

**Artist Design Proposal
For the City of Sunnyvale's
Civic Center Lobby Artworks**

“Bay Mornings”

Vickie Jo Sowell, Sculptor

Could there be a better symbol of Bold, Sustainable Innovation than the eternal newness of the rise of the sun? Each dawn speaks to us of the hope and possibilities of the coming day, while still evoking the memories of days past and the promise of many more to follow.

The **Bay Mornings** artwork that I propose to install in Sunnyvale's Civic Center Lobby will be a low-relief steel and glass sculpture (6' x 9' x 8") custom-designed for its lobby niche location. **Bay Mornings** derives from my sunrise vision of the City's magnificent Bay Trail embankments and waterways. I've always been inspired by the way in which this place blends access for recreation and concern for the sustainability of the bay environment and its natural wildlife and vegetation. When the sun rises over this complex landscape the scene is truly breathtaking.



The sketch renderings I've provided show my vision, along with additional renderings showing the niche placement and hanging scheme. I will create an assemblage of painted steel surfaces and safety glass elements (browns and

greens) that will be substantial and tangible while retaining the reflective and atmospheric aspects of the sunrise that inspires them. Over many years as a Public Arts sculptor I have explored the territory of low-relief wall installations many times, exactly the kind of work that is needed for the Civic Center's lobby display locations. My final proposal will focus on the perfect forms and color palette for the modernized lobby.

I'll make the sculpture sturdy and easy to move between the four locations and take advantage of the hanging system specified by the City. I do not expect the piece to exceed 120 pounds. As shown in the portfolio images that I provided in my response to the RFP, I often assemble my artworks from separate sections, which accents their low-relief and makes installation/deinstallation easier.

I will carry out the fabrication for **Bay Mornings** in my well-equipped studio, where I have created numerous sculptures much larger than the present one. This puts me in a great position to deliver the artwork in the accelerated timeframe required. Similarly, I will perform the on-site installation myself, so I am always conscious of the need to make this simple and effective.

Maintenance

Maintenance for this indoor piece will consist primarily of periodic dusting, though as mentioned, if further cleaning or repair is required, the piece will be easy to dismount. I maintain a log of all colors and materials used and can provide touch-up enamels if any damage requires them.

Workshop Outline

A common theme in all my public arts placements is interaction and awareness of the community that's being served. I'm excited to participate in the workshops arranged by the City staff, either in a group setting or individually. In my workshop I will present the following:

- **Artist Introduction.**
After obtaining my M.F.A. from Mills College way back in the previous century, I embarked on my lifework producing Public Art, focusing on community identity and location defining projects large and small. I'll provide a rotating slideshow of relevant pieces.
- **Material and Techniques.**
I've been a metal sculptor through my entire career, with a wide variety of projects utilizing different techniques, figurations, and abstraction. In connection with my presentation images I'll be happy to discuss the present artwork as well as past commissions with interested attendees.
- **Bay to Hillside.** Soliciting personal artistic and visual experiences of community members throughout Sunnyvale. I can speak to some of my own experiences with urban resurgence as a Master Gardener with a keen interest in environmental integration.

--Vickie Jo Sowell, July, 2022





SYSTEMATIC
ART HANGERS
(White)

11' Niche Width

8' Niche Height

1/2"
Rear
Horiz.
Hang
Support



6' Artwork Height

9' Artwork Width

"Bay Mornings"

8" Artwork Depth

14" Niche Depth

VICKIE JO SOWELL

3618 Peralta Street, Emeryville, CA 94608 (510) 655-7374
vickiejosowell@hotmail.com www.unrulyimages.com

AWARDS/COMMISSIONS:

2001-2022 **Big Daddy's Complete Rejuvenating Community Garden**

Founder and Manager of Emeryville's Organic Community Garden #2 / Urban Sculpture Garden. Our garden is featured in the Smithsonian Institution's Community of Gardens (<https://communityofgardens.si.edu/items/show/12132>) and serves as a beautiful entry marker to the City of Emeryville.

2020 **Las Animas**, Free-standing sculpture for Cambridge Place community, Gilroy, CA
Core-10 Steel, powder-baked enamels

Artwork commemorates the location of Gilroy's legacy schools

Contract Value: \$43,500

2018 **World in a Grain of Sand**, Silicon Valley Monument, 391 San Antonio Rd, Mountain View, CA Collaboration with Mary B. White
Powder-baked enamel on steel, stacked, fused glass

The three tall sculptures that stride above this sidewalk location commemorate the pioneering work of the Shockley Semiconductor Laboratory at 391 San Antonio Road in the 1950s.

From this location and using the concepts embodied in these solid-state components, the companies and technologies that make up the Silicon Valley were born.

Contract Value: \$170,000

2017 **Curriculum**, Panels for Hilltop High School, Richmond, CA
Powder-baked enamel on steel

Fence panels celebrate the educational curriculum at Richmond's new High School

Contract Value: \$30,000

2016 **Always On**, Fire Station #9, Livermore, CA
Powder-baked enamel on steel

Commission for the City of Livermore's Fire Station No. 9. This wall-mounted frieze extends for 44 feet along the front of the facility.

Contract Value: \$30,000

2014 **Orange is the Happiest Color**, Ecole Bilingue, Emeryville, CA
Powder-baked enamel on steel

Signature sculpture for new bilingual school campus. Extensive interaction with school staff and students to create panel designs that present images and words in three languages

Contract Value: \$27,600

2011 **Marina Gates**, Marinas Int'l, Emeryville, CA
Powder-baked enamel on steel

Entrance artworks for the Marina and Sportsfishing docks. Reconditioning of existing structure, additional artworks, new panels.

Contract Value: \$21,500

2011 **The Rippling**, McKinley Arts and Culture Center, Reno NV
Powder-baked enamel on steel

Sign supports for informational signs at Reno's Arts Center that featured local endangered species

Contract Value: \$15,000

2010 **Niles Panorama**, Fire Station No. 2, Fremont, CA
Powder-baked enamel on steel

15 inset panels for new Fire Station in historic Niles district

Contract Value: \$27,500

2009 **Gates4Yates**, Anna Yates Elementary School, Emeryville, CA
Enamel painted steel

Entryways and decorative fencing for Elementary school renovation

Contract Value: \$25,000

2008 **Life is a Ball**, King Park, Brentwood, CA
Welded Bronze

Commission for City of Brentwood, CA's King Park. Figures of five bronze dogs are rendered in the act of leaping for a thrown ball. The standalone figure of "King," Brentwood's first licensed canine, sits nearby.

Contract Value: \$44,000

2008 **Roots of Oakland**, Highland Hospital, Oakland, CA
10 tile mosaic panels with hand-crafted text and floral elements

I was commissioned to provide 10 ceramic tile mosaic panels for the terraced main entryway to Alameda County's Highland Hospital.

Contract Value: \$13,000

2007 **Sprazzo di Sole**, Orinda, CA
Enamel on Steel

Commission installed at Private Residence, Orinda CA.

Contract Value: \$10,000

2007 **Sweidy-Stata Poolhouse**, Atherton, CA
Powder-baked enamel, zinc-dipped steel

Private Commission, Sweidy-Stata Home, Atherton, CA. I was commissioned to provide a full suite of artworks for the poolhouse location, including three gates, two railings, a large window treatment, and over 50 feet of ornamental fence.

Contract Value: \$37,000

2005, 2007 **Richmond Works**, Richmond, CA
166 waterjet cut steel panels, powder-baked color coatings

Public Art Commission for the City of Richmond's Transit Village. The commission consists of approximately 600 feet of fence in three sections along Marina Way, bordering the Transit Village. Panels depict 7 original thematic designs relating to the people and times of Richmond. Follow-on for Traffic Circle barrier, 2007.

Contract Value: \$150,000

2005 **Stockton Heliotrope**, Stockton, CA
Enamel on Steel 50' diam.

Commission installed at Matt Equinoa Park in Stockton, California. Three sculptural sections sits atop a hexagonal shade structure establishing a spiraling floral bouquet that tracks the sun. Floral images are of native flowers that attract beneficial insects.

Contract Value: \$20,000

2004 **Neighborhood Convergence**, Emeryville, CA
11 8' tall Enamel painted steel figures

Public Art commission, Emeryville, CA. The commission consisted of eleven enamel-painted steel figures, each approximately 8' tall, executed in collaboration with Emeryville painter M. Louise Stanley and lighting designer Jeremy Hamm. The figures are installed on both sides of the Powell Street undercrossing of Interstate 80 in Emeryville.

Contract Value: \$125,000

2004 **Fruitvale Revival**, Oakland, CA

Public Art Commission, City of Oakland. The commission was for a central arch that combined architectural icons drawn from the Fruitvale district with organic fruit and branch fabrications that sprang from Fruitvale's orchard heritage. This plaza entryway crowns four columns along the edge of International Boulevard. A follow-on commission put in place a similar single central arch around a hundred yards away.

Fruit glass enamels by Deborah Lozier

Contract Value: \$30,000 + \$12,000 f.o.

2002 **Legends of Milpitas**, Milpitas, CA

Installation for Murphy Park in Milpitas. Four pillars with capitals depicting aspects of local history.

Contract Value: \$15,000

2002 **Ironhorse Trail**, Dublin, CA

Powder-baked enamel on Steel 183" x 103" x 6"

Percent-for-Art fulfillment, IronHorse Trail Housing project in Dublin, California. The commission included this signature marquee at the entrance to the project, and a series of treeguard elements along the streets there.

Contract Value: \$22,000

2001 **Michael's Palette**, Emeryville, CA

Powder-baked enamel on Steel 13' x 10' x 8'

Commercial commission, percent-for-art fulfillment, Michaels Arts Store, Emeryville, CA

Contract Value \$17,000

2001 **Emeryville Firestation #2**

Powder-baked enamel on Steel 20' x 3' x 3" ,15' x 4' x .5"

For the City's first public art project for the Emeryville Firestation #2, I served as both sculptor and designer, serving as a design/color consultant for the entire facility in addition to the metalworks I installed.

Contract Value \$25,000

2000 **PickleWorks** Gates and Signage (Percent for Art fulfillment)

EXHIBITIONS:

2021 "Art on the Edge I" Route One Gallery, Point Reyes CA
2021 "Art on the Edge II" Peninsula Museum of Art, San Bruno CA
2021 30th Anniversary Art in Public Places Street Banners exhibit, Emeryville CA
2008 "Artscape Orinda," 11 Public Art Sculptors
2004 "Off the Rim" Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, NJ
2003 "Big Little" Jewelers and Sculptors in Metal, Oakland, CA
2000 "Introductions" Sculpture Garden, Wildwood Farm, Glenellen, CA
2000 "Interpreting the Figure" Mill Valley Sculpture Garden
1998 1078 Gallery, Chico, CA (2-person show)
1998 "Body and Soul" Matrix Gallery, Sacramento, CA
1998 S.F. Museum of Modern Art, Rental Gallery, San Francisco
1997 "Marked Metal" Richmond Arts Center, Richmond, CA
1997 "Humor, Parody, + Satire", PRSG at SF Design Center
1996 National Women's Caucus for the Arts, Mills College, Oakland, CA
1996 Pacific Rim Sculptors Group at the Mother Lode, Sonoma, CA
1995 SF Women Artists Gallery, San Francisco, CA
1995 Andrea Schwarz Gallery, San Francisco, CA
1994 Public Art Sculpture Exhibition, City of Santa Clara, CA
1994 Pacific Rim Sculptors Group, Syntex Gallery, Palo Alto, CA
1994 ISC Exhibition, Contract Design Center, San Francisco

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Emeryville, CA 94608
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1, 2 World In a Grain of Sand 2018

Powder-baked enamel on Steel, Glass, stacked and fused

Collaboration with glass artist Mary B. White. The three tall sculptures that stride above this sidewalk location commemorate the pioneering work of the Shockley Semiconductor Laboratory at 391 San Antonio Road in the 1950s. From this location and using the concepts embodied in these solid-state components, the companies and technologies that make up the Silicon Valley were born.

Contract Value: \$170,000

Contact: Kristin Strahl Kristin47@gmail.com 619.729.4466

3. Always On 2016

Powder-baked enamel on Steel 44' frieze

Commission for the City of Livermore's Fire Station No. 9. This wall-mounted frieze extends for 44 feet along the side of the facility. The motif includes figures of firefighters silhouetted, as well as a depiction of the station's famous "Always On" lightbulb.

Contract Value: \$30,000

Contact: Bill Louie blouie@wlcarchitects.com 916.355.9922

4. Origami 1990

Enamel paint on Steel

Purchase Award, California Arts Commission, Sacramento

Contract Value: \$ 5,000

5. Bayshores 1994

Enamel paint on Steel

Property of the Artist

6. Gas-o-Line Sky 1994

Enamel paint on Steel

Property of the Artist

7. Reversed by Water 2019

Enamel paint on Steel, Safety Glass
Property of the Artist

8. Fire in the Hills 1992

Enamel paint on Steel
Property of the Artist

9. Sweidy-Stata Gates 2007

Powder-baked enamel, zinc-dipped steel 7' x 8'

Private Commission, Sweidy-Stata Home, Atherton, CA. I was commissioned to provide a full suite of artworks for the poolhouse location, including three gates, two railings, a large window treatment, and over 50 feet of ornamental fence.

Contract Value: \$37,000

10. Niles Panorama 2010
15 powder-baked inset panels, various sizes

Public Art Commission for the City of Fremont's Fire Station #2, located in the historic Niles district. Panels installed in the facing of the new facility feature firefighters as well as scenes and events from local history. The metaphor of the 35mm silent film frame is used to unify the installation.

Contract Value: \$ 28,000



















