

Proposal for Downtown Merced Mosaic Project

A Community Public Art Project, open to every Mercedian

Proposed by Monika Modest

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Project Outline/Description

A mosaic will be created, using low relief glazed clay poppies and lupines as components (similar to mosaic shown in attached picture, except butterflies, hearts, tulips are replaced with California poppies and lupines). The mosaic will initially be installed on the front of the Bob Hart Square concrete enclosure as shown on the attached picture. Depending on the public's respond to this project the mosaic can be extended to wrap around the entire concrete enclosure. Every person living in Merced is invited to participate and glaze a poppy or lupine during the many publicly offered glazing workshops. As for the past projects, students from Yosemite High, the Wellness Center, the MCRM , the Haven of Hope and the living Well Café will help make the components for the mosaic.

Purpose/Objective of Proposed Project

This public art project will actively involve members of this community in the effort to transform Downtown Merced and to make this vital part of town a more attractive, desirable and safer place to visit, shop and dine. The project creates the opportunity for people from all different walks of life to come together and contribute equally and positively.

Additional benefits:

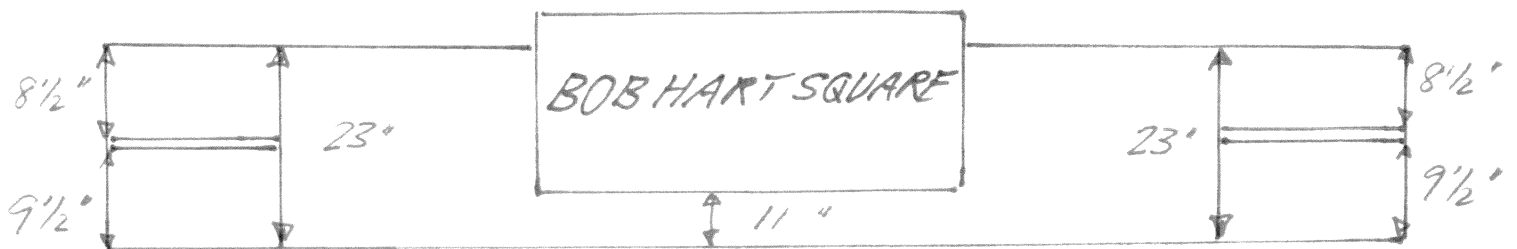
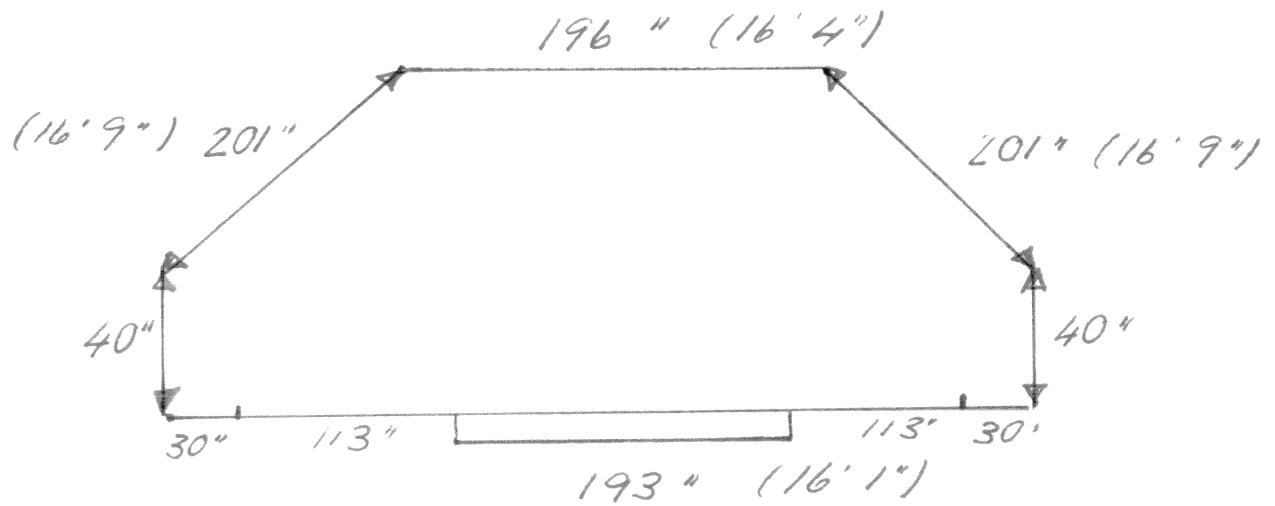
- Fosters relationships with different segments of the population
- Celebrates diversity
- Cultivates a sense of community
- Improves cross-cultural communications
- Promotes the value of accessible public art
- Easy to install and maintain community public art
- Attractive useful product that becomes an asset to the community
- Has a strong visual impact from afar and close up
- Becomes a gathering place where people connect and share stories
- Fosters community identity, ownership and pride
- Empowers both individuals and the community

Resources needed to complete the project

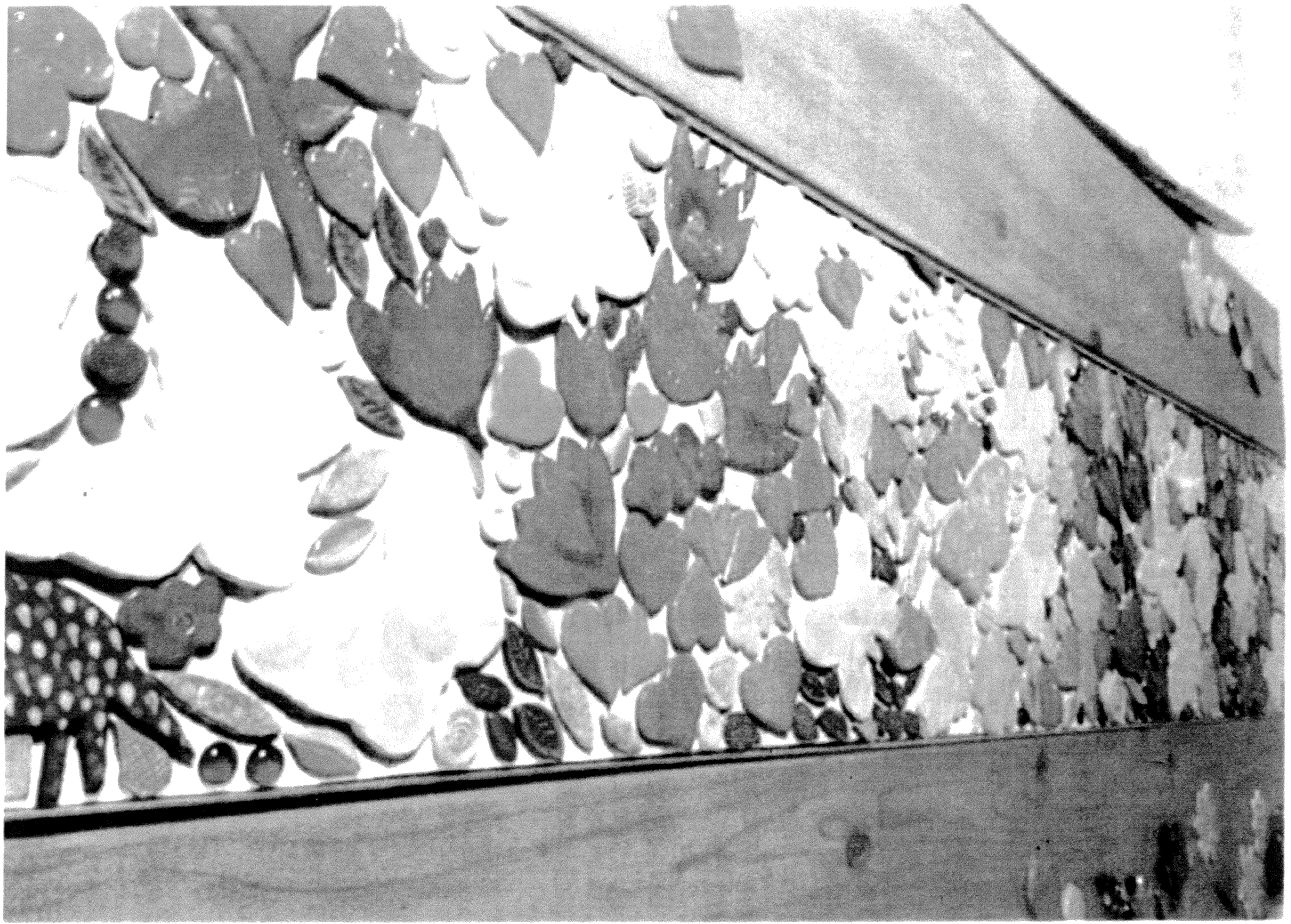
The project does not depend on public funding. As with the Tree Of Life, each participating community member is asked to contribute \$5 to cover materials and installation. For people unable to pay, the \$5 contribution will be waived. I have several sponsors already lined up who will sponsor all the groups (listed in Project outline/description) making the clay components. I am volunteering my time to organize and teach all the glazing workshops and will fire the glazed poppies and lupines. I will also oversee the installation of the mosaic at no cost.

Project Time Table

- Finish making all the mosaic components by the beginning of summer vacation in June
- Advertise/organize and conduct glazing workshop when school resumes in August
- Install mosaic by the end of October







Curriculum Vitae

Monika Modest
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Education

M.F.A., Ceramic Sculpture, California State University, Long Beach, CA, 1988
B.F.A., Ceramics, California State University Long Beach, Long Beach, CA, 1983
Teaching Credential (elementary grades), Switzerland, 1977
Trilingual: German, French, English

Personal Data

Born in St. Gallen, Switzerland; (naturalized US citizen)
Resided in Los Angeles, CA 1978-1986.
Lived in Boalsburg, PA. 1987-2009
Moved to Merced August 2009
Married to Michael Modest, two daughters: Mara and Michelle.

Work Experience

2009-present	Designed, proposed, launched and managed several public art projects, inviting community members (including clients at the homeless shelter, Juvenile Hall, mental health facilities, alternative high school programs, foster care, senior citizen centers, etc.) to actively participate in the creation of the following murals; • TREE OF LIFE, tile mural completed September 29th, 2011 (created by 1355 Mercedians), installed at Bob Hart Square, Merced
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- **FACES OF MERCED:** 10 tile murals, reflecting what Merced is all about, completed March 29th, 2012, G Street, Merced (1650 community members participated).
- 3 framed tile murals: tiles glazed by clients and staff at the Merced County Wellness Center (mental health facility in Merced), completed November 10th, 2012.
- Design and creation of 5 mosaics for the sidewalk next to the newly renovated Merced Theatre to acknowledge the generous gift of several donors, completed April 12th, 2012, 2 additional mosaics added April 2015
- Fundraiser for the MCAC, 110 tiles glazed to adorn the risers on the stairs leading to the second floor galleries, \$3500 raised, completed February 2013.
- **THIS IS FOR THE BIRDS** – an exhibit of clay birds and their stories created by clients and staff at the Wellness Center, March 6th-April 12th, reception March 14th at the Merced Multicultural Center main gallery, March 2013
- Tile mural celebrating the girl scouts' 100th birthday, tiles glazed by 247 girls and their leaders, completed March 2013, installed at Rahilly Park, Merced.
- **WINGS OF HOPE AND GRACE:** 1000 clay butterflies were glazed and displayed at the Merced Civic Center, \$10,000 raised for the Valley Crisis Center, October 2013.
- **SHOOTING FOR THE STARS:** tree at the Merced County Courthouse decorated with clay stars created and glazed by clients from the Wellness Center, Haven of Hope, Merced County Rescue Mission and the Living Well Café, December 2013.
- **THE MERCED HeARTh PROJECT:** over the 1000 hearts were glazed and displayed at the Merced Mall, \$11,500 raised to benefit the room at the Inn (provides temporary shelter and permanent

housing to homeless families with children in Merced County), Haven of Hope (women's recovery program) and Living Well Café (senior nutrition program), completed mid- February, 2015

- Design and creation of 2 table top mosaics with the help of students and staff at The Bay School in Santa Cruz, a school, which employs the latest applied behavior analysis treatment and research findings for children with autism, completed July 2015.

1996-2007	Founder, owner and Teacher of <i>Mudworks</i> , a private art school, providing children and adults with quality art instruction in different art media, Boalsburg, PA
1993-1995	Art Instructor, State College Community Education, State College, PA
1990-1992	Art Instructor, mixed media, The HUB Crafts Center, PSU, State College, PA
1987-1990	Art Instructor, sculpture, The Pennsylvania School of Art, State College, PA
1980-1985	Recreation Specialist, The City of Culver City, Los Angeles, CA
1978-1980	Assistant Program Director, The Jeffrey Foundation (day care center for multiple handicapped children and adults), Mar Vista, Los Angeles, CA
1977-1978	Elementary School Teacher, 3 rd grade, instruction in French and German, Truebbach, Switzerland

