owner authorization form will be submitted to the City as proof of the owners consent to the project.
- 2.) Proposed locations shall be presented to the ABR for inclusion into the program. Locations can and will be grouped together on submittals to the maximum extent possible to keep costs to a minimum. Once approved, the art will be self regulated by the local arts community. The artist/owner/arts community will inform the affected neighborhood on pending and proposed art concepts, without further review by the ABR or any other City boards.
- 3.) Each location (not the art) shall be submitted to ABR for pre-approval on a one page summary, to include a location map, photograph(s) of the location and area of potential 'canvas', the address, the number of murals, the approximate size(s), and the name of the person in responsible charge.
- 4.) Art proposals shall NOT include any advertising, business signs, gang signs or slogans, drug paraphenalia / signs, vulgarity, copulation or lewd scenes, political commentary, racial items, and generally anything not suitable for a rated PG family oriented audience, or not respectful to the community of Santa Barbara at large.
- 5.) If a project involves or allows public access on private property, accessibility standards for 'reasonable accommodation' shall be followed to the maximum extent feasible.
- 6.) Art will be limited to within the pre-approved locations and all surrounding walls, sidewalks, and spaces will be respected and kept clean. Use of drop cloths and masking will be encouraged during all painting projects.

This program will give artists, craftspeople, and other creatives the ability to remain engaged in the neighborhood, give them hope for their future, and draw a community to the Funk Zone that is interested in arts & culture, rather than simply a good time.

Note: Our offices are closed every other Friday. Please reference the calendar link below:
http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Government/City_Calendar

Have you seen our new, draft, Major Issues Checklist? It's intended to be used prior to starting a new project. Here's a link to it: [Santa Barbara - 2015 Major Issues Project Compliance Checklist](#). Please try it out, and give us feedback on it. What's missing, or what could be more helpful?

From: Nils Hammerbeck [<mailto:studioxyzdnainc@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2015 11:49 AM
To: Limon, Jaime; Gantz, Susan
Cc: Brad Nack; Marcello
Subject: Funk Zone Public Mural Program

Hi Jaime,

I just submitted a hardcopy of the revised Funk Zone Mural Packet and additional an owner authorization form for a new location at the P&Z counter. We changed some of the language to reflect that the review of art would be done by the Arts Fund after ABR reviews the locations. We also added a numbered map to make it more clear what mural locations are a part of the program and correspondingly numbered each sheet detailing locations. We added additional boundary marks to locations for clarity on wall areas to be approved. Lastly, we reconfigured the order of the program to make it all more clear.

There are also 3 new locations, though we are still awaiting the signed O/A form from one of the owners. If we do not have it by the time of the scheduled ABR hearing, we will need to remove those locations.

I experienced problems at the counter due to your computer logs still showing that this project received project design approval rather than final approval as you have repeatedly informed us actually occurred based on the review of the recorded tape from April 2014. **Could you please correct this in your database?**

Please let us know when the ABR hearing is scheduled, as well as the City Council review of your revised art mural language for the City as a whole.

With thanks...

Nils V. Hammerbeck
Architect

Studio XYZ-dna, Inc.
specializing in poetic place-making...
studioxyzdnainc@gmail.com
www.visualfood.com
805.698.1122

"Man has not woven the web of life,
we are but one thread within it.
Whatever we do to the web,
we do to ourselves..."