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Education

2005 MFA, Photography; Mills College, Oakland, CA
1997 BFA, Photography, Installation, Video; The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
1997 BA, Art History; Tufts University, Medford, MA

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

2021 CODAworx Emerging Artist Award in Public Art, CODASummit, Scottsdale, AZ
2019 First Finalist award in Photography, Salon at the Triton, Santa Clara, CA
2018 First Place Award, SLICE Juried Exhibition, Pence Gallery, Davis, CA
2016 Juror's Choice Award, Artspace 2016 Exhibition, San Francisco, juried by Michelle Mansour, Root Division
2012 Guest Artist Fellowship, Dominican University, San Rafael, CA
2010 Juror's Award, *Strange Beauty*, Center for Fine Art Photography, Ft. Collins, CO, juror, Debra Klomp Ching
2009 Finalist, International Aesthetica Creative Works Competition, United Kingdom
2007 Food Network Award, *Play with Your Food* category (best use of food as art medium)
Pittsburg State University, First Prize, *Dark-Light*, juried by Joyce Tenneson, Pittsburg, KS
2005 Kala Art Institute Fellowship Award, Berkeley, CA
2004 Mills College Graduate Research Grant, Oakland, CA
Mills Alumni Scholarship for Art, Oakland, CA

Public Art Programs and Murals

2025 *Celestial Currents*, Lenticular installation, Children's Hospital of Orange County, Irvine (Upcoming)
2024 *Reflection, Refraction, Diffraction*, Lenticular installation, Rengstorff Aquatic Center, Mountain View, CA
2023 *The Metamorphosis and Memory of Flowers*, Interactive photo-based artwork with Phil Spitler for Sunnyvale City Hall, Sunnyvale, CA
Cycles of Regeneration and *Submerged*, Two interactive photomurals with Phil Spitler, Griffin Museum of Photography, Winchester, MA
2022 *Inflorescence*, Illuminated, interactive installation with Phil Spitler for Arts Los Altos, Los Altos, CA
2021 *Luminous Growth*, Interactive video projection and sculpture for Code:ART2 Festival, Palo Alto, CA
Cycles of Regeneration, Palo Alto Public Art Program, Temporary Murals pilot project, Palo Alto, CA
2020 *California Poppy Regeneration*, an *Art for Essential Workers* project, with Facebook and 100 Days Action
Three-part collaborative outdoor photo-mural, Market Street, San Francisco, CA
2019 *First myth of inside and outside*, Four-part photo-mural in museum windows, San Jose ICA, San Jose, CA
2018 *View from Alcatraz*, large photo-mural for Facebook headquarters, San Francisco, CA
2017 *Waterlines Window*, Large photo-mural in museum windows, New Museum, Los Gatos, CA
Wave Formation, Google San Francisco, Commissioned site-specific triptych, San Francisco, CA
2016 *Walnut Creek Downtown Utility Box Project*, Two vinyl-wrapped utility boxes, Walnut Creek, CA
2015 *Preternatural*, Large photo-mural in a vacant storefront, 3357 Downing Street, Denver, CO
2011 *Jell-O Fence*, Large photo series on UCSF Mission Bay Hospital construction fence, San Francisco, CA
2007 *Scottsdale in Jell-O*, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts with Scottsdale Public Art, Scottsdale, AZ

Residencies

2018 Center for Arts, Design and Social Research, Spoleto, Italy
2012 ArtWorks Downtown and Dominican University, San Rafael, CA
2009 Kidspace at Mass MoCA, North Adams, MA
2008 Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA
Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, Wilmington, DE
Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, NM
2007 Scottsdale Public Arts, Scottsdale, AZ
2005 Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA

Solo Exhibitions

- 2025 *Delicate Balance*, NetApp Gallery, San Jose
- 2022 *Inflorescence and the Theory of Metamorphoses*, Michael Warren Contemporary, Denver, CO
Ground Waters, Chung 24, San Francisco, CA
- 2021 *Daydreams of Infinity*, Michael Warren Contemporary, Denver, CO
- 2019 *Intimate Immensity*, Longview Museum, Longview TX
- 2017 *Experiments in Form and Fiction*, Capsule Gallery, Houston TX (Two-person exhibition)
- 2015 *Ground Waters*, Michael Warren Contemporary, Denver, CO
- 2012 *Fugitive Topography*, Bg ArtSite, Bedford Gallery, Walnut Creek, CA
- 2011 *Jiggling Geography*, De Santos Gallery, Houston, TX
- 2007 *San Francisco in Jell-O*, Pittsburg State University Gallery, Pittsburg, KS
- 2007 *Scottsdale in Jell-O*, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts with Scottsdale Public Art, Scottsdale, AZ
- 2006 *Magnitude X*, Exploratorium, San Francisco, CA
- 2005 *Eye Candy*, Triptych Gallery, Berkeley, CA
- 1996 *120 seconds*, BAG Gallery, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2025 *Pandora's Box*, Artworks Downtown, San Rafael (Upcoming)
Month of Photography, Michael Warren Contemporary, Denver, CO (Upcoming)
- 2024 *Sacred Terrain*, Euphrat Museum, De Anza College, Cupertino, MA
X.iv, Michael Warren Contemporary, Denver, CO
- 2023 *Under Water*, Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA
Collective, Art Source Consulting, Mills Building, San Francisco
Pyramid Scheme, Bass and Reiner, San Francisco
- 2022 *The Great Wave*, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA
Crystal Realities to Artificial Intelligence: Multidisciplinary Explorations, Dishman Art Museum, Beaumont, TX
Landscape of Material and Mind, a SciArt Initiative at New York Hall of Science, Queens, NY
- 2021 *Architecture 2021*, New York Center for Photographic Art, NYC
Into the Rearview Mirror: A Look Back at 2020, Lone Tree Arts Center, Lone Tree, CO
Art in the Time of Covid, New Museum of Los Gatos, Los Gatos, CA
- 2020 *Wall of Shame (Social Response Work)*, Michael Warren Contemporary, Denver, CO
Reimagined Landscapes, Center for Photographic Art, Carmel, CA
The Great Wave, Bedford Gallery, Walnut Creek, CA
- 2019 *Surreal Sublime*, San Jose ICA, San Jose, CA
Salon at the Triton, Santa Clara, CA, juror Kevin Chen, First Finalist Award in Photography
- 2018 *Bay Area Currents*, Smith Anderson North/Photo Alliance, San Anselmo, CA
Supernatural Urban, Peephole Cinema, San Francisco, CA
SLICE Juried Exhibition, Pence Gallery, Davis, CA
Water, PhotoPlace Gallery, Middlebury, VT, juried by Ann Jastrab
Natural Systems, Chandra Cerrito Contemporary, Oakland, CA
- 2017 *Waterlines*, New Museum of Los Gatos, Los Gatos, CA
Inner Nature, Gallery 1317, San Francisco, CA
Detritus, San Jose ICA, San Jose, CA
- 2016 *The Alchemist*, Root Division, San Francisco, CA
- 2015 *Nourish*, Napa Valley Museum, Napa, CA
Re-Tratar, GuatePhoto Festival, Guatemala City, Guatemala
- 2014 *City Streets*, Studio Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2013 *Moving Pictures*, Brand 10 and X Art Space, Dallas, TX
Alternative process, City College Art Gallery, San Francisco, CA

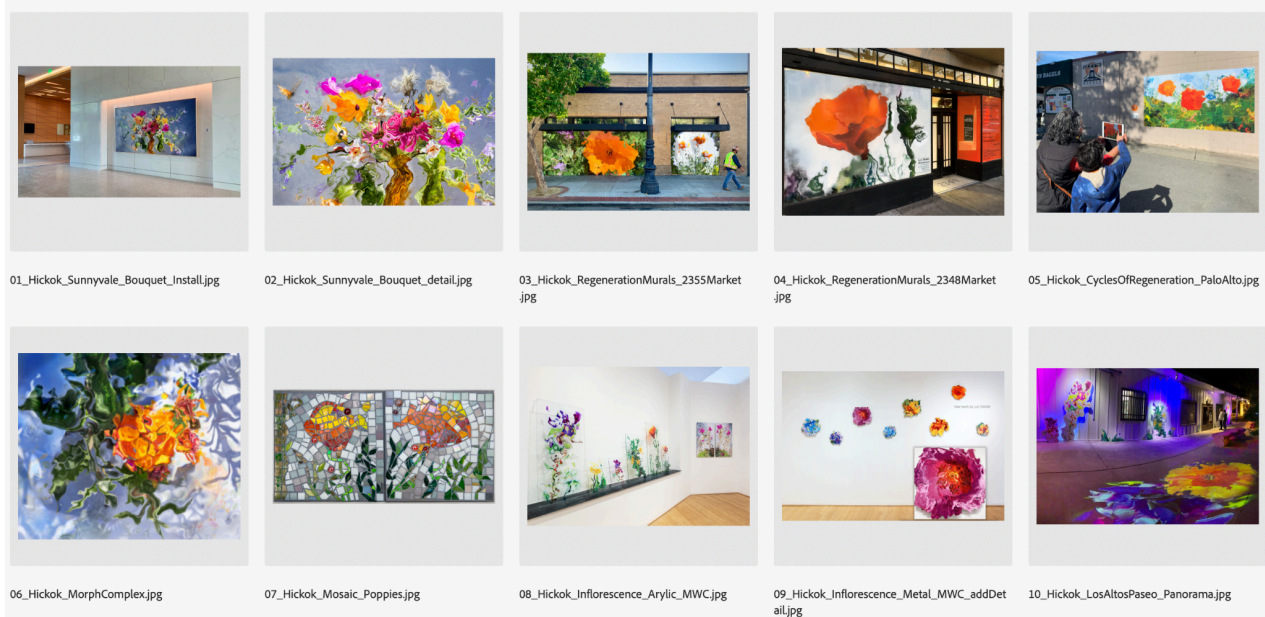
Selected Group Exhibitions (continued)

- Parallax Views*, San Jose ICA, San Jose, CA
- 2012 *What's Big is Little/What's Little is Big*, Susquehanna Art Museum, Harrisburg, PA
Color/Light, City Hall, San Francisco, CA
- 2011 *Synthetic*, Winston Wächter Fine Art, Seattle, WA
Chain Letter, Shoshana Wayne Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Reconstructed World, di Rosa, Napa, CA
Shadowshop, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 *You are Here, Mapping the Psychogeography of New York City*, Pratt Manhattan Gallery, New York, NY
Off the Strip, New Genres Festival, Contemporary Art Center, Las Vegas, NV (exhibition and video screening)
Strange Beauty, Center for Fine Art Photography, Ft. Collins, CO, jurors Darren Ching & Debra Klomp Ching
Off the Map, Kirkland Art Center, Kirkland, WA
Discoveries of the Meeting Place, FotoFest, Houston, TX, Selected by Rixon Reed, PhotoEye Gallery
There's No Place Like Here, Tower Gallery at SUNY Brockport, Brockport, NY
- 2009 *You Art What You Eat*, Kidspace at Mass MoCA, North Adams, MA
Evolution of Print: Artists of Kala, Oakland Museum at the Oakland International Airport
- 2008 *Luminous Communities*, Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, Wilmington, DE
Close Calls, Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA
Places Between, Diablo Valley College Art Gallery, Pleasant Hill, CA
- 2007 *C.T. Fish*, Ha'Kibbutz Israeli Art Gallery, Tel Aviv, Israel
Strange Weather, David Cunningham Projects, San Francisco, CA
- 2006 *Cultivating Creativity*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA
It's a Small World: Scale in Contemporary Photography, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA
Kala Fellowship Exhibition (Part 1), Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA
Reconsidered Materials, Exploratorium, San Francisco, CA
Science and Education Film Program, Exploratorium, San Francisco, CA (Video screening)
- 2005 *CoCA Annual*, Center on Contemporary Art, Seattle, WA
Mayhem, Southern Exposure, San Francisco, CA
New California Masters, WORKS/San Jose, San Jose, CA

Selected Public and Private Collections

YouTube, San Bruno, Autodesk, San Francisco, CA / *Sutter Health's California Pacific Medical Center*, Van Ness Campus, San Francisco, CA / *Google*, San Francisco, CA / *Kaiser Permanente Medical Center*, San Francisco, CA / *UCSF Hospitals Mission Bay*, San Francisco, CA / *The Museum of Fine Arts*, Houston, TX / *Blue Shield of California*, San Francisco, CA / *Mills Art Museum*, Oakland, CA / *Joaquim Paiva Collection*, Museo de Arte Moderna, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil / *Gemma and Luis De Santos*, Houston, TX / *META*, San Francisco

LIZ HICKOK- City of Sunnyvale Corn Palace Park: Slide List



1. Title: *The Metamorphosis and Memory of Flowers*

Date: 2023

Location: Sunnyvale City Hall, City of Sunnyvale

Medium: Framed Photograph with AR interface + sound (Collaboration with Phil Spitler)

Dimensions: 5 x 9 ft

Budget: \$20,000

Commissioning Agency: Sunnyvale Public Art

Description: This bold, vibrant bouquet of local wildflowers bursts with energy in the new Sunnyvale City Hall building. My collaborator, Phil Spitler, and I created this artwork along with an interactive augmented reality interface, adding a dynamic third dimension to the flowers as they bloom outward, evoking the movements of wind, fire, and water.

2. Title: *The Metamorphosis and Memory of Flowers*

Date: 2023

Location: Sunnyvale City Hall, City of Sunnyvale

Medium: Framed Photograph with AR interface + sound (Collaboration with Phil Spitler)

Dimensions: 5 x 9 ft

Budget: \$20,000

Commissioning Agency: Sunnyvale Public Art

Description:

Inspired by Sunnyvale's vibrant and varied character, I created this symbolic bouquet, with each element representing a connection to Silicon Valley. Apricot flowers reference the region's orchard-farming history, Milkweed highlights the monarch butterfly's migration through the valley, and the delicate yet resilient California Poppies are among the first flowers to reappear after wildfires.

3. Title: *Regeneration, Market Street Mural, part 1 & 2*

Date: 2020

Location: Market Street, San Francisco, CA

Medium: Photographic prints on paper, wheat pasted on wood

Size: Left: 8'x20', Right: 8'x9'

Budget: \$1600

Commissioning Agency: Organized and funded by Art for Essential Workers, 100 Days Action, and Facebook

Description: I began my "Regeneration" project at the beginning of the shelter-in-place, as a way to bring others and myself some color and delight during these intense and stressful times. This series was first inspired by the California poppy, which thrive in harsh conditions and return after wildfires, symbolizing resilience and healing.

4. Title: *Regeneration, Market Street Mural, part 3*

Date: 2020

Location: Market Street, San Francisco, CA

Dimensions: 60"x72"

Medium: Photographic prints on paper, installed in windows

Budget: \$1600

Description: I began this series by photographing the poppies in my garden, then used procedural manipulations through the Perlin noise algorithm to alter and distort them. Their vibrant orange petals glow with joy and energy, similar to stained glass.

5. Title: *Cycles of Regeneration (Palo Alto Mural Program)*

Date: 2020

Location: 477 California Ave, Palo Alto, CA

Medium: Photograph on aluminum with interactive video and sound, collaboration with Phil Spitler

Dimensions: 6'x10.66'

Budget: \$2500 (Not including printing or installation)

Commissioning Agency: Palo Alto Public Art Program

Description: With this interactive mural from my *Regeneration* series, viewers could use an augmented reality app (created by Phil Spitler) which created the feeling of walking through three-dimensional wildflowers that were changing and transforming around them. The video and soundscape evoked the movements of fire, air, and water, providing a new and exciting experience, while the mural on its own added color and movement to California Avenue.

6. Title: *Morphological Complexity*

Date: 2022

Dimensions: 20"x24", 30"x36", or 40"x48"

Medium: Archival print on paper

Location: San Francisco, CA

Description: My "Regeneration" series grew from California poppies to include other native wildflowers, with some ubiquitous non-natives, like this Lantana plant, creeping in to reflect how plant species intermingle—and sometimes take over. The distortions I apply create surreal images that echo our current (un)reality while also translating beautifully into bold, graphic tile and mosaic designs.

7. Title: *Native Harmony*

Date: 2025

Location: San Francisco

Medium: Glass and tile mosaic

Dimensions: 12"x24"

Description: This piece is a test, part of my ongoing exploration of transitioning my work into the medium of mosaic, glass, and tile. It is part of a larger site-specific project that will be further refined with the expertise of professional mosaic artists, fabricators, and installers.

8. Title: *Inflorescence and the Theory of Metamorphosis* (installation view)

Date: 2022

Location: Michael Warren Contemporary, Denver, Colorado

Medium: UV prints on Acrylic (left) and Archival pigment prints on aluminum (right)

Dimensions: variable

Description: This image features multiple images from my *Regeneration* series, on display at an art exhibition in Denver, CO. While they are not part of a public art project, they depict a range of imagery that is representative of the vibrant and luminous artworks that could inspire new pieces for the Corn Palace Park project.

9. Title: *The Metamorphosis of Plants*

Date: 2022

Location: Michael Warren Contemporary, Denver, Colorado

Medium: Sublimation prints on aluminum

Dimensions: variable

Description: This piece from my *Regeneration* series features local wildflowers, printed on aluminum and die-cut to float off the wall in an organic, playful pattern. The vibrant colors and subtle distortions bring an abstracted sense of joy and energy, inviting reflection on nature's resilience and beauty.

10. Title: *Inflorescence*, installation view

Date: 2022

Location: 250 Third Street, Downtown Los Altos, CA

Dimensions: 8' x 80'

Variable. The printed flowers range from 80" to 96" in height, and are approximately 24" to 36" wide. Occupying a paseo that is 80 feet long.

Medium: UV printed flowers with choreographed LED lighting, projected flowers, and interactive augmented reality video

Budget: \$19,250

Commissioning Agency: Arts Los Altos

Description: *Inflorescence* is an illuminated, interactive art installation created as a public art project for the City of Los Altos consisting of larger-than-life native wildflowers, glowing, transforming, and activating an underutilized public space. My collaborator, Phil Spitler and I merged their talents to connect the public to the healing and inspiring natural forces found right in our backyards.











Liz Hickok

Regeneration Bench Proposal
Corn Palace Park, Sunnyvale



Concept Overview

My proposed bench design for Corn Palace Park draws from my ongoing *Regeneration* series, which explores themes of resilience, transformation, and ecological harmony.

Through large-scale, distorted images of native wildflowers, the artwork evokes a sense of motion, energy, and surreal beauty—mirroring both the park's agricultural past and its evolving future as a space for community and renewal.

This vibrant design aligns with Sunnyvale's vision of Bold, Sustainable Innovation by blending natural imagery with cutting-edge materials in a joyful, inclusive, and enduring way.





Bench Top



Bench Ends

The *Regeneration* Series

The *Regeneration* series is inspired by native wildflowers that thrive in difficult conditions and regenerate after disruption—like California poppies blooming after wildfires.

I use the Perlin noise algorithm to alter and distort my photographic images of the flowers into swirling forms that suggest change, movement, and the delicate balance between beauty and distortion.

These visual echoes of growth and transformation are especially resonant for a public park rooted in agricultural history and reimagined as a vibrant communal space.



Pollinators & Ecology

- To support the site's ecological goals and pollinator garden, I've incorporated **bees, butterflies, and a hummingbird** into the bench design. These creatures are vital to local ecosystems and represent beauty, energy, and transformation.
- **Monarch butterflies**, under threat from habitat loss, symbolize fragility and hope. The **Anna's hummingbird** is a frequent, vibrant visitor to Sunnyvale gardens, and bees—especially **bumblebees**—are crucial to pollination.
- These images celebrate the connection between plants and pollinators while **sparking curiosity** about local ecology and natural interdependence.



Flora & Fauna

- **Apricot Blossoms:** Referencing Sunnyvale's agricultural roots and historic orchards.
- **California Poppies:** Resilient flowers that return after fire, representing healing and renewal.
- **Sky Lupine:** A vibrant local wildflower that supports pollinators.
- **Douglas Iris:** Adds a pop of purple and visual contrast while highlighting native biodiversity.
- **Pollinators:** add life, movement, and ecological significance.
 - Monarch butterflies
 - Bumblebees
 - Anna's hummingbird



Detail of top of bench

Attachment 10
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Materials & Durability

- **Top and sides:** Kiln-fired art tiles with imagery
- **Edges:** Iridescent and phosphorescent tiles
- **Front and back of bench:** Abstract mosaic from hand-cut ceramic tiles

Kiln-fired Art Tiles

The the tops and sides of the bench will have imagery that is printed on high-fired porcelain tiles, using a kiln-fired process that ensures exceptional durability, vibrancy, and environmental sustainability.

The tiles are:

- UV-resistant (guaranteed not to fade for 50 years)
- Frost- and weather-proof
- Scratch- and graffiti-resistant
- Suitable for high-traffic public spaces

These qualities align with Sunnyvale's goals for sustainability, longevity, and responsible public investment.



Kiln-fired Art Tiles

This shows a close-up of a test sample of four of the special Kiln-fired art tiles, which I had produced for this proposal.

The detail is beautiful, and the colors are intense and saturated.







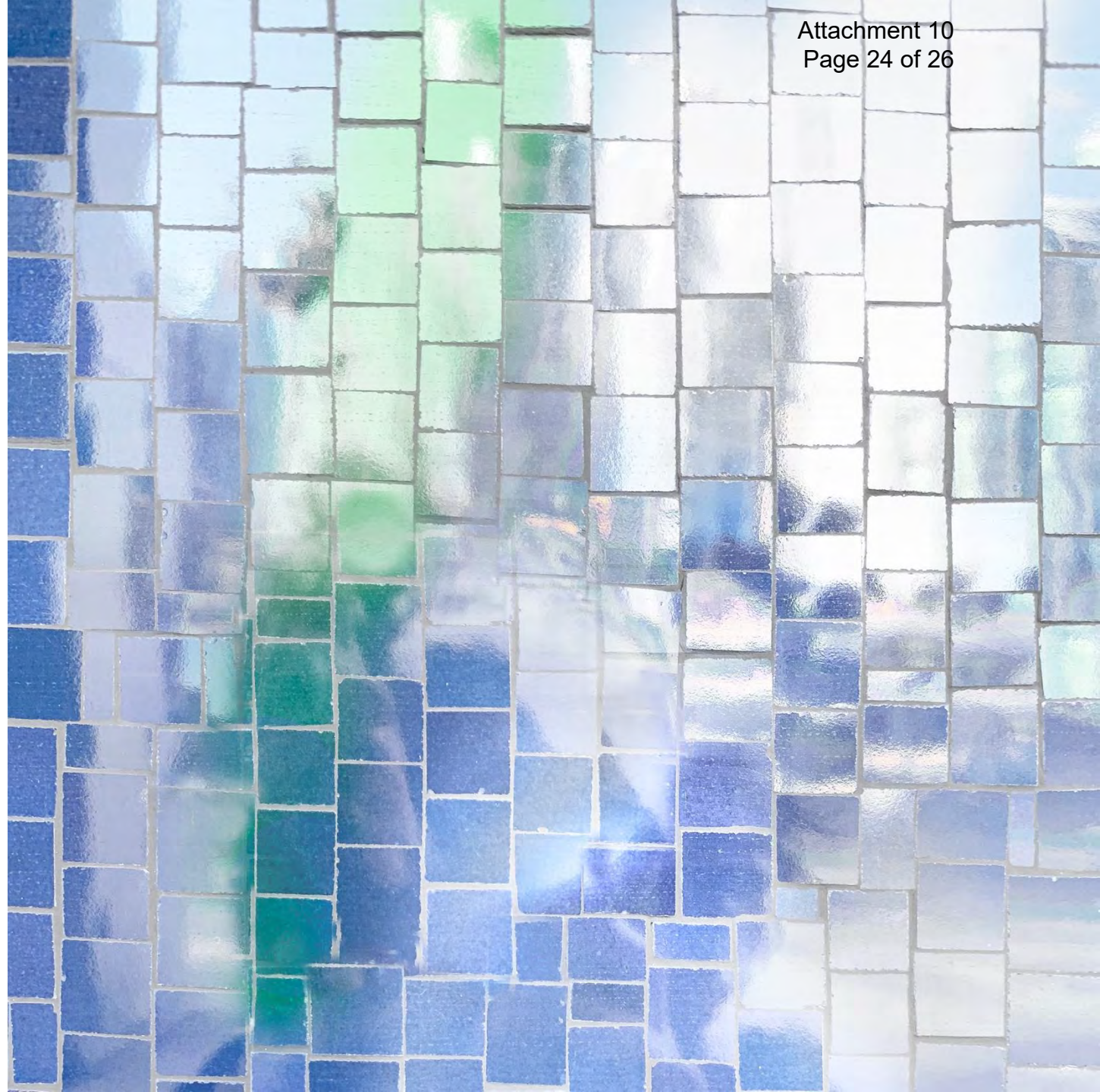
Phosphorescent Edge Tiles:

The edges of the bench will be trimmed with iridescent, glow-in-the-dark tiles that shimmer by day and emit a magical blue glow by night—adding a sense of wonder and enhancing wayfinding at dusk.

Mosaic & Abstract Elements

The front and back surfaces of the bench feature abstract, flowing mosaics in soft, shifting hues. These patterns reflect the sky, native foliage, and changing light conditions—inviting contemplation and creating a tactile, visual experience.

Made with hand-cut ceramic and glass tiles, these subtle gradients create continuity with the printed tile designs and enhance the bench's sense of movement and harmony with nature.





Fabrication & Experience

- As an experienced public artist, I have successfully delivered permanent installations for civic spaces, hospitals, and museums.
- I will work closely with skilled fabricators and tile installers to ensure that the bench is comfortable and built to last, and is designed in alignment with Sunnyvale's accessibility and safety standards to ensure welcoming, inclusive use by visitors of all ages and abilities.
- The design reflects the City's brand of Bold, Sustainable Innovation through its integration of art, ecology, and enduring materials.

Final Thoughts

My goal is to create a bench that is more than just a place to rest—it's a vibrant celebration of nature's resilience, Sunnyvale's history, and the beauty of everyday encounters with light, color, and whimsy. I envision this piece bringing joy, reflection, and a sense of surprise to park visitors of all ages, day and night.

Thank you for considering my proposal.

Liz Hickok

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