

TEAM DUARTE & DELGADO

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PROPOSAL

Allmendinger Park, Ann Arbor, Michigan

IDENTIFYING A THEME: For the Allmendinger Park Mural Project, we are focusing on the park as a place for play. The columns present an opportunity to spell words that reflect the activities and qualities of the area. Listed below are possible words that fit one letter per column on the North and South facing sides. The letter form will be bold and elegantly designed and painted with vibrant color harmonies. To be appropriate for all ages, the letter form is subtle, and like a visual puzzle, the message is discovered by the viewer.

PLAY
REST

PEEK
ABOO

HIDE
SEEK

PLAY
BALL

SEEK
FIND

This typographic solution allows the mural to be appreciated from a distance, and for an intimate experience, ceramic tiles of images align to form the letter's horizontal or vertical shape (see images). The concept for these images would explore Michigan's and Ann Arbor's history, people, and places. Local newspapers, family photos and historical archives from resources such as the Bentley Historical Library at The University of Michigan can be used. Also, input from the community, youth, and the project's Task Force for selecting images is crucial. We have found that this goes a long way in community interest that mitigates graffiti and vandalism.

In the vein of Mr. Delgado's work, the images on the tile are juxtaposed and superimposed so that the design is active. A layer of bright airbrushed glaze over the photosilkscreens gives a unifying effect to the strips of tile. This outdoor photographic gallery creates a dialogue between the art and the viewer, and more importantly, between the viewers themselves. The glaze is applied on Crossville LEED ceramic tile which is freeze-thaw tested, conforms to OSHA standards, and high fired at cone 5 for durability.

For the North and South sides, each letter will cover half of the column's exterior space. For the interior of the columns, and around the columns on the East and West sides, large graphics will be painted of leaves from native vegetation such as oak and hickory trees. Also, on the East and West sides, a strip of tile will wrap like a ring, eye-level, for the viewer to experience. The flat color fields of leaves will be easy to restore in case of vandalism as each color will be detailed in the maintenance manual and covered with an anti-graffiti coating.

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TIMELINE OF PROJECT

Timing may vary due to unknown variables.

14 Days: Design Phase

- Preliminary discussion of specific design proposal with Project Manager, community and Task Force for research and design.
- Obtain photographs from local community.
- Create and submit one to three preliminary designs.

20 Days: Tile Fabrication Phase

- Preparation of film work for images. Ceramic glaze techniques and firing.

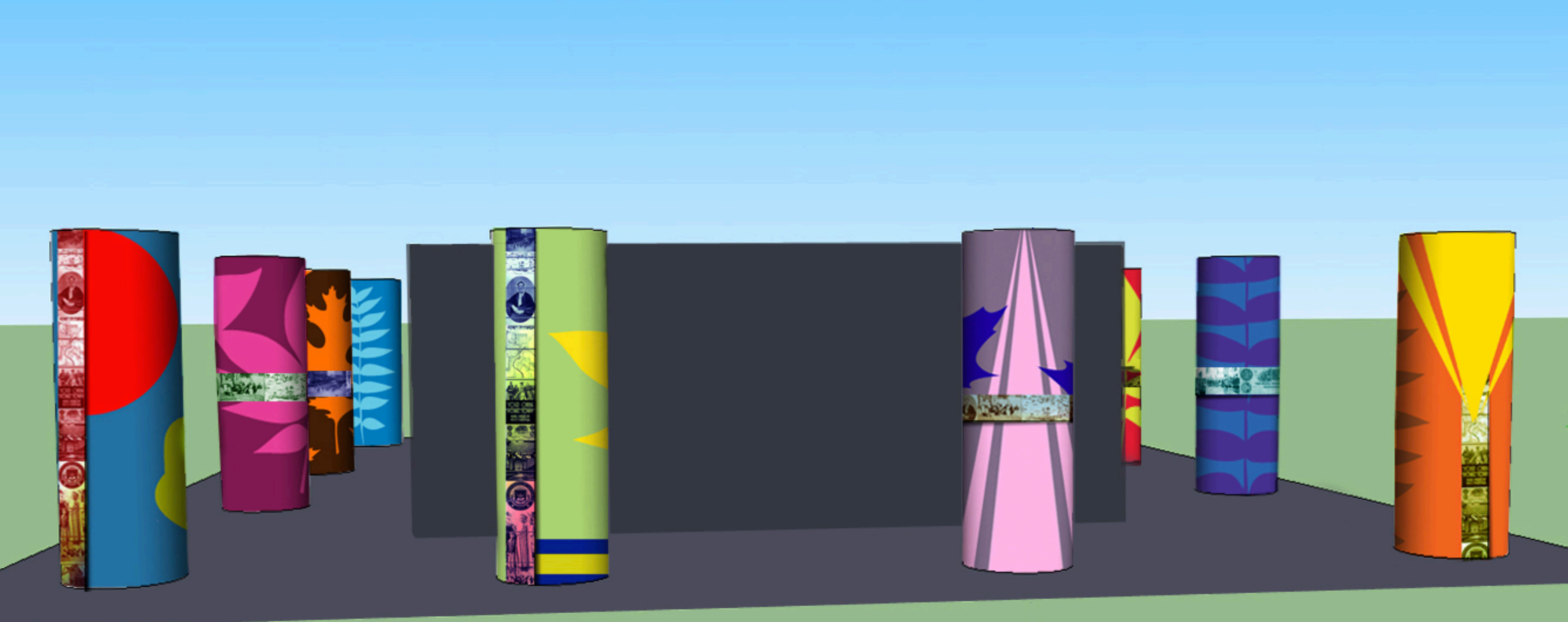
10 Days: Installation Phase

- Lead Artist coordinates installation of tile units with local bonded installers.

15 Days: Mural Painting

- Surface preparations, hand acrylic brushing, anti-graffiti coating.
- Lead Artist provides cleaning and maintenance instructions.





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Based on the suggestions for subject matter in the RFQ, here are 4 ideas that I could build upon if chosen as a finalist. I am open to suggestions for changes or additions – or even to combine aspects of multiple ideas into one. All the murals would all use high-quality exterior acrylic paints. I prefer to use gloss paint as it easier to keep clean. Depending on the chosen idea, the painting process will take 1 to 2 weeks and would occur in May once it is warm enough. Drawings will be made ahead of time, to scale, at my studio and then transferred to the columns. Myself and one or two assistants will do the painting.

Native Flowers (Idea 1)

For this idea, the columns would be painted the color of the sky and clouds with the imagery of wildflowers and grasses of the area as well as insects such as butterflies and dragonflies. The flowers would be tall (3-5 ft) so that the person would feel small in comparison, like an insect. And flying up in the sky, as though off in the distance could be kites, balls from different sports, birds, etc. The imagery could be soft and realistic as shown in the image or done with more outlines and brighter colors.



Abstract Patterns (Idea 2)

For an abstract approach, I would look at nature of the area and create movement that would flow from one column to the next. Colors would also change in sequence. Sources of imagery would range from wild flowers to insects to interlocking branches in trees.



Park Activities (Idea 3)

Idea three revolves around the various activities that occur in the park including softball, tennis, volleyball, basketball, flying kites, dogs and their owners walking, and children running around. Patterns from around the world would be in the backgrounds with colored silhouettes of adults and children in active poses. I would need the assistance of residents to determine the demographics of the neighborhood in order to decide on the cultures to represent via the patterns. Subtle or smaller patterns with multiple colors could also be placed in the figures.

Sports Equipment (Idea 4)

Idea four relates to the sports and games that are played at the park. Each column would represent activities with volleyballs, baseballs and bats, tennis rackets and balls, kites and bouncing balls. The background could either change color from column to column or remain the same for all. Some of the balls could also incorporate various patterns from around the world to represent the cultures represented in the park neighborhood.



Allmendinger Park Mural Proposal
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Parks are composed of everything in them as well as the communities around them and the people and animals that frequent them. They find themselves affected not just by the aforementioned, but also by time and the elements.

The mirror is an object that reflects what is in its presence and therefore becomes part of that which it finds itself in. Mirrors create images that are at once replicas of what is around them but also distortions in reverse that are always changing based on perspective. Mirrors can be used as camouflage, a way to conceal that which they cover.

My proposal for Allmendinger Park is to wrap all twelve columns in polished stainless steel. Columns will be wrapped using 22 gauge mirrored stainless steel rolled to a 1 foot radius and applied using stainless steel hardware. The result will be a constantly changing distortion of that which takes place in the park.

Mierle Laderman Ukeles, Allison Shotz, and Jim Hodges are all artists whose interest in using mirrors has influenced me. I had the unique opportunity to recreate Shotz's mirrored picket fence, for the Tang Teaching Museum, in Saratoga, New York. I would later use scrap materials from that project to create my own version of a mirrored fence, using a chain-link fence and Styrofoam cups with mirrored discs in the bottoms.

My objective is to create a sense of self-awareness that results from being presented with one's own image. The always evolving distortion speaks to the way we think of ourselves as well as those and that which surrounds us. In this way it is possible to create a sense of responsibility.

The development of this proposal has so far yielded several results, as is the process of my work. One is simple and relates directly to my interaction with materials: wrapping the columns will yield roughly 350 sq/ft of waste, which I would like to use portions of to clad several sections of the building. It seems clear to me that this piece could simply disappear as part of the architecture, and while subtle is compelling, subversive may not be. By cladding several discriminate sections of the building in mirror, it forces the viewer to question the act of wrapping the columns, and thus brings an awareness of the distortion and changing perspectives to the viewer.

