

Civic Center Modernization Art Project (City Hall) – **Message in a Bottle: We Are Our Dreams**
by Endicott and Brook

Dear Commissioners,

July 7, 2022

We, Michael Endicott and Ellen Brook, are very excited to submit our concept for the public art space of the new City Hall in Sunnyvale - "Message in a Bottle: We Are Our Dreams." We have neighboring studios in San Carlos and have been working on collaborative ideas since November 2021 to combine our photography, painting and mixed media ("Paintography") and this project fits our concepts perfectly.

DESIGN STATEMENT

City Hall serves as a hub for a community by providing planning, business services, and meeting spaces, and perhaps most importantly, a vision dedicated to assuring vibrant, growing, and sustainable neighborhoods for all in the City of Sunnyvale.

Our piece would be an abstract interpretation of "grids" or "plats" emphasizing the multiple communities within Sunnyvale, and the need for open, ongoing, and multi-directional communication required to:

- build upon the best of its past,
- reflect its present multiculturalism, and
- stimulate the innovation that is essential for assuring a healthy and sustainable future for this Heart of the Silicon Valley.

The work incorporates stylized bottles (mixed media paintings) containing "messages" (in written, and visual object or symbolic form) that express these ideas. We would use digital photography to blend the mixed media paintings with photographic elements into a single, 2D, visual composition that would fit the 8' x 11' space utilizing the planned hanging system. It will be relatively easy to move should the City want to rotate it between the other three spaces on the other floors. Additionally, we will propose using the Message in a Bottle theme to provide a mechanism for visitors to engage directly with the piece and the City on an ongoing basis.

The painted, photographed, and mixed media elements would be combined to emphasize that city master plans for sustainable communities don't represent a single moment in time, but are manifest through ongoing action, thought and deed. It would honor individuals, their complexities, and how collective innovation bubbles up via the creativity of many individuals. It also would acknowledge that there is a delicate balance between urban life and nature which needs to be considered for the next generation. And finally, it would honor the City's diversity of cultures, its respect for differences, and its efforts of inclusion to treat the contributions of all its citizens and sub-communities with fairness.

As a team, we believe the integration of our complementary contemporary styles, personal backgrounds, unique artistic lenses and sensibilities will produce a unified work that is

aesthetically bold and conceptually meaningful and relevant to the role of City Hall and Urban Planning in encouraging cultural and economic innovation.

The final artwork will incorporate input from the community workshop, as well as the use of archival material, and photographs of streets and other aspects of Sunnyvale and historical or archival elements.

THE CONCEPTUAL PROPOSAL: “Message in a Bottle: We are Our Dreams”

The piece would consist of at least six different bottles arranged in grid form. The **grid** pattern is recognition of how a city arranges itself by planning, use and custom into different neighborhoods. The boundaries of the grids are shaped by gradations of light between the bottle backgrounds, rather than dark fixed lines to show that no matter where we live, what is our work or background, we are directly connected to each other. The grid pattern is more obvious with distance from the piece and blur together as you approach it. Closer up, your attention shifts more directly to the intricacies of details and messages layered inside of the bottles, as in life. Lighter lines in the bottles constitute connection between the sectors.

The **bottles** are a diverse array of bold color and strong form to represent the elements that make for a thriving community and how we use different areas for working, living, learning and socializing. The wonderful aspect about abstract work for us as artists is that it leaves room for our viewers and patrons to make up their own stories, and the bottles are a metaphor for multiple frameworks of understanding.

First is **cultural**. Sunnyvale, like the whole Bay Area, is populated by a world of cultures represented in the individualized bottles with intricate patterns and textures as a nod to each culture’s customs. Roads and paths run through each bottle to encourage connection. Second is for **activities**. Sunnyvale is a city striving for growth in a richly innovative, commercial and social environment driven by high tech and social media. But there are also the ancillary blue- and white-collar businesses that provide the support for commercial and living activity in a balanced community - grocery stores, retail shops, restaurants, entertainment venues, schools, parks and trade shops. Each of these bottles represent a different aspect of commercial and life activity. Third is for **inclusivity** and **sustainability**. We have selected the Message in a Bottle theme because it is a well-known metaphor for our desire to be a part of world society and connecting with others. It is a timeless way of communicating with others as individuals, writing our observations, dreams, hopes and invitations on paper, sealing it in a bottle, and launching them to be retrieved, and hopefully recognized and responded to in kind, by an unknown person sharing our world. Reaching out with ideas on how to make our community better for all, and then having others hear what we are saying such that they include us in community action, planning, council meetings, and elections create the most sustainable and resilient cities.

Six Bottles - Filled with Twelve or more ideas.

- Bold in color and solid in form. Representing commercial activity
- Community - Residential and diverse neighborhoods

- Sustainability of the earth and communities. Schools, sports, outdoors, entertainment.
- Honoring Indigenous Peoples (such as the Ohlone), ancestors, and nature. Baylands hiking and parks.
- Heart of Silicon Valley. Bold Sustainable Communities of Sunnyvale result from the sum of ideas of individuals and collaborations bubbling up.
- High Tech and Social Media savvy is the funneling of ideas and energy into productivity.

Ongoing public engagement with the art and the city can be provided through an embedded QR code in the art, which also could provide a way for the city to provide updates to the public of upcoming art and community events in City Hall or in the outdoor “theater” space outside City Hall. In essence, an ongoing “Message in a Bottle,” with the community.

Additionally, “paintography” should work well in a public setting. Our process plays with the observation that people tend to engage with a work of art differently when it is perceived as a painting or a photograph. As you approach the piece from a distance it may strike you as a painting, and then as you approach you may think it is a photograph of a painting, and then as you get really close you may realize that, while it is a photographic presentation, the photograph is made up of elements of paintings, mixed media and other photographs each folding into the other.

- **Size:** Multiple panels forming a unit totaling approx. 7’ x 10’ . The piece will fit into the space of the wall and allow for some room around it to serve as a box frame for the work.
- **Colors:** A range of colors, from bold pops of sunny orange and delicious blues to more muted tones and textures reflecting the sand and stone of earth and the native lands upon which the future of Sunnyvale is being built. It is expected that the results of the workshop will provide material that will be inserted into the final piece.
- **Materials:** Photograph printed on metal.

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance requirements are minimal. The printed metal is durable, relatively lightweight and should only require a minimal amount of dusting. Fingerprints are easily removed with a damp cloth. There is no glass involved.

LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS AND PLACEMENT

No additional lighting or extra support structures anticipated.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP (also, please see attached slides)

Workshop Title: Message in a Bottle: The Voices of Sunnyvale

We plan to offer a fun, thought-provoking and hands-on workshop for kids and adults that excites them about – and connects them directly to – the themes, symbols and metaphors of

our “Message in a Bottle: We Are Our Dreams” artwork. The true power, innovation and vibrancy of Sunnyvale is in the hands of each individual to create. But it also requires connection and communication between individuals and amongst sub-communities. The workshop will be a testament to both. By inviting the ideas of everyone who attends, it will embody the values of inclusion, equity and diversity. By asking people to create from art materials that are recycled, upcycled or salvaged, it will reflect the brand essence of “bold, sustainable innovation.”

Participants will get to:

- Dream about what’s important to them and their community.
- Write a letter or draw images/words as if they were telling past, present and future Sunnyvale about 1) a message of personal importance and 2) a message of community importance (neighborhoods, schools, business, the earth)
- Insert their message into their very own bottle
- Connect each bottle to the next one to create a vibrant community of bottles, like a joyful garland or celebration of lights. The relationship of the individual to the community is made visible.
- Have their message and bottle documented. We may also document (photograph/video) the experience, including recorded mini-interviews with select participants.

Post-Workshop:

- To be inclusive and reflect the voices of Sunnyvale into our concept, we will incorporate select images, words and sentiments from the workshop into our piece.

Note on Timing:

- We are happy to deliver a workshop that meets either of the City’s proposed options, but we prefer the 30-minute format, in part because it will be more streamlined to run, but also because it allows more people to have the experience, make connections to others in the community, and see artwork for years to come that reflects their contributions.

COLOR RENDERING Please see First Attachment.

Because of our backgrounds in actively working with community groups and mission-oriented messaging, we are also excited by the prospect of using the ongoing review process, including the public workshops, to fine tune elements of our piece, assuring that it is truly reflective of the principles of equity, access, and inclusion. By working as a team, we will combine our styles to make the piece “lobby suitable” to carry the message, “Bold, Sustainable Innovation” And by working as a team, we will keep each other on track and on message to deliver a piece designed to not only be visually striking, but also spark people who visit City Hall to see their own stories in it.

Thank you for this opportunity! Michael Endicott and Ellen Brook

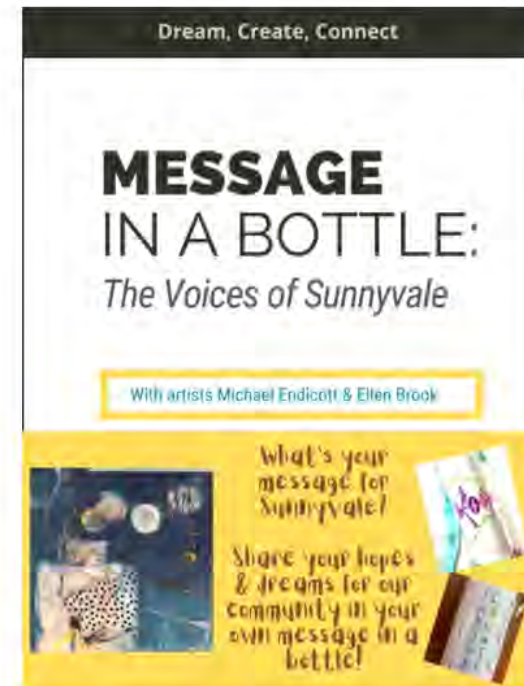


Message in a Bottle: We Are Our Dreams

Endicott & Brook

Team E/B Workshop: Invigorate Citizens to Embrace & Connect with Our Artwork

- **“Message in a Bottle” metaphor is fun & engaging**
 - It's instantly relatable, carries meaning and captures the imagination
 - it's basically social media! (the enchanting, timeless kind)
- **The experience embodies the principles of inclusion, equity and diversity**
 - We welcome everyone's contributions equally
- **Honors the brand essence of “bold, sustainable innovation”**
 - We invite creativity ...using recycled, upcycled or salvaged art materials!
- **Everyone gets a taste of some key messages contained in our artwork**
 - What its like to honor the past while dreaming up a future together
 - How individual actions, thoughts and ideas are the engine of sustainable innovation
 - How successful communication must be multi-directional



A Playful, Heartfelt & Inclusive Process

Participants Get to Dream, Create and Connect

- Dream** about what's important personally and for the community
- Create** a message with words and/or images, then place in their own bottle
- Connect** it to a vibrant "community of bottles," like a joyful garland or celebration of lights

The workshop celebrates each person's creativity and individuality, while making visible their connection to the community. The real metaphor for a successful Sunnyvale!

Team E/B will also

- Photo/video parts of the experience, including [mini interviews](#)
- Incorporate select images, words and sentiments into our artwork.
- Keep the fun and connection going digitally through QR codes





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We are all creative -- and we may discover it at any time. After a career in communications, Ellen embarked on an artistic journey in her early 40's and reoriented her life to focus on art and fashion. She is now an abstract and mixed media artist, fabric and fashion designer. Ellen's artwork and apparel have been featured in individual and group art shows, Bay Area runways, and design events such as Artwear at San Francisco's de Young Museum.

Shows/Installations/Notables (Art & Wearables):

2019 - 2022

"50/50", Sanchez Art Gallery (group show), Pacifica
"The Art of the Bottle V", The National Bottle Museum (group show), Ballston Spa, NY
UCSF, China Basin Medical Building Lobby Installation
"Art, Tails and Community", Twin Pines, Belmont
Pivot: The Film
"Sanctuary", Kriewahl Haeh Gallery at Priory, Woodside

2014 - 2018

De Young Museum's Artwear (one of 10 selected designers)
"Uncommon Threads", Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History (group show)
San Francisco Museum of Craft and Design's Style Show
Pivot: The Art of Fashion, Santa Cruz
Best of Bay Area, Gallery 85, Santana Row, San Jose
Atmel Corporation Lobby Installation, San Jose

2010-2013

FashionART Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium
"Color on the Rocks" GraniteRock Design Showroom, Cupertino, CA (June – Sept)
"Interior Garden" – Fiber Art Now Magazine feature
"Color and Line" New Coast Studios, Palo Alto, Ca (group) (May)
"Women of Wisdom," Gallery at Fibre Arts Design, Palo Alto, Ca. (group), (Oct – Nov.)
Custom designed dress and wrap for jazz singer's CD "Las Aventuras de Pasion!"
Artistry in Fashion, Canada College, Redwood City, Ca (Sept)
San Jose Museum of Art Trunk Show – selected artist/designer
"Dreamscapes," Fibre Arts Design Gallery, Palo Alto, Ca (solo) (Jan -March)
Hinc Showroom, Galleria Design Center (Interior Design Showroom, San Francisco)
"Winter Solstice," Fibre Arts Design Gallery, Palo Alto, Ca. (group) (Dec. 2011 – Jan. 2012)
"Inspired," Spirit House, Woodside Ca, (solo) (Sept – Oct)
"Bay Area Contemporary Painters", Arc Studios and Gallery, San Francisco, Ca. (group) (June)
Ariba Software, Lobby Installation, Sunnyvale, Ca (Oct – Dec)
"Momentum 2", Art Object Gallery, San Jose, Ca (group) Oct.
Secret Garden (Ballroom Installation at Hotel Sofitel, Redwood Shores, Ca) (May)

2007-2009

Leila's Restaurant, Los Angeles, Ca (Sept.-Oct)
"Momentum" Art Object Gallery, San Jose, Ca (group) (Feb)

Santa Barbara Museum of Art Trunk Show, Santa Barbara, Ca (Nov)
Artist Salon – featured artist – Group41 Architecture, San Francisco, Ca (Sept)
CGS Financial Services (group) San Mateo, Ca (May – July)
Hillsborough Designer Showcase Home – Featured Artist (May 16)
Juma Gallery (solo), Cleveland, Oh (Oct)
Gallery 2611, Redwood City, Ca (April – July)
"Eastern Winds & Cherry Blossoms," Aurora Colors Gallery, Petaluma Ca (group) (March, April)
"Abstractions, Color & Texture," Aurora Colors Gallery, Petaluma Ca (group) (Feb 24 – March 17)

Awards/Recognition/Community:

Fiber Arts Now Magazine
2010 "Watermarks II" - selected for cover of San Francisco Open Studios Guide and Ft. Mason's promotional materials
Advisory Board Member, Canada College's Department of Fashion & Design
Volunteer, Kids and Art Foundation

Education:

M.P.A. The Monterey Institute of International Studies, 1993 (Dean's List)
B.A. Duke University, 1986 (Class Honors, Dean's List)

MICHAEL B ENDICOTT PHOTOGRAPHY

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Michael Endicott is a Bay Area Fine Art photographer. His artistic perspective is an outgrowth of his experience at the intersection of the political and biological sciences. His artwork explores the commonality in structure between the organic and the inorganic –both are comprised of protons, electrons, and neutrons. Michael produces **cellular tapestries** designed to connect the micro and macro structures that give shape and life to our world. Over time, his process in the digital darkroom has become more “**sculptural**” in nature, bending wavelengths of light and molding multiple shots into one. His photography is often pulled away from realism into the realm of expressionist or abstract painting.

Professional Experience

2013-Now Fine Art Photography and Photographic Services
1982-1992 Land Use and Environmental Attorney
1995-2002 Chief Consultant to the California Assembly Committee on Environmental
Safety & Toxic Materials
1992-1993 Consultant to the California Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife
1982-1992 Land Use and Environmental Attorney

Selected Shows and Events

2022

“Arts, Tails and Community” Twin Pines Art Manor, Belmont, Ca (Supporting Pets In Need) 4/22
“Dash for Art” LymeLight Foundation (3/22)
“Spring Fever” Gallery House, Palo Alto, CA (Unveiling Mixed Media Fusion Series, “Alchemy,”
a collaboration with Mixed Media artist Inna Zatulovsky.) 3/22
American Association for Cancer Research selected my Eve artwork for meeting materials 1/22

2021

“Artscapes” Twin Pine Art Manor, Belmont, CA (6 artist show) 10/21
“16th National Juried Show” Axis Gallery, Sacramento, CA. (Juror Faith J. McKinnie) 10/21
“Serenity” UCSF Women’s Health Center, San Francisco, CA (6th floor for 6 months). 5/21
“The Art of Healing,” SIY Gallery, San Francisco, CA 4/21

2020

“San Francisco Open” de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA 10/20
“Uplifted” Edge of Frame Gallery, San Francisco, CA. (4 artist Show) 12/20
“Edge of the Bay” Bay View Boat Club, San Francisco, Ca (Solo Show) 3/20
“Breaking Out of the Frame” Gallery House, Palo Alto, CA. (Two artist show
with Abstract Artist Magdalena Bogart. Three pieces created together) 1/20

2019

"Nahuatl Cuicuilco" Art Ark Gallery, San Jose, CA. 3 Artist Multimedia Show
(lead Artist: Victor Zaballa) 8/19

"Textures and Patterns" San Francisco Women Artist Gallery, San Francisco, CA. 4/19
Photograph selected for cover of EUPHONY JOURNAL (Winter Edition). 3/19

"World of Abstraction" San Francisco Women Artist Gallery - San Francisco, CA. 1/19

2018

"It's Been a Surreal Year" Edge of Frame Gallery, San Francisco, CA (Four Artist Show) 12/18
Published in De la Mancha "Impossible Dreams" (Teresa Amelia Editor)

(Includes 19 pages with photographs from my flowers series.) 12/18

"Dynamics of Transformation" Gallery House, Palo Alto, CA (3 Artist Featured Show) 3/18

2017

"A Year's Journey in Art" Edge of Frame Gallery (Four Artist Show) 4 artists 12/17

The Mill Coffee House, San Francisco, CA (3 pieces) 11/17

"Diversity in Art" Atherton Art Foundation, Atherton, CA 9/17

"Abstract" San Francisco Women Artist Gallery San Francisco, CA (juried show) 6/17

SVOS Art Talk Television Interview "Michael Endicott - Urban Nature Impressionist"

(Host: Sally Rayn / Producer: Nance Wheeler) 2/23

2016

"Into the 3rd Dimension" Edge of Frame Gallery, San Francisco, CA (Four Artist Show) 12/16

Contemporary Art Show at Laughing Monk Brewery, San Francisco, Ca. 5/16

"Our Urban Nature" Edge of Frame Gallery, San Francisco, CA (Four Artist Show) 5/16

"Coffee as Muse" No. Six Depot Roastery and Gallery, West Stockbridge, MA (Five Works) 3/16

Galleries

Gallery House since 2017

Artist Organizations

Silicon Valley Open Studios since 2016

ArtSpan (SF Open Studios) since 2016

Education

Harvard College 1977 (cum laude)

U.C. Davis Law School 1982

Languages

English and Spanish

Annotation for Team Endicott & Brook Photos

Brook1 "Take Me Out of the Blue #6" 20x20 (Mixed Media on Wood). 2022. Acrylic, graphite, paper, fabric and handwritten letters. Part of my cross-generational Message in a Bottle series based on letters written by a young soldier to his sweetheart during WWI, many of which implored her to correspond more often. The title was inspired by the poignant line "please, please Goldie Dear, write me more to take me out of the blue." This soldier was my grandfather whom I am "meeting" through these letters.

Brook2 "This Giant Spectacle is Almost Unbelievable" 12x12 (Mixed Media on Wood). 2020. (Now in Private Collection) Acrylic, graphite, paper, my hand-painted fabric, and fragments of postcards. Message in a Bottle series. Inspired by the thousands of postcards and letters my father wrote to me and to his mother, I set out to explore the nature of lineage, and the blur of memories, words, and feelings transported through time and space.

Brook3 "Take Me Out of the Blue #13" 24x24 (Mixed Media on Wood) 2022. Acrylic, graphite, paper, fabric and fragments of letters. Message in a Bottle series. Explores the nature of lineage, connection and isolation, inspired by letters written by a young soldier (a grandfather whom I never met) to his sweetheart during WWI.

Brook4 "Take Me Out of the Blue Now" 30x30 (Mixed Media on Wood) 2022. (Now in private collection) Acrylic, graphite, paper, fabric and fragments of letters. Message in a Bottle series. Explores the nature of lineage, connection and isolation, inspired by letters written by a young soldier to his sweetheart in WW1. The title was taken from the poignant line -- "please, please write me more to take me out of the blue." This soldier was my grandfather whom I never met.

Brook5 "Essential Accessory" 16x16 (Mixed Media on Wood) 2021. (Now in private collection). Message in a Bottle series. Acrylic, graphite, tissue paper and images of Ruth Bader Ginsberg's iconic collars are meant to convey the transformation of what once might have been perceived as 'too 'feminine' or 'merely beautiful' as now symbolic of essential power, identity and belonging.

Endicott1 "Sentinel" 30x20 (Composite photograph on Dye Infused Aluminum) 2019 (Now in private collection) "Paintography" collaboration with minimalist landscape and seascape painter Karin Taber. She provided me with a 12x8 painting of a seascape, and I added it to my photograph of a great blue heron. Kept the realism of my shot and yet letting the highly textured elements of Taber's painting come all the way through.

Endicott2 "If heaven went condo"- 42x28 (Archival Ink Composite Photograph on paper) 2019 (Now in private collection) A collaboration with abstract painter Magdalena Bogart. Here I used a portion of a photograph I made of her work cropped and rotated 90 degrees to serve as the religious element in the middle of mirrored image photo of a skyscraper in NYC.

Endicott3 "Corazón Espinado" 30x20 (Composite Photograph on Dye Infused Aluminum) 2019 (Now in Private Collection) This is a three-photograph composite of a redwood tree from Golden Gate Park, a magnolia blossom from Strybing Arboretum and an egret from Florida.

Endicott4 "New Growth" 40x30 (Composite Photograph on Dye Infused Aluminum) 2020 (Now in private collection) Mixing afternoon shot of narrow city street with large plant in Strybing Arboretum. Reflected people being "petrified" as Covid spread like wildfire, locking people in homes, and letting nature take back over outside.

Endicott5 "Tiger (Cellular Tapestry)" 30x40 (Composite Photograph on Dye Infused Aluminum) 2020 (Recently hung for five months at UCSF Mt. Zion Women's Health Center. Three photograph composite of two baby herons, a redwood tree with vines and computer read of pathology slides.

















me

