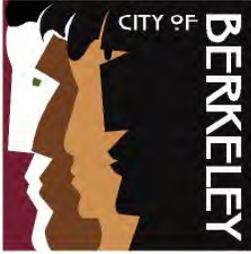


Civic Arts Commission Meeting

December 7, 2022

Late Attachments and Communications

1. Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Staff and Civic Arts Staff Report on Turtle Island Monument to Civic Arts Commission
2. Communication from Elyce Klein
3. Communication from Deborah Durant
4. Communication from John Steere
5. Civic Arts Staff Report on Rationale for Development of Current Design



Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department

TO: Civic Arts Commission

FROM: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department
Jennifer Lovvorn, Office of the City Manager, Civic Arts Program

DATE: December 6, 2022

SUBJECT: Referral for Comments on the Conceptual Plan for Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park – Upper Plaza Improvements and Turtle Island Monument

We are seeking feedback from the Civic Arts Commission on the Conceptual Plan for the Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park Upper Plaza Improvements and Turtle Island Monument project. Civic Center Park is a designated City of Berkeley Landmark and the Commission's comments can inform next steps.

INTRODUCTION

In 1992, the City of Berkeley was the first city in the U.S. to declare Indigenous Peoples Day. The City included a designation of the Turtle Island Monument and Time Capsule at the fountain at Civic Center Park as part of the declaration. On October 11, 2022, the City adopted a Land Acknowledgment Statement that recognizes that the community we live in was built on the territory of xučyun, the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochoyeno-speaking Ohlone people, and seeks to honor the original inhabitants of these lands. More broadly, this Monument in its 1992 dedication was to honor all indigenous people of this hemisphere, whose societies flourished centuries before Columbus arrived, and the original inhabitants across the North and South Americas. Over the last thirty years, many versions of this project have been designed with the intent of honoring the Indigenous Creation Story of Turtle Island through a monument at the fountain in the heart of Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park. This report summarizes the progress made on the Conceptual Plan for the Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park Upper Plaza Improvements and Turtle Island Monument project and includes the following:

1. Description of Location, Funding, and Public Process
2. Explanation of the Conceptual Design
3. Background and Project History

The Commission's feedback will inform the design before presenting the design to the general public in early 2023. On Wednesday, November 9th, 2022, Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) Infrastructure Sub-Committee, received a presentation on the project from City staff, PGAdesign and key members of the Indigenous community and their supporters. The project was presented the full LPC Commission on December 1, 2022. This project will come back to the LPC for a Structural Alteration Permit in early 2023.

CURRENT SITUATION

Project Location

The proposed project is located in Civic Center Park's Upper Plaza, and includes the hardscape, stone pavers, fountain terrace, and fountain located within the surrounding low walls.

Funding

The City has assembled \$891,666 to fund the design and construction for this project comprised of the following sources and spending deadlines: City Measure T1 (\$300,000 and spent by December 2025) and Clean California Local Grant Program (Caltrans) (\$591,666 and spent by June 30, 2024).

Public Engagement Process

The design and public engagement process began in 1992 and has gone through numerous iterations as funding has become available. The Turtle Island Monument was first proposed by Lee Sprague and Marlene Watson, respectively the Monument's artist and designer. They worked with both the City of Berkeley and indigenous communities internationally to develop the monument's design – merging an indigenous ethic and aesthetic with the requirements provided by the City and its Commissions.

In 2005, the City underwent a public process to commission artist Scott Parsons to create four bronze oceanic turtle sculptures and facilitate the creation of eight stone art medallions by North and South American Indigenous artists and international tribal representatives. These art pieces have been in storage to be installed as part of the Turtle Island Monument.

More recently at the local level, the Turtle Island Monument (TIM)¹ team has been very active for several years in terms of advocating, engaging architects and Indigenous people, and developing a conceptual plan for a grassroots campaign to continue the project.

In 2020, the City allocated Measure T1 funds for the project and in 2022, the Indigenous community was formally re-engaged. The original artist and designer, Lee Sprague and

¹ TIM team is led by and comprised of Deb Durant, Elyce Klein and David Snippen

Marlene Watson, respectively, returned as City consultants to facilitate the project's design evolution, engage Indigenous community members in the design process, lead the process for the design team (with City staff and PGAdesign) and speak to an authentic Indigenous vision for Turtle Island Monument to develop the current conceptual plan. Scott Parsons who created the turtle sculptures and stone medallions, also returned as a consultant to support the project. To-date, this effort has involved a series of listening sessions, meetings, design workshops, and design iterations. In August 2022, a 2-day design charrette was conducted in which Indigenous leaders and supporters from across the United States attended.

The current conceptual plan is being presented to the Landmarks Preservation Commission, Civic Arts Commission, and Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission and then to the general public in early 2023.

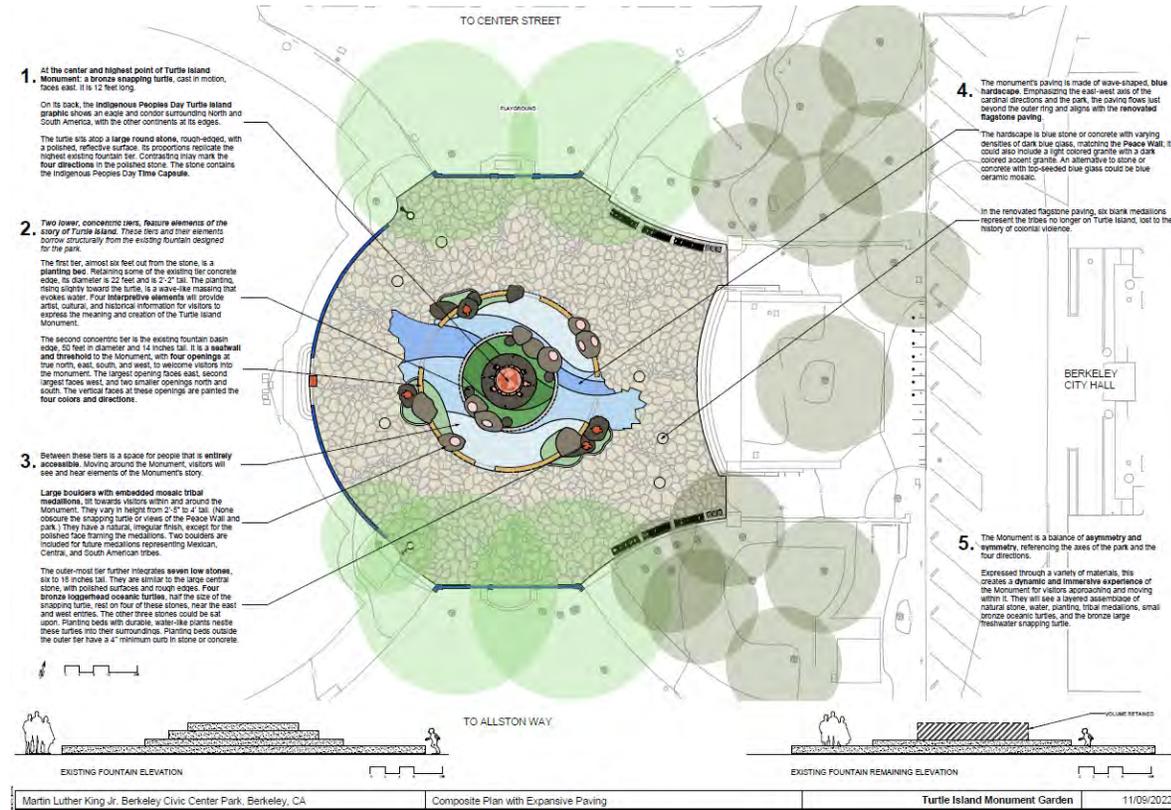
Explanation of Project Design

The Indigenous creation story depicting Turtle Island is common to different indigenous communities around the world. In the story, the world was covered with water and all the animals were swimming. They were getting tired, so they respectfully asked the muskrat to go under the water to see if there was any earth. So, the muskrat went down to find the earth. All the animals were waiting for the muskrat to reappear. They were worried for the muskrat. Finally, his body floated to the surface. The animals looked in his paw and they found some earth. They put the earth on the turtles back. The rest of the animals now knew that there was earth under the water so they each went down to get some earth. They all put the Earth on the turtle's back. This is how Turtle Island was created.

The conceptual design represents this origin story with an east-facing freshwater snapping turtle at the center of the monument symbolizing the creation of Turtle Island, and a time capsule to be preserved for seven generations. The eight medallions represent peoples who are Indigenous to Turtle Island. Blank medallions embedded in the paving represent the Indigenous communities that have been lost to the history of colonial violence, and who are no longer here. The four bronze loggerhead oceanic turtles, commissioned in 2006, are positioned around Turtle Island.

The Turtle Island Monument at the former fountain invites all people to enter and engage with sculpture, mosaics, fountain walls, natural stones and plantings. Interpretive signage will narrate the Indigenous origin story and history of the Monument. People are invited to sit and linger while facing the central turtle or outwards toward the park. The intention of the Turtle Island Monument is to authentically tell this story, to illuminate this park's intangible asset that is its role in the founding and celebration of Indigenous People's Day, to respect and contribute to the history and evolution of MLK Jr. Civic Center Park, and to engage the people of Berkeley on a physical, emotionally, and cultural level.

The Monument's palette of materials and forms represent water as a sacred resource, the true cardinal directions and their axes, and the experience of asymmetry and symmetry in the natural world. There is also a reference to four sacred colors representing the four directions, cardinal points are marked at the entries into the monument. The resulting circulation and layout create a dynamic, immersive, and accessible experience for Monument visitors.



LEGEND - HARDSCAPE

- BLUE GLASS TOP-SEEDED CONCRETE, HIGH DENSITY, OR BLUE STONE
- BLUE GLASS TOP-SEEDED CONCRETE, MODERATE DENSITY, OR BLUE STONE
- BLUE GLASS TOP-SEEDED CONCRETE, LOW DENSITY, OR BLUE STONE
- RENOVATED FLAGSTONE PAVING

LEGEND - ART ELEMENTS WITH STONE

- LOW STONE, 8" TO 1'-6" HIGH, ROUGHED SURFACE WITH ROUGH EDGES
- WITH (4) BRONZE LOGGERHEAD TURTLES
- LARGE BOULDER, 2'-6" TO 4" HIGH, NATURAL EDGES
- WITH (8) TRIBAL MEDALLIONS SET FLUSH, TILTED, POLISHED SURFACE
- (4) SMALL STONES IN RAISED PLANTER, INSCRIBED WITH INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE
- LARGE STONE, 4'-3" HIGH, 18" DIAMETER, POLISHED SURFACE WITH NATURAL EDGES
- LARGE BRONZE TURTLE, 12" LONG, WITH NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA SURROUNDED BY OTHER CONTINENTS, THE SABLE AND CONDOR, MOUNTED CONTRASTING PLAY AT FOUR DIRECTIONS TIME CAPSULE, WITHIN
- BLANK MEDALLION, STONE, TO MATCH FLAGSTONE PAVING

LEGEND - PLANTING

- LOW PLANTING AT GRADE
- PLANTING IN RAISED BED
- CURB AT PLANTING EDGE, 4" HIGH

LEGEND - FURNISHINGS

- WOOD SLAT SEATWALL, MOUNTED TO (E) FOUNTAIN BASIN RIM, 1' - 4" WIDE
- PARK BENCHES
- WASTE RECEPTACLE

EXISTING MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BRONZE PLAQUE

EXISTING PEACE WALL, TYP.

EXISTING TREE CANOPY



Background and Project History

Civic Center Park was designed and constructed in the 1940s following the passage of a bond measure. The fountain design by architect Henry Gutterson was inspired by two fountains at the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island: specifically, the Fountain of the Western Waters and the Pacific Basin Fountain. These fountains were designed to commemorate the exposition's "Pageant of the Pacific" theme with sculptures referencing the Pacific Rim Peoples. The Civic Center Park fountain's machinery and pumps were reused from an original exposition fountain.

In the 1960's, the fountain's water feature was turned off due to broken equipment and remains in that state today. In 1997, the Landmark Application of Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park that identified the Park's character defining features included the fountain, terrace, flagstone paving, and the presence of walls surrounding the terrace. The Application also included the concept of the Turtle Island Monument based on the 1993 endorsement by City Council and City Commissions, including the Landmarks Preservation Commission. The Turtle Island Monument is to be a monument to recall and honor the Native People of the Americas. The original design was presented to and reviewed by many Indigenous tribes from the Americas and fully represented Indigenous Peoples in Berkeley, America, and beyond.

As stated in the Landmark Designation of Civic Center Park, the park has been the site of numerous cultural and civic events of importance to Berkeley's history. These important events highlight the City's commitment to social justice and equity, including the renaming of the park to "Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park", installation of the Peace Wall which was developed to symbolize peace and reverse the historic usage of walls as fortifications in war and barriers between people, and the establishment of Indigenous People's Day. In 1992, the City of Berkeley became the first city in the nation to declare Indigenous Peoples Day and also endorsed the park fountain as the site of the proposed Turtle Island Monument and time capsule. To this day, the Indigenous Peoples Day Pow Wow and Indian Market takes place at this park. This intangible asset, the social history at this park, and the forthcoming Monument, further validate the National Register of Historic Places' Berkeley Historic Civic Center District designated area of significance as "social history."

Leading up to the declaration of Indigenous Peoples Day by the City of Berkeley in 1992, multiple events drew attention to the recognition of Indigenous Peoples:

In 1977, the UN Conference in Geneva recognized October 12th as an international day of solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas. Following this in 1990, the Quito Encuentro was the first continental gathering of Indigenous Peoples.

In 1992, US and Canadian Native Americans gathered for an all-Indian conference at D-Q University in Davis, California, to counter the official 'Encounter' of Two Worlds or 'The Discovery of America'. From the 1992 All People's Network Conference at Laney College, a new organization called Resistance 500 formed. The Berkeley Resistance

500 along with the City of Berkeley became the first city in the nation to declare Indigenous Peoples Day – it is at this important moment that the City endorsed the park fountain as the site of the proposed Turtle Island Monument and time capsule. This year, in 2022, at the Indigenous Peoples Day Pow Wow celebrated the 30th anniversary of the 1992 Indigenous Peoples Day declaration.

On July 7, 1992, City of Berkeley Council approved a recommendation for the creation of the Turtle Island Monument within the Peace Wall as shown in the original concept plans and as approved by the Civic Arts Commission, the Peace and Justice Commission, and the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Throughout the 1990s, the Turtle Island Monument concept underwent many design iterations that were loosely based on the original concept proposed by Lee Sprague and Marlene Watson.

On November 3, 1997, Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park was designated a City of Berkeley landmark and the conceptual design of the Turtle Island Monument was endorsed. Their endorsement included a central bronze turtle and incorporation of some of the concentric ring arrangement of the current fountain, with water that flowed outwards and paths that lead inward to the turtle.

In 2003, the City issued a call to artists to develop the four turtle sculptures and eight medallions to be used as part of a monument at the fountain. The project was then paused due to insufficient funding, and the completed art pieces were reserved for installation at a later date.

In 2018, the Berkeley City Council made a referral to the City Manager to develop a plan to revitalize the fountain at Martin Luther King, Jr. Civic Center Park. With this direction, City staff began the process to re-engage the community and further develop the conceptual design.

The City continues to support this initiative and on October 11, 2022, unanimously adopted a Land Acknowledgement Statement whereby the City of Berkeley rests upon the ancestral lands of the Chochenyo speaking Lisjan Ohlone people, thus bringing attention to centuries of resistance to colonial violence, and to remind our City and community of the need to take concrete restorative actions. The statement is not an end in and of itself; it is intended as a call for further restorative and reparative work in which our City and community must engage.

DISCUSSION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park sits in the Berkeley Civic Center Historic District. The fountain and the low wall surrounding a portion of the terrace is a contributing feature within this historic resource.

The central fountain is approximately 50 feet in diameter and includes interior rings of descending height forming cascades, a large, low outer ring, and a tunnel for mechanical equipment and plumbing running from beneath the center of the fountain in a northeastern direction to a wooden hatch, flush with the ground, outside the fountain

terrace. The fountain terrace is paved with flagstone which is also a character defining feature.

As part of the project, modifications to some of the character defining features are being proposed in order to create the Turtle Island Monument and tell the origin story of Indigenous Peoples. Proposed modifications to the existing fountain include an addition of a native sculpture and artistic surfacing, the removal of an interior ring, opening a section of the outer ring for ADA access, modifications to other rings of the fountain, and limited modifications to the existing flagstone paving in the terrace to improve ADA accessibility.

The proposed modifications will not only enhance the existing fountain area, but will make the fountain fully accessible, which is currently not possible because the existing uneven flagstone terrace surface and grading does not meet current building code.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission's comments included asking if a water element could be incorporated. If not restored to a working fountain, perhaps a subtle water or irrigation feature. This could be situated in the top and central-most point of the fountain, beneath the central turtle. This approach to a water feature recognizes the fountain as a character defining feature as well as the Monument's aesthetic and the current site conditions. On this last point, the park's original planting design includes trees which have mature water-seeking roots that undermine the fountain's previous mechanical and plumbing infrastructure system.

As stated in the Landmark Designation of Civic Center Park, the park has been the site of numerous cultural and civic events of importance to Berkeley's history. As evidence of the City's history of documenting important and significant cultural shifts and events, Civic Center Park was renamed Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park in 1983. It is listed on the National Register under this name.

More recently, City Council unanimously adopted a Land Acknowledgment Statement Resolution that reminds our City and community of the need to consider and take more substantive reparative and restorative actions to recognize that the City of Berkeley rests upon the ancestral lands of Indigenous peoples. The changes being proposed to the Civic Center Fountain carry a heavy cultural significance that is representative of the Indigenous People that originally occupied the continents of North and South America. As such, these proposed changes are consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Rehabilitation Standard No. 4, which states that most properties change over time. Any changes that acquire historic significance in their own right should be retained and preserved.

TIMELINE AND NEXT STEPS

In order to meet critical funding deadlines for this project, we respectfully request the Commission's review and comments at this meeting. Following consultation with other

Commissions and the public, staff will move forward with revisions and detailed design to submit the project for permits and construction.

SUMMARY

The growing consciousness of the need to acknowledge the cultural significance of the Indigenous People that originally occupied the continents of North and South America has been evolving for several decades. The current conceptual design of the Turtle Island Monument at the Civic Center Fountain Terrace represents the vision of Indigenous Peoples and the City's intent to engage the Indigenous community in its reflection and recognition of Indigenous history and the City's landmarks.

Attachments:

February 28, 1992 – Indigenous Peoples Day Declaration and Dedication
December 4, 2018 Council Agenda – Revitalization of the Civic Center Park Fountain
November 2022 – Turtle Island Monument Garden Upper Plaza Improvements –
Conceptual Design Presentation

CITY OF BERKELEY

Loni Hancock
MAYOR

28 February 1992

Attention All Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island:

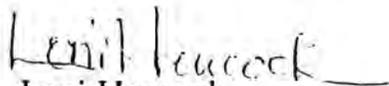
Greetings!

The City of Berkeley has declared 1992 as the Year of Indigenous People and 12 October as Indigenous Peoples Day.

As part of our commemorative activities during this year, we plan to dedicate land within the City for a Turtle Island Monument and time capsule. This dedication will take place during opening ceremonies for a week of activities on Saturday 10 October 1992.

We want to invite you, as the recognized leaders of the Great Nations and Peoples of Turtle Island, or your designated Ambassadors, Emissaries and citizens, to participate in these opening ceremonies. We invite all people to come and commemorate the 500 Years of Resistance with the citizens of Berkeley on this historic occasion.

Sincerely,


Loni Hancock
Mayor

LH:aro

CITY OF BERKELEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Loni Hancock

MAYOR

October 8, 1992, Berkeley, California

Contact: A.Robin Orden, Office of the Mayor 510/644-6484
Dennis Jennings, Indigenous Peoples Day Cte 510/548-1992

BERKELEY DEDICATES TURTLE ISLAND MONUMENT AS PART OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY ACTIVITIES

On Saturday October 10th, 1992 the City of Berkeley will host an outdoor program as part of its first Indigenous Peoples Day activities. The program runs from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park with acoustic music and a variety of cultural events. At 2:00, the commemoration will move to the BART Plaza at Shattuck Avenue and Center Street for a continuation of cultural activities until 4:00 pm.

The highlight of the day's events will be the dedication of the site for the Turtle Island Monument from 11:00 until 1:00. The Monument will honor the Native People of this hemisphere, whose societies flourished centuries before Columbus arrived and which continue on this day. 1992 is seen as the end of 500 years of resistance and the beginning of 500 years of rebuilding by the Indigenous People of Turtle Island.

Among those expected at the dedication are leaders and elders of many Native Peoples, including the Ohlone of our area in California.

In dedicating the Monument, Mayor Loni Hancock recognized "the care that Native People have had for this land long before Columbus and in honor of their culture and philosophy, which are needed now more than ever if the planet is to survive".

- # -

Martin Luther King, Jr. Civic Center

2180 Milvia Street

Berkeley, California 94704

Telephone(510) 644-6484

TDD (510) 644-8678

Berkeley's Quincentennial Commemoration of
the 500 years 1492-1992
will be held on the first

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

Saturday, October 10, 1992

with Representatives from many of
**the Native Nations
of Turtle Island**

(Continental America)

Sunrise ceremony at the waterfront.

**10 AM to 2 PM: commemoration activities in
Martin Luther King, Jr. Park (Allston Way and M.L.K. Way),
with cultural presentations by Indigenous people.**

The Turtle Island Monument and time capsule
storing Native thoughts and artifacts will be dedicated.

Booths selling Indigenous food and crafts; informational tables
from Native, Environmental, and Human Rights groups.

**At 2 PM: procession leaves the park and walks to BART Plaza
(Shattuck Avenue between Allston & Center).**

2 PM to 5 PM: cultural presentations at BART Plaza
on
the last 500 years of Indigenous struggle and survival,
and the next 500 years of restoration.



Berkeley
Resistance 500
Task Force

P.O. Box 2307
Berkeley, CA 94707
(510) 464-0345



City of Berkeley Proclamation

Loni Hancock
Mayor

DEDICATING THE SITE FOR THE TURTLE ISLAND MONUMENT

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Resistance 500 Task Force, a broad-based community group, brought the proposal for Indigenous Peoples Day and related activities and programs to the Commission on Peace and Justice, which recommended adoption of the proposal to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council, on 22 October 1991, approved the recommendation for Indigenous Peoples Day and the designation of 1992 as the Year of Indigenous People, including educational events throughout the year and commemorative events on the weekend of 10-12 October; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force proposal also included a monument, now known as the Turtle Island Monument, and the concept for this monument and time capsule are being developed and circulated for review and approval through all necessary City boards and commissions; and

WHEREAS, the Turtle Island Monument is dedicated to all indigenous people of this hemisphere, whose societies flourished centuries before Columbus arrived and which continue on this day, which is seen as the end of 500 years of resistance and the beginning of 500 years of rebuilding;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Loni Hancock, Mayor of the City of Berkeley, do hereby dedicate this site for the Turtle Island Monument to the Native People of this hemisphere on behalf of the non-native people of Berkeley, in recognition of your care for this land long "before Columbus was discovered on our shores" and in honor of your culture and philosophy, which are needed now more than ever if the planet is to survive.


Loni Hancock, Mayor

2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, California 94704 • Telephone (415) 644-6484
TDD (415) 644-6915

Declaration of the City Council of Berkeley, California, Concerning
Indigenous Peoples Day

*as proposed by the Berkeley Resistance 500 Task Force and Peace & Justice Commission
Passed Unanimously October 22, 1991*

October 12 as Indigenous Peoples Day

The Berkeley City Council declares October 12 to be commemorated annually in Berkeley as Day of Solidarity with Indigenous People.

The First Commemoration, October 12, 1992

The Berkeley quincentennial commemoration of October 12 will be an all-day event on the nearest calendar weekend, with ceremonies, cultural events and speakers, participation from the schools and an informational procession.

1992 the Year of Indigenous People

The City Council declares that 1992 will be commemorated as the Year of Indigenous People. The Council suggests that community organizations, businesses, religious organizations, city commissions, parks, local radio, cable TV stations and newspapers participate in this year and day; and that newspapers, radio and cable stations issue regular reminders throughout the year of Indigenous issues and events.

The Schools

The Council encourages the schools to include classroom discussions and projects regarding the history and issues of the 500 years.

Public Libraries

The Council encourages the public libraries to participate with a series of activities and events, including an invitation to Indigenous speakers, special exhibits featuring literature of and about Indigenous peoples, and exhibits critically displaying existing literature. The library should seek Indigenous resource people to consult with them on obtaining and stocking progressive literature.

Museum Exhibits and Events

The Berkeley Resistance 500 Task Force should consult with the museums to encourage all exhibits connected with the Quincentenary to reflect the points of view and concerns of Indigenous people.

The Arts

Galleries, cultural centers, theaters, bookstores are all encouraged to feature local Native American artists throughout the year.

The University of California

The Council calls on the Anthropology Department to complete its returning of all bones of Indigenous people, and encourages the University to establish a 'think tank' composed of Native and non-Native academics to assist Indian struggles.

Monument and Time Capsule

The City will sponsor, by providing space and assistance, a monument dedicated to the Indigenous peoples impacted by the arrival of Columbus. The monument might include a time capsule storing Native thoughts and artifacts for future generations.

Solidarity and Outreach

We encourage the people of Berkeley to reach out in solidarity with Indigenous peoples around the world and their struggles, including especially people indigenous to this local area and surrounding regions, to promote the health, education and welfare of all people, both immigrant and Indigenous.



Office of the Mayor

CONSENT CALENDAR

December 4, 2018

To: Members of the City Council
From: Mayor Jesse Arreguín, Councilmembers Kate Harrison and Sophie Hahn
Subject: Revitalization of the Civic Center Park Fountain

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the City Manager to work with the Turtle Island Fountain Project in developing a plan to revitalize the fountain at Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park.

BACKGROUND

Civic Center Park was created in the 1940s after a bond measure was passed to acquire the property and develop a Civic Center Plaza. The fountain was a gift from the City of San Francisco that was originally used for the 1939-1940 Golden Gate International Exposition. For a generation, the fountain was a popular destination for residents until it was decommissioned in the mid-1970s due to drought and financial limitations.

In 1994, Mayor Shirley Dean called for plans to redesign the park. Such plans would incorporate elements to honor Native Americans, as Berkeley had just celebrated its first Indigenous Peoples Day two years earlier. In 1996, Berkeley voters approved Measure S, a \$49 million bond which included \$4 million for landscaping and street improvements to the Downtown and Civic Center areas. In 1997, the park, including the fountain area, was landmarked to preserve its historic features.

With hopes of soon reinstating the fountain, a nationwide call was made in 2003 for artists to develop a proposal for artwork to be incorporated into the fountain. In 2005, the Civic Arts Committee approved Scott Parson of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to create four bronze turtles to be placed in the fountain. Once completed in 2008, they were placed in the Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center at 2180 Milvia Street, where they currently reside awaiting to be moved to the fountain once renovations are completed.

In July 2017, the City Council directed the City Manager to expand the existing study of renovating Old City Hall and the Veterans Building to include Civic Center Park. The cost of this study is being funded through Measure T1. It is important to move forward on developing plans for its revitalization given the park's popularity in hosting many events each year that attracts hundreds of people and its geographic location as the heart of the Civic Center Historical District Overlay.

A community group, Turtle Island Fountain Project, has formed to develop plans to restore the fountain as a piece of public art in honor of the Native American community. Working with architects, they have developed a conceptual design (which is attached) which does not involve restoring the water feature but repurposing the fountain to provide seating and public art and create placemaking in Civic Center Park. Their plans closely follow the conceptual design developed over 10 years ago for the fountain as a Turtle Island monument.

The group is seeking partnership with the City to work on repurposing the fountain, as well as seek grant funding to complete the project. This item would refer to the City Manager to begin work with the Turtle Island Fountain Project on developing a design which can be funded in the future through a combination of city and private funds.

Repurposing the fountain will help revitalize Civic Center Park, improve public safety and complete the vision developed over 20 years ago for a monument to the Native American community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost of renovations is expected to cost \$200,000, with some funds being raised through private donors. See attachment 2 for details.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

As directed in the July 2017 Council item, any proposal must adhere to the highest green standards possible.

CONTACT PERSON

Mayor Jesse Arreguín 510-981-7100

Attachments:

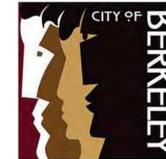
- 1: Proposal from the Turtle Island Fountain Project
- 2: Breakdown of proposed budget
- 3: Rendering of proposed fountain revitalization



TURTLE ISLAND MONUMENT GARDEN UPPER PLAZA IMPROVEMENTS

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BERKELEY CIVIC CENTER PARK
BERKELEY, CA

City of Berkeley Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department
City of Berkeley City Manager's Office, Civic Arts Program



INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY AND SUPPORTERS

Lee Sprague, Marlene Watson
Gino Barichello, Nannette Deetz, Shar Suke, Melinda Thomas
John Curl, Kim Anno

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS

Scott Parsons, Artist
Turtle Island Monument Project Committee

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Cathy Garrett, Principal-in-Charge, PGAdesign

PGAdesign
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Landmarks Preservation Commission

Subcommittee

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

Civic Arts Commission

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Landmarks Preservation Commission

Thursday, December 1, 2022

PROJECT FUNDING

Measure T1 Timeline

Passed in November 2016

Phase 1 Projects Approved June 2017

Phase 2 Projects Approved December 2020

\$300,000



Caltrans Clean California Grant

Awarded May 2022

\$519,666

Milestone

March 1, 2022

Project Award Notification

June 30, 2024

Date by when projects must be completed and all funds expended. If the project involves infrastructure components, all components must be opened to the public and all funds expended by this date.

December 31, 2024

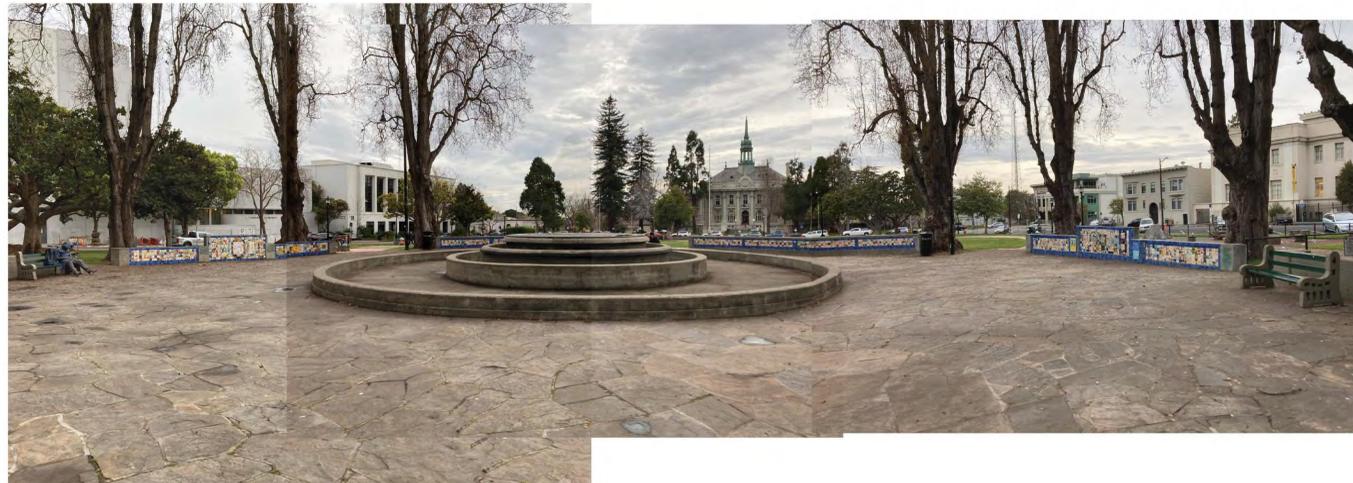
Date by when final invoicing and project closeout must be complete.

PROJECT PROCESS TO DATE

1990s	<p>1992 City of Berkeley Indigenous Peoples Day Declaration and creation of Turtle Island Project</p> <p>1996 Measure S funding allocated to Civic Center Park including the Turtle Island Monument Project</p> <p>1997 LPC Approved Landmark Status for Civic Center Park</p> <p>1998 Civic Center Park added to National Register of Historic Places</p>
2000s	<p>2000 CEQA process started</p> <p>2002 CEQA and LPC Alteration Permit Approved</p> <p>2005 LPC approved CEQA and Alteration Permit addendum for improvements to Civic Center Park</p> <p>2005 Council approved reduced scope for Civic Center Park project, limited to the commissioning of Turtles and Medallions artwork only</p> <p>2005 City selected Artist for Turtle sculptures and medallions</p> <p>2008 Consultant Artist completed Turtle sculptures and medallions</p>
2010s	<p>2017 Measure T1 Bond passed</p> <p>2018 Mayor and City Council recommend revitalization of the Civic Center Park Fountain project</p>
2020s	<p>2020 City Council Approved Measure T1 funding for the Turtle Island Monument Project</p> <p>2021 PRW Department and Civic Arts begin coordination of Turtle Island Monument Project</p> <p>2021 City engages PGAdesign for Landscape Architecture Services</p> <p>2022 Clean CA Grant Awarded providing \$596k for Civic Center project</p> <p>2022 City re-engages Indigenous Community and previous designers and artist; Held meetings and design charette workshops</p>



Indigenous Stakeholder Group Design Charrette (November 17-18, 2022)



1. At the center and highest point of Turtle Island Monument: a bronze snapping turtle, cast in motion, faces east. It is 12 feet long.

On its back, the **Indigenous Peoples Day Turtle Island graphic** shows an eagle and condor surrounding North and South America, with the other continents at its edges.

The turtle sits atop a **large round stone**, rough-edged, with a polished, reflective surface. Its proportions replicate the highest existing fountain tier. Contrasting inlay mark the **four directions** in the polished stone. The stone contains the Indigenous Peoples Day **Time Capsule**.

2. Two lower, concentric tiers, feature elements of the story of Turtle Island. These tiers and their elements borrow structurally from the existing fountain designed for the park.

The first tier, almost six feet out from the stone, is a **planting bed**. Retaining some of the existing tier concrete edge, its diameter is 22 feet and is 2'-2" tall. The planting, rising slightly toward the turtle, is a wave-like massing that evokes water. Four **interpretive elements** will provide artist, cultural, and historical information for visitors to express the meaning and creation of the Turtle Island Monument.

The second concentric tier is the existing fountain basin edge, 50 feet in diameter and 14 inches tall. It is a **seawall and threshold** to the Monument, with **four openings** at true north, east, south, and west, to welcome visitors into the monument. The largest opening faces east, second largest faces west, and two smaller openings north and south. The vertical faces at these openings are painted the **four colors and directions**.

3. Between these tiers is a space for people that is entirely accessible. Moving around the Monument, visitors will see and hear elements of the Monument's story.

Large boulders with embedded mosaic tribal medallions, tilt towards visitors within and around the Monument. They vary in height from 2'-5" to 4' tall. (None obscure the snapping turtle or views of the Peace Wall and park.) They have a natural, irregular finish, except for the polished face framing the medallions. Two boulders are included for future medallions representing Mexican, Central, and South American tribes.

The outer-most tier further integrates **seven low stones**, six to 18 inches tall. They are similar to the large central stone, with polished surfaces and rough edges. **Four bronze loggerhead oceanic turtles**, half the size of the snapping turtle, rest on four of these stones, near the east and west entries. The other three stones could be sat upon. Planting beds with durable, water-like plants nestle these turtles into their surroundings. Planting beds outside the outer tier have a 4" minimum curb in stone or concrete.

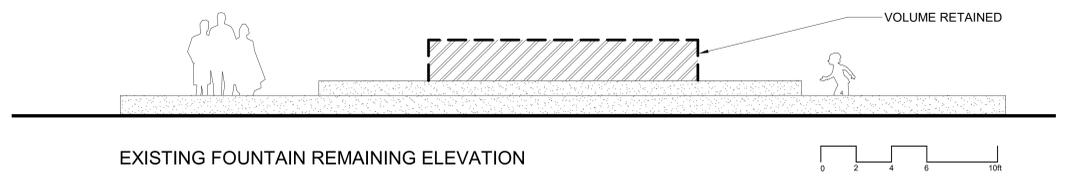
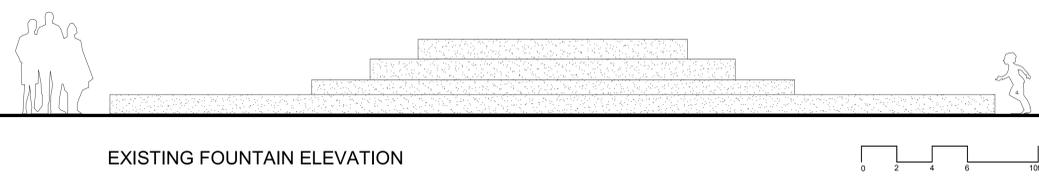
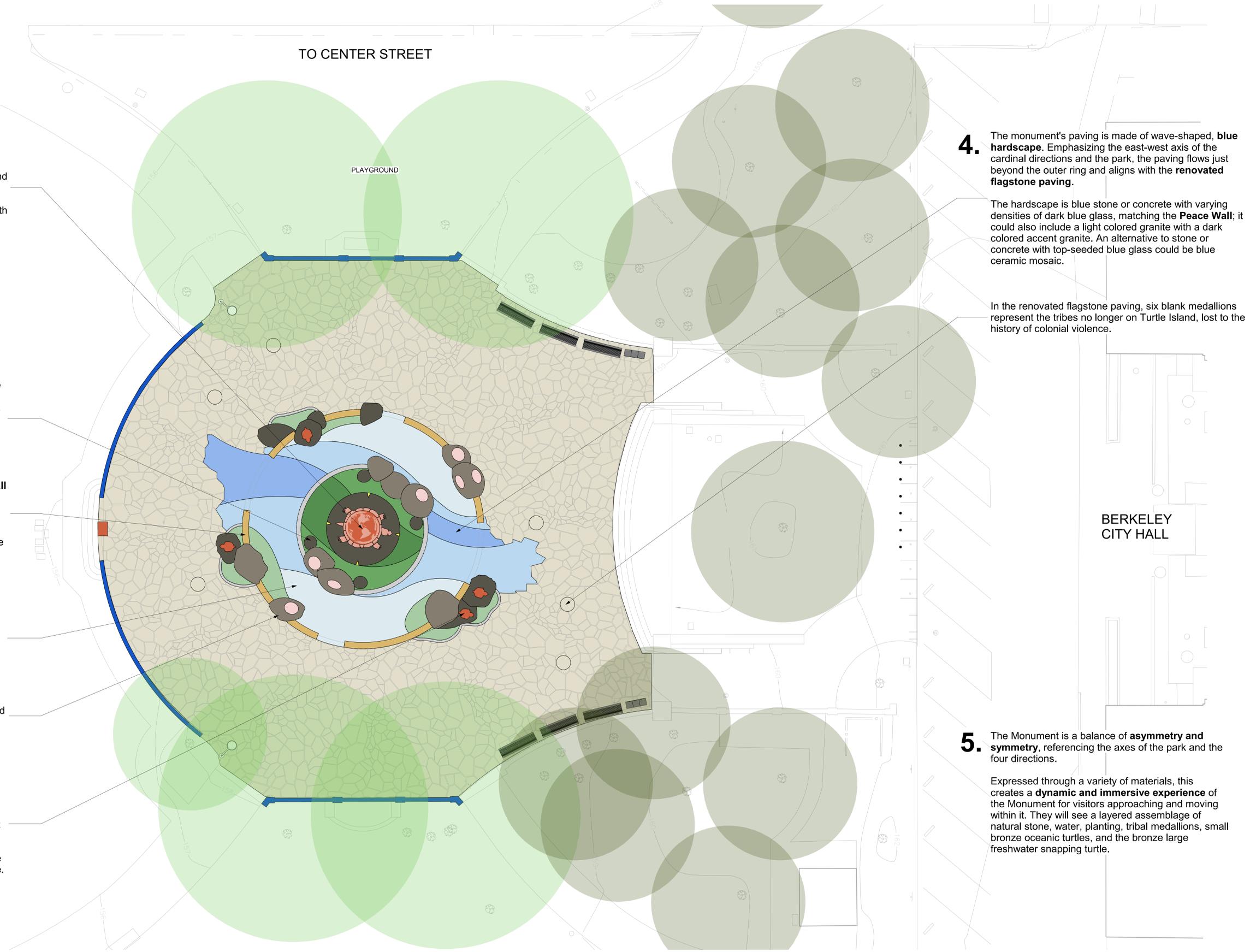
4. The monument's paving is made of wave-shaped, blue hardscape. Emphasizing the east-west axis of the cardinal directions and the park, the paving flows just beyond the outer ring and aligns with the renovated flagstone paving.

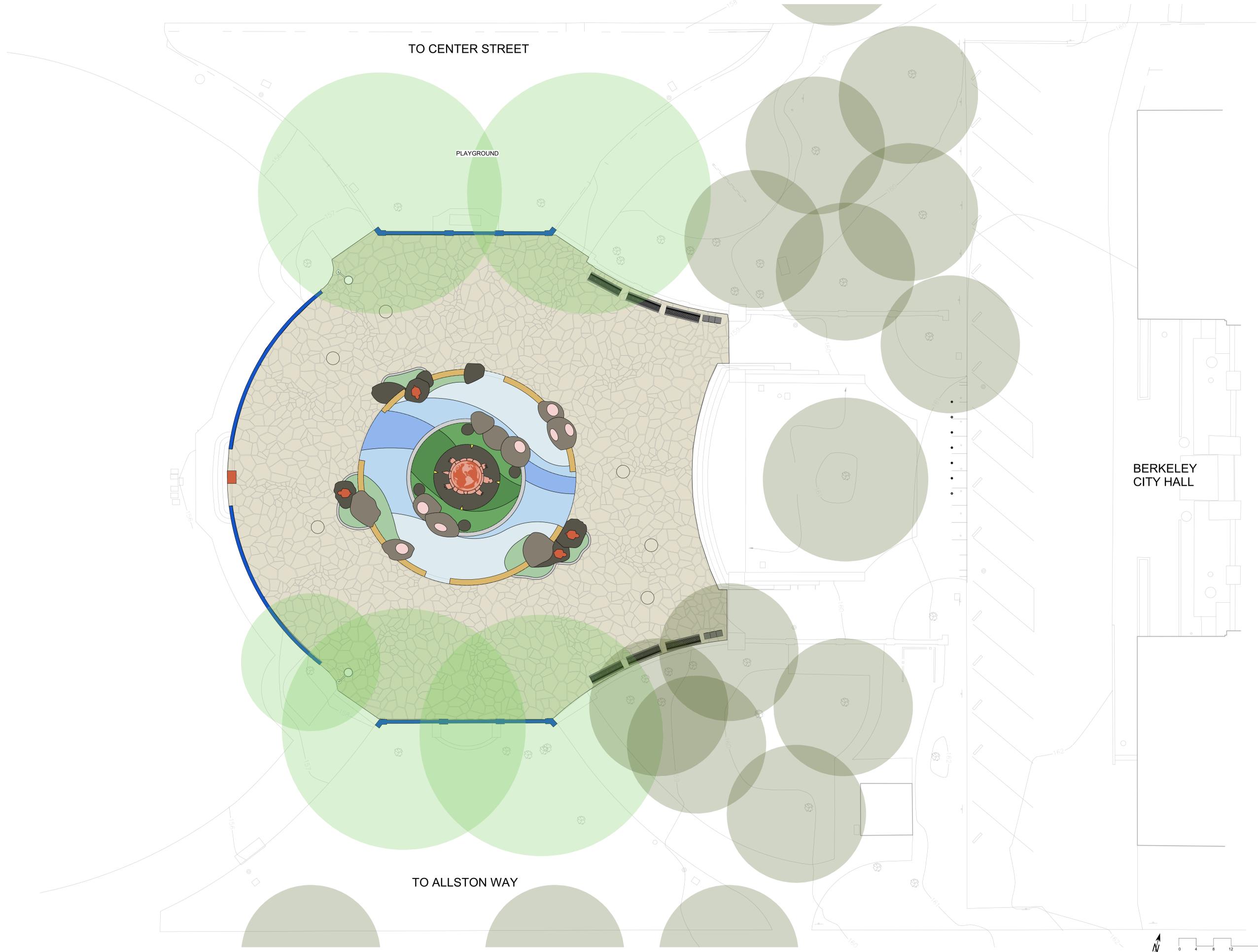
The hardscape is blue stone or concrete with varying densities of dark blue glass, matching the **Peace Wall**; it could also include a light colored granite with a dark colored accent granite. An alternative to stone or concrete with top-seeded blue glass could be blue ceramic mosaic.

In the renovated flagstone paving, six blank medallions represent the tribes no longer on Turtle Island, lost to the history of colonial violence.

5. The Monument is a balance of asymmetry and symmetry, referencing the axes of the park and the four directions.

Expressed through a variety of materials, this creates a **dynamic and immersive experience** of the Monument for visitors approaching and moving within it. They will see a layered assemblage of natural stone, water, planting, tribal medallions, small bronze oceanic turtles, and the bronze large freshwater snapping turtle.





LEGEND - HARDSCAPE

- BLUE GLASS TOP-SEEDED CONCRETE, HIGH DENSITY; OR BLUE STONE
- BLUE GLASS TOP-SEEDED CONCRETE, MODERATE DENSITY; OR BLUE STONE
- BLUE GLASS TOP-SEEDED CONCRETE, LOW DENSITY; OR BLUE STONE
- RENOVATED FLAGSTONE PAVING

LEGEND - ART ELEMENTS WITH STONE

- LOW STONE, 6" TO 1'-6" HIGH, POLISHED SURFACE WITH ROUGH EDGES
- WITH (4) BRONZE LOGGERHEAD TURTLES
- LARGE BOULDER, 2'-6" TO 4' HIGH, NATURAL EDGES
- WITH (8) TRIBAL MEDALLIONS SET FLUSH TILTED, POLISHED SURFACE
- (4) SMALL STONES IN RAISED PLANTER, INSCRIBED WITH INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE
- LARGE STONE, 4'-3" HIGH, 15' DIAMETER, POLISHED SURFACE WITH NATURAL EDGES
 LARGE BRONZE TURTLE, 12' LONG, WITH NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA SURROUNDED BY OTHER CONTINENTS, THE EAGLE AND CONDOR, MOUNTED
 CONTRASTING INLAY AT FOUR DIRECTIONS
 TIME CAPSULE, WITHIN
- BLANK MEDALLION, STONE, TO MATCH FLAGSTONE PAVING

LEGEND - PLANTING

- LOW PLANTING AT GRADE
- PLANTING IN RAISED BED
- CURB AT PLANTING EDGE, 4" HIGH

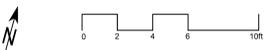
LEGEND - FURNISHINGS

- WOOD SLAT SEATWALL MOUNTED TO (E) FOUNTAIN BASIN RIM, 1' - 4" WIDE
- PARK BENCHES
- WASTE RECEPTACLE

EXISTING MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BRONZE PLAQUE

EXISTING PEACE WALL, TYP.

EXISTING TREE CANOPY



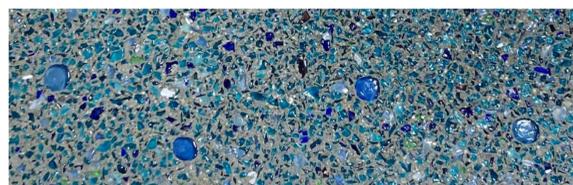
GLASS TOP-SEEDED CONCRETE PAVING



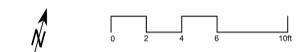
SAMPLE A - BLUE - GREEN - WHITE GRADIENT



SAMPLE B - BLUE - WHITE GRADIENT



SAMPLE C - BLUE









December 6, 2022

Dear Civic Arts Commission Members,

I am submitting comments prior to the December 7 Civic Arts Commission meeting and consideration of the current design proposal of the Turtle Island Monument.

I want first to state that I strongly support the completion of the Turtle Island Monument, as is obvious from the many years of investment of my time and effort to make this happen. Toward that end, I am submitting my comments and concerns regarding the current planning process and design for the Turtle Island Monument.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the following:

1. The current design was derived from input from a two-day charrette whose participants were specifically told to ignore any previous work or input on the project, including budget, safety, maintenance, and design input. This "dream big" approach has resulted in a plan which does not meet a number of requirements that city staff repeatedly told us were critical to the project.
2. There are no budgetary figures attached to the current proposal for either creation or maintenance of the monument. However, according to commissioner comments made during a previous meeting with the Civic Arts Commission the cost of the additional central bronze turtle is likely to be several hundred thousand dollars based on a similar smaller sculpture commissioned by the City.

In discussions with Jennifer Lovvorn, it was stated that the Civic Arts Commission might be willing to cover that additional cost, which is not in the current budget. Please take this possibility into account in your discussion of the current design along with the fact that the larger Berkeley Community might take issue with further expenditures on this almost \$1,000,000 project.

In addition, other potentially budget-busting elements of the proposal also have not been costed out. My concern is that the project will be left incomplete for another thirty years. In that regard, my bigger concern is that the current lack of consideration vis-a-vis the current will once again delay the project's completion and result in a partially completed monument where the defunct fountain has languished for years. It's important that the monument be completed within the money currently allocated and not require future funding which may not materialize. I hope the Civic Arts Commission will insist on this.

3. I see significant potential liability problems with the current design. With the proposed large central turtle seven to eight off the concrete ground, I am surprised that this design is being considered by the City at all. It seems to me that the City's exposure to potential lawsuits from accidents resulting from kids, or even adults climbing up on the Turtle is considerable. In addition, the ease of access would be a likely and easy target for graffiti artists.

4. The current design calls for the deconstruction of a City Landmark and does not appear to follow the legal requirements set out in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation Requirements. It seems prudent for the City Attorney to make an assessment before any further work is done on the proposed design, to see if the legally required standards are being met.

5. The current design misses an opportunity to include habitat restoration as a major feature of the monument. This was originally suggested by Walter Hood, landscape architect and Macarthur Genius Grant awardee, Walter Hood, who volunteered his time on this project, and was heartily supported by the local pollinator, habitat, and wildlife groups.

5. By having the proposed twelve-foot bronze turtle facing the rising sun in the East, almost all users of MLK Jr Civic Center Park will be viewing the monument from the rear end of the turtle. I leave it to the Civic Arts Commission to comment on this feature.

6. Having been involved in this effort since the early 90's and having seen the conscientious and extensive outreach to the indigenous and local community done mostly by Deb Durant, I want to say that I concur with her written comments to you and hope that the Civic Arts Commission will solicit input from the wider local indigenous community on a design that can meet the City's safety, maintenance, landmark, and design specifications.

I hope that all of these issues can be resolved and that The Turtle Island Monument can be fully completed on-time and within the budget currently allocated to the project. More importantly, I've advocated all along for a monument that is outstanding and worthy of the community it is honoring. I trust that everyone who is working on this project feels the same and that we can work together to create an inspiring, site-appropriate, affordable, and safe monument.

I have copied many of those involved so that they clearly understand my position.

Sincerely,

Elyce Klein

From: [Deborah Durant](#)
To: [Arreguin, Jesse L.](#); [Carnegie, Isaac](#); [Chan, Evelyn](#); [Ferris, Scott](#); [Kim Anno](#); [Lovvorn, Jennifer](#)
Cc: [David Snippen](#); [Elyce Klein](#)
Subject: Documentation of Indigenous Outreach by the Turtle Island Monument team
Date: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 8:10:32 AM
Attachments: [Indigenous Outreach - One email thread .pdf](#)

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Commissioners, City staff, and elected officials in charge of Turtle Island Monument,

The other evening, at the LPC meeting to review the new conceptual designs for Turtle Island Monument, it was once again stated, incorrectly, by officials in positions of authority re: the project, that the team responsible for helping the City bring this project to its full funding had not done sufficient outreach to the Indigenous community.

This continued and deliberate slander is hurting the Indigenous community. By making these false claims, loudly and publicly, and allowing the comments to stand, you are letting the Indigenous community believe that they were not strongly advocated for, and that their vital input was not a top priority.

I believe the attached documentation clearly illuminates that those who have been entrusted with authority were STRONGLY and REPEATEDLY URGED to bring in known Indigenous leadership from the local community - and that they have willingly, knowingly, deliberately, and consistently failed to bring them to the table. They have essentially worked to keep them out of the room.

I am taking the opportunity to share with you that, if you continue to refuse to take steps to correct these gross misperceptions and if you continue to leave people out of the room, you will be forcing these facts to be made public. The Indigenous community deserves to know how and when they ARE or ARE NOT being responsibly represented.

I speak for myself only, per one single strand of my own emails - but I have hundreds, as do David and Elyce. Upon request, pending permission from all Indigenous individuals involved, we will be happy to share them all towards a better understanding of the actual Indigenous outreach.

In addition to correcting misperceptions, it is equally important for the Indigenous community to see and understand the VAST AMOUNT OF OUTREACH that WAS done on their behalf.

Personally, I believe it could have been very healing to hear about the many Indigenous voices who expressed interest in being involved, as well as hearing about those who already spent time making valuable

contributions these past five years. This is something to be proud of. I also recognize that, in sharing this information, it would be a true tragedy for the community to realize how the leadership they've been looking to for guidance has been inadvertently silencing their input by spreading these untruths.

Any credit claimed by me in this documentation I share fully with my fellow Turtle Island Monument group members, Elyce Klein and David Snippen.

Any missteps referenced on our team's behalf, I speak only for myself and accept full responsibility.

No text has been altered in any way except to remove names to protect people's privacy.

I have requested and received prior permission from Shar Sukes to include her emails.

PLS NOTE: The emails do not read in chronological order because of numerous back and forths.

My apologies for any formatting snafus.

I have tried at every turn to keep my growing concerns private (or rather, not public) as I do not think it serves the community.

I've sought out the individuals in charge **numerous times** to correct the situation, and have tried to always find the win/win/win solution.

There are not two sides at play here - I believe we all agree what's best for the Indigenous community WILL BE what's best for the community at large.

Thank you for your attention,
*Deb Durant

--



deb durant, berkeley
415.235.1551
www.debdurant.com

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Fwd: Civic Center Turtle Garden - Indigenous Contacts / Outreach

Deborah Durant <deb Durant@gmail.com>

Sep 29, 2022, 2:32 PM

to Sharilane, Elyce, David, Marlene, Lee, John

Hi Shar -

We hope all plans for the upcoming Indigenous Peoples' Day event are going well!

We wanted to follow up re: conversations about Turtle Island Monument and the supporting documents we promised to share - we're cc'g Lee & Marlene to keep them in the loop, and also John Curl (as charrette facilitator). Please feel free to share further as you see fit, & please reach out if any Qs

INCLUDED:

- the Turtle Island Monument team's list of Indigenous community members - which we sent to the City for the purpose of inviting / including them in the initial indigenous community input meetings (below)
- selection of 2020 correspondences w local indigenous cultural leaders requesting and receiving support and intentions of (future) involvement in the project
- (not included but referencing - Lee has this) letter fr Mayor Jesse Arreguin (early 2018) initially expressing support for restoring the fountain with running water (which Lee references); later that year, per new input re: feasibility & budget #s from numerous sources, he revised his comments re: the use of running water
- a copy of the Dec. 4, 2018 consent calendar where Mayor Jesse Arreguin directed the City Manager to work with the Turtle Island Monument team towards completion of the project '...which does not involve restoring the water feature'

To clarify, sharing these letters in no way means our team does not support running water - only that we were told that the City confirmed they would not be able to implement a design with running water. If the City changes their stance on that we would of course be in complete support of running water.

As the design process moves forward, we hope the City will include more opportunities for feedback directly from indigenous community members who have expressed a desire to participate, many of who were unable to participate prior to funding being secured. Now that the project is fully funded and being designed, we feel certain they would appreciate being informed and the opportunity to add their valuable input.

We hope to support indigenous voice in this project in any way we can, while working harmoniously with all City & design-related entities.

Many thanks again, Shar ~

*Deb

Deb Durant, Elyec Klein, David Snippen

www.turtleislandfountain.org

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

From: Deborah Durant <debduurant@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Feb 28, 2022 at 11:33 AM

Subject: Re: Civic Center Turtle Garden - Indigenous Contacts

To: Carnegie, Isaac <ICarnegie@cityofberkeley.info>

Cc: Chan, Evelyn <EChan@cityofberkeley.info>, Elyce Klein <elyceklein@gmail.com>, David Snippen <dsnppn28@gmail.com>

INDIGENOUS CONTACT LIST FOR EARLY FEEDBACK SESSIONS:

Individuals / groups contact we've already worked with directly:

Lee Sprague, community activist, creator of the original TIF design Lee Sprague - <sprague.lee@gmail.com >
(now living in Plainwell, MI)

Marlene Watson, original architect of the Turtle Island Monument - Marlene Watson
<mdwatson19@gmail.com>

Scott Parsons, artist awarded design project by Civic Arts Commission - Scott Parsons
<scottkparsons@yahoo.com> (living in Sioux Falls, SD)

Corrina Gould, Sogorea Te Land Trust - Corrina Gould <shellmoundwork@gmail.com>

Toby McLeod, Sacred Land Film Project - Toby McLeod <tm@sacredland.org>

Malcolm Margolin, Director CAL ICAN - Malcolm Margolin <malcolm@californiaican.org>

Claire Greensfelder, Associate Director CAL ICAN - Claire Greensfelder <claire@californiaican.org>

Vincent Medina, Muwekma Ohlone tribal representative, Cafe Ohlone co-owner - Vincent Medina
<vincent@makamham.com>

Louis Trevino, Cafe Ohlone co-owner - Louis Trevino <louis@makamham.com>

Deirdre Greene, Cafe Ohlone coordinator - Deirdre Greene <dee@makamham.com>

Indigenous Peoples Day - Pow Wow team contacts:

Web Site <http://ipdpowwow.org/>

John Curl, Founding Member of IPD Committee - John Curl <johncurl@comcast.net>

Sharilane Sukes, current IPD pow wow coordinator, and judge of turtles sculptures - Sharilane Sukes
<shardance2k@yahoo.com>

Hallie Frazer, former pow wow vendors coordinator - Hallie Frazer <hallie.frazer@gmail.com>

ARTS & ARTISTS ORGS contacts we've reached out to & made initial contact:

Sharaya Souza, ED American Indian Cultural District - Sharaya Souza

<SharayaS@AmericanIndianCulturalDistrict.org>

American Indian Cultural District <americanindianculturaldistrict@gmail.com> ,

April McGill <april@ccuih.org> ,

Bonillo, Jaren (ART) <jaren.bonillo@sfgov.org> ,

Michelle Shawnego <michelles@nativehealth.org> ,

peter bratt <peterbratt@yahoo.com> ,

Mary Travis-Allen <mtamary1@gmail.com> ,

Flores, Paloma <floresp@sfusd.edu> ,

Michelle Antone <michelleeantone@gmail.com> ,

Debbie Santiago <thehairplacemore@att.net> ,

Kanyon Sayers-Roods <kanyon@kanyonconsulting.com>

RE: Turtle Island Fountain / Monument to the Indigenous Community / Civic Center Park

Hello again, Isaac -

Thanks for your note on Feb 15 (slow covid recovery here - my apologies again) - please see below list of Indigenous community contacts, per your request.

The lists are separated into categories in the hopes there may be multiple meetings - am guessing you'll have many interested in giving input on wide range of topics.

If you could pls advise what you would like us to tell folks in case they ask about extending invites to others in their communities, that would help us set expectations.

We will send you any additional or missing names if more come up, please let me know if you have any additional Qs - happy to help.

Many thanks, Isaac -

*Deb

Deb Durant, Elyce Klein, David Snippen,
Turtle Island Fountain Mounument Team
www.turtleislandfountain.org

From: Deborah Durant <deb Durant@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 5:27 PM
To: Carnegie, Isaac <ICarnegie@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: Re: Civic Center Turtle Garden - Indigenous Contacts

Hello Isaac,

Yes, in fact we have several different lists.

You may want to schedule a few separate meetings, as they represent a wide range of interests and involvement (e.g. one is the Indigenous Peoples Day and Pow Wow group, another is a group of Indigenous Art Org leaders, another the Cafe Ohlone/Bancroft Museum group, also the original design concept people, including one's documentary crew, who we met with a few weeks back).

I am just about to jump on a Zoom with one of the groups this evening, but will plan to get that info to you by end of day tomorrow or Friday latest.

Thanks, Isaac ~

*Deb

Apr 1, 2022,
12:11 PM

Deborah Durant <deb Durant@gmail.com>

to Marlene, sprague.lee, Scott, Isaac, Evelyn, Elyce, David

Hello Isaac and Evelyn,

April greetings ~

We wanted to follow up re: the outreach / input sessions for the Indigenous community (prior to the wider public input sessions) - could you please advise if those dates have been set yet?

We would also like to include one more contact: nanette deetz • nanettedeetz@comcast.net

Marlene Watkins, the original architect who worked on the project with community activist/designer Lee Sprague, reached out by phone recently. She's expressed an interest in being involved, moving forward. She suggested a meeting with herself and Lee plus the design team - as they have a wealth of deep and detailed info on the project's Indigenous origins, contacts, & content which would no doubt be quite valuable to the design team.

I told her we've been instructed to send all correspondences thru yourself and Evelyn.

We're cc'g Marlene and Lee here, it would be appreciated if you could please advise best next steps.

We also have additional design content to send (for PGA) - will forward under separate cover.

Many thanks -

*Deb Durant

--

Hi Deb,

"We hope all plans for the upcoming Indigenous Peoples' Day event are going well! "

Plans are not going well. I am doing the job of 4 people and have missed 2 deadlines with COB because I did not have a guide, skills, a non-ADHD brain, or necessary assistance. I cannot take calls from Marlene, or any others about TMI. I explained to her a few weeks ago that IPDC lacks the manpower to serve as the PR agent which what the TMI needs. I never should have attended the charette cause I cannot follow through.

We are 7 days out and short of funds (though our efforts are being rewarded as to that invoice to NAHC 😊; we just won't get it till post-pw). as to tribal leaders I don't know any. Any of the movers and shakers of community I know who could have been supportive were in the first emails I sent out back in early summer inviting them to the charette. if I can come up with a list of names/ems this weekend I will forward to you. I apologize for all of that.

I will be able to read your whole email this weekend.

If COB takes a hard line about our late deadlines, we may have to cancel the PW. OF course that's a worse case scenario and I share it confidentially to let you know how panicked I am.

Sorry I can't be more helpful. I regret having offered to coordinate this event and if we do get to have it, I don't see how it will be sustainable in future. There are no native people who want/or can, do it. Perhaps TMI should have a dedication Next year sans Powwow. They really need a whole year and a dedicated coordinator to generate what they need and I wish I had said that back in August. please forgive my doom & gloom today; sleep deprivation is only excuse.

Best possible wishin & hopin.

shar

"Nature is the storehouse of potential life for future generations and is sacred."

--Audrey Shenandoah, Onondaga, Haudensaunee



Thu, Sep 29,
4:37 PM

Deborah Durant
<deb Durant@gmail.com>

to s

Shar! I am so sorry to hear about the STRESS - that sounds super overwhelming..

You don't need to do ANYTHING re: follow up - no worries!! - I just wanted to get it all in writing. (Including what the City has said about 'no water' & their minimal outreach to the list of indigenous people we provided) Nothing is needed from you fr our side...

I hope things miraculously pull together for the powwow- it sounds like the grant money IS coming, but late (headache!)

Are you guys looking for a bridge-type loan to cover costs in the meantime? If so, I can ask some ppl..

Pls LMK if I can help somehow - the waters are up above my noseline right now too but perhaps I can do something if I know what you need (or could ask the right person).

Breathe, breathe, breathe ~

It's criminal that the City hasn't organized something special for the 30th anniv - UGH -

Pls let me know!

*Deb

--



deb durant, berkeley

415.235.1551

www.debdurant.com

Thu, Sep 29,
4:40 PM

Deborah Durant

<debdurant@gmail.com>

to s

... also YES totally - the City should help w organizing the powwow (or help support it) more than they currently are.

Berekeley has a special responsibility, claiming the first IPD city in the country, they should STEP UP

Will help you however I can on that - not re: talent of cultural content which should be left to the indigenous community - but on funding what's needed to make all the magic happen



Oct 7, 2022,
9:52 AM

Deborah Durant
<deb Durant@gmail.com>

to Jennifer, Kim, Evelyn, Isaac

Good morning, all -

Wishing everyone a good Indigenous Peoples Day weekend, we hope the pow wow in Civic Center Park is a great success ~

We also hope everything is progressing well on the Turtle Island Monument project. Our team sent a letter with comments a few weeks back, we've heard nothing further since though (other than confirmation of receipt) - would appreciate any updates.

Below, please see the list of indigenous community members provided to the City back in Feb - many of them were not in attendance at the recent meetings held specifically for the indigenous community - and we know they expressed interest in being involved.

Please let us know if any Qs -
Much appreciated,
*Deb

Feb 28, 2022

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

2 Attachments • Scanned by Gmail

(name of person sent to redacted)



Hitting wall, full speed, no helmet!! As they say - no good deed goes unpunished...
City is cutting us out almost completely - it's like the past 5 yrs of hard work never happened.
Ugh

L is not looking good either - yikes
I think I need a breather...

How are you doing??

Deborah Durant
<deb Durant@gmail.com>

Nov 2, 2022,
2:03 PM

to Sharaya, April, Gregg, Sharilane, Michelle, peter, Mary, Paloma, Michelle, Debbbie, Corrina,
Kanyon, bcc: John

Greetings Sharaya, (plus everyone included & cc:d above)

We wish you a good Native American Heritage Month - may this month's focus lead to better awareness all year long!

I'm with the citizen group www.turtleislandfountain.org that's been working on a monument to Indigenous Peoples - the project began back in 1992 in downtown Civic Center Plaza, Berkeley, CA, and it's finally about to be realized after 30 years.

(We reached out to you and April McGill back in Oct 2020 (via Jaren Bonillo) & you graciously connected us with your other board members, including Gregg Castro, Michelle Shawnego, Peter Bratt, Mary Travis Allen, & Paloma Flores, plus Michelle Shawnego. We also connected with Corrina Gould, Canyon-Sayer Rood -all cc:d above, & per Gregg, have reached out to Linda Yamane.)

We're thrilled to share with everyone that after 5 years of fundraising - the project was fully funded (just shy of \$1M) and is actively in progress w a local design team. We are also thrilled the original concept designer, Lee Sprague, plus the original architect, Marlene Watson, as well as the awarded project designer, Scott Parson - are all actively involved in the project moving forward.

As the fundraising part of the puzzle fell into place this past year & our team's active involvement finished up, our team requested the City hold listening sessions specifically for members of the Indigenous community to best inform & shape the project. Per numerous positive email responses from you all we forwarded your contact information to them for further outreach.

Although the monument is in the East Bay, and many of you are in San Francisco and further afield, we feel certain expertise and input from you all would be an invaluable contribution to the new monument's success. We've encouraged the City to reach out to you all directly. Please also feel welcome to reach out to us directly with any additional questions.

Sharaya - Shar Sukes recommended we listen in to your [excellent recent Bay Native Circle interview with Tony Gonzales on KPFA](#). It was truly impactful to hear all the progress you're making around statues/monuments that relate to Indigenous culture, the attention being given to their appropriateness/inappropriateness, plus all the challenges you're facing, including the very troubling recent GGP mural defacing. The combo of you two as

back-to-back speakers formed a truly dynamic & powerful presentation, and our team plans to share this important interview with others.

We send you all best wishes ~

*Deb Durant

Deb Durant, Elyce Klein, David Snippen

www.turtleislandfountain.org

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

From: Deborah Durant <deb Durant@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Oct 7, 2022 at 9:52 AM

Subject: Fwd: Civic Center Turtle Garden - Indigenous Contacts / Outreach

To: Lovvorn, Jennifer <JLovvorn@cityofberkeley.info>, Kim Anno <skimi2@comcast.net>, Chan, Evelyn <EChan@cityofberkeley.info>, Carnegie, Isaac <ICarnegie@cityofberkeley.info>

Good morning, all -

Wishing everyone a good Indigenous Peoples Day weekend, we hope the pow wow in Civic Center Park is a great success ~

We also hope everything is progressing well on the Turtle Island Monument project.

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

From: Deborah Durant <deb Durant@gmail.com>

To: Sharaya Souza <sharayas@americanindianculturaldistrict.org>

Cc: April McGill <april@ccuih.org>, Gregg Castro <glcastro@pacbell.net>, Sharilane Sukes

<shardance2k@yahoo.com>, Michelle Shawnego <michelles@nativehealth.org>, peter bratt

<peterbratt@yahoo.com>, Mary Travis-Allen <mtamary1@gmail.com>, "Flores, Paloma"

<floresp@sfusd.edu>, Michelle Antone <michelleeantone@gmail.com>, Debbbie Santiago

<thehairplacemore@att.net>, Corrina Gould <shellmoundwork@gmail.com>, Kanyon Sayers-Roods

<kanyon@kanyonkonsulting.com>

Bcc:

Date: Wed, 2 Nov 2022 14:03:45 -0700

Subject: Fwd: Civic Center Turtle Garden - Indigenous Contacts / Outreach

----- Message truncated -----



Nov 2, 2022,
2:05 PM

Deborah Durant
<debdurant@gmail.com>

to Elyce, David

Apologies, Elyce & David! I meant to cc: you both
Elyce - i know your travelling but let's catch up when you're back. David I hope all is well & your health is better



Thanks,
*Deb

One attachment • Scanned by Gmail



Deborah Durant
<debdurant@gmail.com>

Nov 2, 2022,
2:40 PM

to Jennifer, Elyce, David,
bcc: John

Hi Jennifer,

Thank you for taking time last week to chat - much appreciated!

As mentioned, & I know you agree, we're hoping the Turtle Island Monument project will proceed to completion on time & in budget with the enthusiastic approval of the Indigenous community. We are humbled and appreciative to have been any part of this important project, and know it will move forward in good hands toward its completion. We're so pleased Lee and Marlene, plus Scott Parsons, have been folded back into the process and hope others from the local community will be, too.

To that end, as mentioned, we wanted to follow-up with the many members from the Indigenous community that we've outreached to over the past years - many of which expressed interest in being updated or potentially involved. I'm cc'g you the note of thanks to Sharaya Souza, ED of the American Indian Cultural District, along with a number of others who we've outreached to, which we shared w the City back in February.

Since our group is moving away from active involvement, and are no longer receiving info directly, we're unsure if these contacts were told about the listening sessions for their community? But hoped to help tie in their participation, and that their input will be considered as the project moves forward (potentially in an additional design-in-progress listening session).

As promised, here's that [link](#) to Tony Gonzales' excellent KPFA interview last Wed pm on Bay Native Circle - with Sharaya followed by Shar Sukes - I hope you will share! There's a lot of powerful and important content that could benefit the project and the community.

We'll look forward to hearing any updates you can provide.

Many thanks, Jen ~

*Deb

One attachment • Scanned by Gmail



Nov 3, 2022,
9:22 AM

Shell Mound

to Sharaya, April, Gregg,
Sharilane, Michelle, peter,
Mary, Paloma, Michelle,
Debbie, Kanyon, me

Congratulations!!!! This is wonderful news, and I look forward to the completion and celebration of this wonderful artwork.

Thanks so much,
Corrina



Deborah Durant
<deb Durant@gmail.com>

Nov 3, 2022,
10:14 AM

to Lee, Marlene, Elyce,
David, John, Sharilane

Good morning, Lee & Marlene -

We hope you are both well and having a good start to Native American Heritage month.

We wanted to share the email sent yesterday to many of the local Indigenous community members we've outreached to over the past few years - to update them on the project's progress, let them know it's moving forward, and, hopefully, encourage space for them to include their voices.

FYI - Shar Sukes gave an amazing interview on KPFA last week about the history of the Berkeley pow wow, along with Sharaya Souza talking about the community review process of monuments/statues related to Indigenous culture - here's the [link](#)

As our team has been transitioned out of active involvement, we very much look forward to hearing any updates as they become available.

We're excited to see a completed monument - at long last! - that the Indigenous community here feels is appropriate and respectful, and know the reins are in good hands, and the promise of this project is finally becoming reality.

Thank you both, again, for all of your important contributions to our community - for making it a better place - and for sharing your talents these many years.

All best,
*Deb

Deb Durant, Elyce Klein, David Snippen
www.turtleislandfountain.org

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

From: Deborah Durant <deb Durant@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Nov 2, 2022 at 2:03 PM

Subject: Fwd: Civic Center Turtle Garden - Indigenous Contacts / Outreach

To: Sharaya Souza <sharayas@americanindianculturaldistrict.org>

Cc: April McGill <april@ccuih.org>, Gregg Castro <glcastro@pacbell.net>, Sharilane Sukes <shardance2k@yahoo.com>, Michelle Shawnego <michelles@nativehealth.org>, peter bratt <peterbratt@yahoo.com>, Mary Travis-Allen <mtamary1@gmail.com>, Flores, Paloma <floresp@sfusd.edu>, Michelle Antone <michelleeantone@gmail.com>, Debbie Santiago <thehairplacemore@att.net>, Corrina Gould <shellmoundwork@gmail.com>, Kanyon Sayers-Roods <kanyon@kanyonconsulting.com>

Greetings Sharaya, (plus everyone included & cc:d above)

We wish you a good Native American Heritage Month - may this month's focus lead to better awareness all year long!

I'm with the citizen group www.turtleislandfountain.org that's been working on a monument to Indigenous Peoples - the project began back in 1992 in downtown Civic Center Plaza, Berkeley, CA, and it's finally about to be realized after 30 years.

(We reached out to you and April McGill back in Oct 2020 (via Jaren Bonillo) & you graciously connected us with your other board members, including Gregg Castro, Michelle Shawnego, Peter Bratt, Mary Travis Allen, & Paloma Flores, plus Michelle Shawnego. We also connected with Corrina Gould, Canyon-Sayer Rood -all cc:d above, & per Gregg, have reached out to Linda Yamane.)

We're thrilled to share with everyone that after 5 years of fundraising - the project was fully funded (just shy of \$1M) and is actively in progress w a local design team. We are also thrilled the original concept designer, Lee Sprague, plus the original architect, Marlene Watson, as well as the awarded project designer, Scott Parsons - are all actively involved in the project moving forward.

One attachment • Scanned by Gmail



Deborah Durant
<deb Durant@gmail.com>

Nov 3, 2022,
10:57 AM

to Ann

Hi Ann - here's the note we sent out yesterday to a number of Indigenous community members we've outreached to over the years to update them about the project - also, hopefully, to facilitate them being brought into the room (by the City) for their feedback.

So far, we don't believe that has happened, despite us providing all of their contact info to PR&W back in February when we requested they hold an Indigenous community listening session.

*Deb

One attachment • Scanned by Gmail

Nov 3, 2022,
1:20 PM

Sharaya Souza

to Shell, April, Gregg, Sharilane, Michelle, peter, Mary, Michelle, Debbbie, Kanyon, Paloma, Ian,
me

Good afternoon,

Congrats and thank you for sharing this great news with everyone.

Please let us know how we can support or help elevate. We have a monthly newsletter we are happy to share and appropriate media or links around this project you send our way.

Also, maybe Michelle S or April can share more with our AICD Advisory Board if there is still a desire to solicit additional feedback and or support.

Best,

--

Sharaya Souza
Executive Director
American Indian Cultural District
2 Marina Blvd., Building D, Suite 230
San Francisco, CA 94123
Cell: (415) 651-3480
SharayaS@AmericanIndianCulturalDistrict.org
AmericanIndianCulturalDistrict.org
[LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)
[SFHRC Coronavirus Resource Guide](#)

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Sharaya Souza, Shell Mound (shellmoundwork@gmail.com), April McGill, Gregg Castro, Sharilane Sukes, Michelle Shawnego, peter bratt6 more

Good afternoon, Sharaya -

Many thanks for your email - we are thrilled to hear of your interest and willingness to help support and elevate this important project, Berkeley's Turtle Island Monument to the Indigenous community. There has been much activity lately in preparation for the project going thru initial review process with City of Berkeley Commissions, beginning this week.

We have requested that the City agencies in charge of the project please invite each of you to join their planned upcoming listening sessions. Two sessions were held already earlier this year, and we're told additional ones are being scheduled. We hope they will offer ample opportunity for Indigenous participation in the conversations and design process - to vet designs prior to presentations to the larger public arena - and have encouraged those in charge to offer another listening session specifically for Indigenous input.

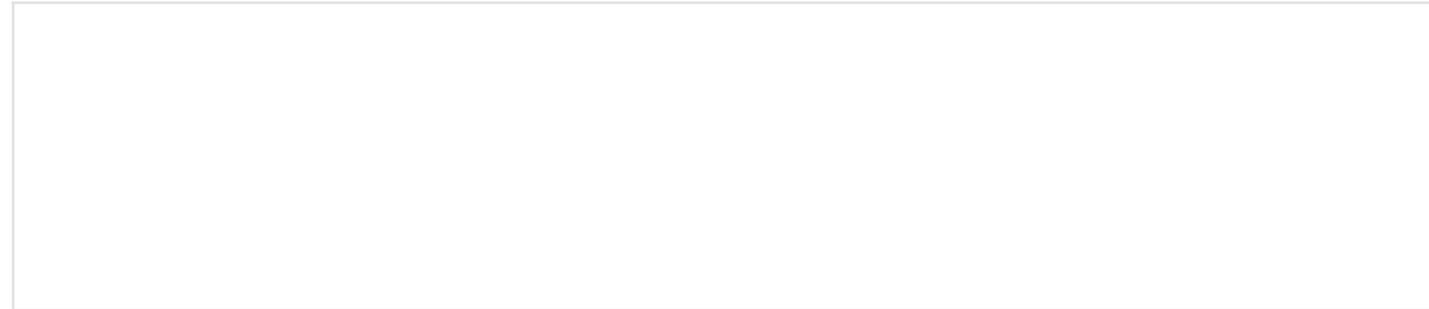
We hope they will reach out directly, and if any of you would like to reach out yourselves the contact people are:

Civic Arts Commissioner, Kim Anno

Chief Cultural Affairs Officer, Jen Lovvorn

Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Director, Scott Ferris

Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Project manager, Evelyn Chan



Nov 4, 2022,
1:50 PM

Lovvorn, Jennifer

to Elyce, David, me

Hi Deb,

I'm so happy that we had a chance to connect last week. Thanks to the three of you this project is finally lifting off.

I appreciate you looking out for the continuity in communication between this project and the indigenous community. I will share this with the Parks team and we will think about how this is folded in as we move forward. I do understand the importance of this.

And I will continue to update you as things progress. We wouldn't be here if it weren't for the years of effort by all three of you.

Regards,
Jen

Jennifer Lovvorn
Chief Cultural Affairs Officer
Civic Arts Program

City of Berkeley
Office of Economic Development
2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704

Pronouns: She/Her

Mobile: 510-423-8105
Office: 510-981-7533
JLovvorn@CityofBerkeley.info

Sign up for the [Civic Arts Newsletter](#)

From: Deborah Durant <debdurant@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 2:40 PM

To: Lovvorn, Jennifer <JLovvorn@cityofberkeley.info>

Cc: Elyce Klein <elyceklein@gmail.com>; David Snippen <dsnppn28@gmail.com>

Subject: Fwd: Civic Center Turtle Garden - Indigenous Contacts / Outreach

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Deborah Durant
<debdurant@gmail.com>

Nov 5, 2022,
5:58 PM

to Susi

Belated greetings, Susi -

It was great seeing you (& Peter) last weekend in Asilomar! What a cool event - I enjoyed the parts I was able to sneak into & am rewatching some key lectures I missed.

As promised, [HERE'S the link](#) to that recent KPFA interview about the public review process around monuments/statues in the context of Indigenous cultural appropriateness w speaker Sharaya Souza (ED @ American Indian Cultural District) plus Shar Sukes, who spoke about the history of Berkeley's IPD powwow - well worth the listen!

I forwarded a note to Sharaya and Shar, cc:g many others from the Indigenous community our group has outreached to over the past few years to update them on the project. Our hope is the City will continue to outreach so the design process is more inclusive of the local Indigenous community, in addition to Lee & Marlene's excellent participation. I also forwarded the note to Jennifer Lovvorn to keep her apprised.

Also will send you the recording of the excellent talk by Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer in San Jose back in May - looking for it online.

Really looking forward to hearing your update Tues to the larger CCCC group - many thanks again for all your hard work, Susi!

A village it does take.

*Deb

Hi (redacted)-

Hope to see you at tonight's meeting.

Here are a few of the emails the Turtle Island Monument team sent over the pst couple months - sorry for my delay in getting them to you.

There are many more but this gives you a good idea.

More to share w you - I went to a fabulous event at KALA last night w local indigenous leaders & hope to bring them into the fold of the fountain project - there is definitely interest! Two of the three in attendance last night are on the list we sent PR&W.

Pls LMK if Qs ~ Thanks!

*Deb

2 Attachments • Scanned by Gmail

Nov 20, 2022,
11:18 PM

Deborah Durant

<deb Durant@gmail.com>

to sprague.lee, Marlene, Elyce, David, Sharilane, John

Belated thanks, Lee - it's good to hear from you - hope you are well.

We wanted to pass along a couple of notes of support and interest from others from the local indigenous community (below). We hope they can be brought into the conversation as you proceed with the design process.

Also, a portion of the transcription from a panel talk today titled 'Rethinking Thanksgiving: From Land Acknowledgement to Land Back' I thought you would be interested to read. The speaker was Jake Edwards (Eel Clan, Onondaga Nation, Haudenosaunee Confederacy).

We saw Jennifer Lovvorn at a meeting last week, she said you and Marlene would be presenting designs to the Landmarks Commission on Dec 1st, and the Civic Arts Commission on the 7th. We're very much looking forward to attending both of those meetings.

All best,

*Deb

Pls see the below notes from Corrina Gould of Sogorea T'e and Sharaya Souza from the American Indian Cultural District.

Shell Mound

Congratulations!!!! This is wonderful news, and I look forward to the completion and celebration of this wonderful artwork.

Thanks so much,
Corrina

Sharaya Souza

to Shell, April, Gregg, Sharilane, Michelle, peter, Mary, Michelle, Debbie, Kanyon, Paloma, Ian, me

Good afternoon,

Congrats and thank you for sharing this great news with everyone.

Please let us know how we can support or help elevate. We have a monthly newsletter we are happy to share and appropriate media or links around this project you send our way.

Also, maybe Michelle S or April can share more with our AICD Advisory Board if there is still a desire to solicit additional feedback and or support.

Best,

--

Sharaya Souza
Executive Director
American Indian Cultural District
2 Marina Blvd., Building D, Suite 230
San Francisco, CA 94123
Cell: (415) 651-3480
SharayaS@AmericanIndianCulturalDistrict.org
AmericanIndianCulturalDistrict.org
[LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

[Emma Lee (Live Captioner) (Captioner)] 13:25:26

Speaker: Jake Edwards

... for quenching our thirst

and providing us with strength.

Water is life.

We know it's power in many forms- waterfalls and rain,

mists and streams

rivers and oceans.

With one mind, we send greetings

and thanks to the spirit of Water.

Now our minds are one.

The Fish

We turn our minds

to all the Fish life in the water.

They were instructed

to cleanse and purify the water.

They also give themselves

to us as food.

We are grateful

that we can still find pure water.

So, we turn now

to the Fish and send our greetings and thanks.

Now our minds are one.

The Plants

Now we turn towards

the vast fields

of Plant life.

As far as the eye can see,

the Plants grow,

working many wonders.

They sustain many life forms.

With our minds gathered together,

we give thanks

and look forward to seeing

Plant life

for many generations to come.

Now our minds are one.

The Medicine Herbs

Now we turn to

all the Medicine herbs of the world.

From the beginning

they were instructed

to take away sickness.

They are always waiting

and ready to heal us.

We are happy

there are still among us

those special few

who remember

how to use these plants

for healing.

With one mind,

...



P.O. Box 12521, Berkeley, CA 94712
www.bpfp.org ***510-849-1969***

December 7, 2022

RE: Turtle Island Monument competing conceptual designs

Dear Civic Arts Commissioners,

Berkeley Partners for Parks (BPPF), www.bpfp.org, is writing you in support of the Turtle Island Monument Project (TIMP), <https://turtleislandfountain.org/>, and its existing conceptual plan (with some minor variation), rather than a new conceptual design that has been developed in the past few months by way of an ad hoc charrette process, that has largely disregarded the Turtle Island Monument's (civic center fountain) history and the work performed to date. The existing conceptual design for it was developed as a result of the efforts of TIMP and many participants in the collaborative and inclusive planning process over the past four years, which has been encouraged and supported by BPPF ever since we first became the fiscal sponsor for the Turtle Island Monument Project and supported it in securing a Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund grant to help generate a design by Walter Hood that incorporated local Native American and community input. The existing design has gone through a thorough and inclusive planning process that was vetted by City parks staff and several city commissions, including the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). Equally important, the current conceptual plan was used by City staff as the basis for 3 grants that Berkeley has received for this project, totaling over \$1 million that will provide funding sufficient to complete the project. We are concerned that the completion of this project is now threatened by the re-initiation of the planning process for the design of the Turtle Island monument, which ignores the prior process and the conceptual design that was came out of it.

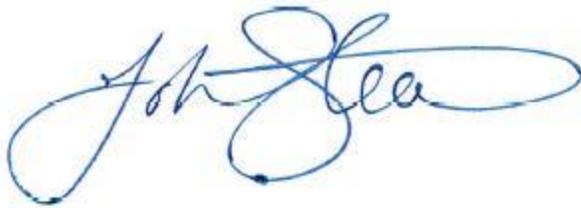
We understand that a new conceptual design for the Turtle Island monument in Martin Luther King Jr., Civic Center Park - is now being presented to the Civic Arts Commission (CAC) for your review. In addition, we understand that the new conceptual design for the monument, and the ad hoc planning process for it is considered that would entirely replace the existing conceptual design for the turtle island monument. We contend that this is an inappropriate substitution, based on a new planning process directed by city staff and the artist that is largely ignoring past work. It would result in a multiphase project and a phased completion of the monument as it would require additional

funding both for design and construction. BPFPP finds this possibility unnecessary, wasteful, and disrespectful of the public funds and the substantial community and volunteer involvement to date.

BPFPP will continue to endorse and support Berkeley's commitment to establish the Turtle Island Monument, but this support is predicated on respecting an adopted plan that adheres to the primary elements of the existing conceptual design, along with using the guidance previously received from the community and Native Americans, and from City commissions, including the LPC. That is, we support that which will deliver a completed project -- on time and within the existing budget raised through these grants. At the same time, we recognize that it would be appropriate to potentially replace the central "dome of reflection" in the conceptual design with a turtle sculpture. We trust that the LPC and the City at large honor the many years of effort and resulting excellent conceptual design and not reopen the planning process with the possibility of delaying, or even shelving of this project yet again. Abiding with the existing conceptual design with some revisions, would serve to honor Berkeley's first peoples, while also abiding with the landmark status and design of the historic Civic Center fountain.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John Steere". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the name.

John Steere
BPFPP President/Chair

MEMORANDUM

TO: Civic Arts Commission
FROM: Jennifer Lovvorn, Civic Arts Program
DATE: December 7, 2022
SUBJECT: Rationale for Development of New Turtle Island Monument Conceptual Design

Presented to the Civic Arts Commission tonight (12/7/22) is the conceptual design for Turtle Island Monument (Attachment 1) by Lee Sprague and Marlene Watson, with inclusion of artwork elements by Scott Parsons (four bronze turtles) and eight stone medallions created in 2006–2008 by Scott Parsons in collaboration with contemporary Native American artists: Harley L. Zephier (Wambli Hoksila) – Cheyenne River Lakota Tribe (Hohwoju); TR Glenn (Pretty Elk) – Absaloka; Ramon Murillo – Shoshone-Bannock; David Jones (Buffalo Horn) – Choctaw/Delaware; Linda Yamane – Rumsen Ohlone; and Mateo Romero – Cochiti Pueblo. Turtle Island Monument will be located at the fountain site in Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park.

Based upon best practices in public art, there may be legal limitations on the Civic Arts Commission's ability to approve the alternative design developed in 2019 by the *Turtle Island Fountain* group led by Deb Durant, Elyce Klein, and David Snippen, created in consultation with landscape architect Walter Hood. Generally, as a best practice, artists should avoid uses of existing copyrighted material that do not generate new artistic meaning.

Therefore, rather than utilize the 2019 alternative design as proposed, the City was obligated to both contact and contract with the Indigenous artists Lee Sprague and Marlene Watson who had originally proposed Turtle Island Monument in 1992. The City also contracted with Scott Parsons to integrate the artwork elements, that he created and fabricated in 2006–2008, into the monument design and to compensate the contemporary Native American artists for the medallion designs. To-date, the current design effort has involved a series of over 15 meetings including: stakeholder engagement meetings, a listening session, project meetings, design workshops, and design iterations discussion. In August 2022 a two-day design charrette was conducted in which Indigenous leaders and supporters from across the United States attended including authors of the existing art elements, Lee Sprague and Marlene Watson and Scott Parsons.

The current 2022 Turtle Island Monument conceptual design reflects the voice and vision of Indigenous People led by Lee Sprague and Marlene Watson, incorporates the existing bronze turtle and medallion artwork elements by Scott Parsons through consultation with him, and integrates the monument design into the historic Civic Center Park and the former fountain.

LEGEND - HARDSCAPE

-  BLUE GLASS TOP-SEEDED CONCRETE, HIGH DENSITY; OR BLUE STONE
-  BLUE GLASS TOP-SEEDED CONCRETE, MODERATE DENSITY; OR BLUE STONE
-  BLUE GLASS TOP-SEEDED CONCRETE, LOW DENSITY; OR BLUE STONE
-  RENOVATED FLAGSTONE PAVING

LEGEND - ART ELEMENTS WITH STONE

-  LOW STONE, 6" TO 1'-6" HIGH, POLISHED SURFACE WITH ROUGH EDGES
-  WITH (4) BRONZE LOGGERHEAD TURTLES
-  LARGE BOULDER, 2'-6" TO 4' HIGH, NATURAL EDGES
-  WITH (8) TRIBAL MEDALLIONS SET FLUSH TILTED, POLISHED SURFACE
-  (4) SMALL STONES IN RAISED PLANTER, INSCRIBED WITH INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE
-  LARGE STONE, 4'-3" HIGH, 15' DIAMETER, POLISHED SURFACE WITH NATURAL EDGES
LARGE BRONZE TURTLE, 12' LONG, WITH NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA SURROUNDED BY OTHER CONTINENTS, THE EAGLE AND CONDOR, MOUNTED
CONTRASTING INLAY AT FOUR DIRECTIONS
TIME CAPSULE, WITHIN
-  BLANK MEDALLION, STONE, TO MATCH FLAGSTONE PAVING

LEGEND - PLANTING

-  LOW PLANTING AT GRADE
-  PLANTING IN RAISED BED
-  CURB AT PLANTING EDGE, 4" HIGH

LEGEND - FURNISHINGS

-  WOOD SLAT SEATWALL MOUNTED TO (E) FOUNTAIN BASIN RIM, 1' - 4" WIDE
-  PARK BENCHES
-  WASTE RECEPTACLE

EXISTING MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BRONZE PLAQUE

EXISTING PEACE WALL, TYP.

EXISTING TREE CANOPY



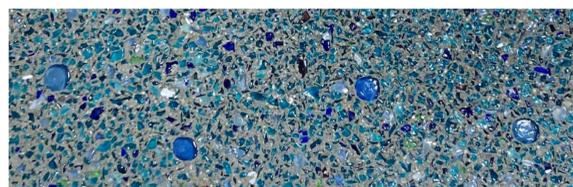
GLASS TOP-SEEDED CONCRETE PAVING



SAMPLE A - BLUE - GREEN - WHITE GRADIENT



SAMPLE B - BLUE - WHITE GRADIENT



SAMPLE C - BLUE

