

April 24, 2021

To: Public Arts Committee

From: Kathy Oetinger, Vice Chair, Planning Commission
Ives Park Improvement Subcommittee

Subject: Ives Pool Mural Proposal

Background

The Ives Park Improvement Subcommittee was formed to recommend improvements to Ives Park using the Ives Park Master Plan as a guide. Our priorities list focuses on the “low-hanging fruit” that can be accomplished in the short or long term, and projects that can be funded through other sources, including private fund-raising.

The sub-committee has recommended many low-cost improvements in the park and Public Works has responded by implementing many of the suggestions already. Our first concern was to make improvements in the area of the new sculpture garden, i.e., straightening the bollards, removing unused signs and posts, and updating the garbage cans with the new black style. More improvements in this area will occur during the asphalt removal and replacement.

At the PAC’s February 3, 2021 meeting Kate Haug presented some of our improvement suggestions for art in the park. At that time, your committee expressed an interested in hearing more detailed information about spray-painted murals on the Ives Pool fencing.

Ives Park Pool Mural Proposal

The Ives Park Improvement Subcommittee would like the PAC to consider supporting a mural on Ives Pool’s West Wall. A West Wall Mural would be enjoyed by park users, event attendees, local walkers, and by art enthusiasts visiting the sculpture garden and the Sebastopol Center for the Arts. There was unanimous support for this proposal at a previous Planning Commission meeting and the Commission hopes you will give it your consideration.

The attached document contains photographs of the West and Willow Street walls, and includes notes about existing conditions and improvements that may be needed. The West Wall has been measured to estimate the square footage of the entire wall, and of the three main sections of the wall for multiple, smaller murals. While one large mural could be an exciting project, a less enthusiastic project could simply enhance the existing stage—breaking up the large expanse of gray and perhaps creating a window to a real or imagined horizon. There are so many options to consider.

Ives Pool Manager, Ricardo Freitas, is enthusiastic about the mural. He adds the only signage required on the west wall following Covid restrictions is a NO PARKING sign to prevent vehicles from blocking the gate. He would like to be part of the selection process, if possible.

Local artist and muralist Ricky Watts is available to answer questions.

Notes on other Fences and Walls

The Willow Street Wall is used extensively for pool signage and is often blocked by parked cars. However, it is possible a mural on the West Wall could continue around the corner to the west end of the Willow Street Wall. And it is possible some portion(s) of a Willow Street Wall mural could include pool signage and way-finding.)

The East Wall fencing has newly planted trees and shrubs. Photos document the view from two locations. The Taqueria el Favorito restaurant backs up to the High St. Parking Lot, and is an ideal location for a mural.

Ives Park Pool Fencing

February 2021



1

Northwest End Wall



2

Northwest Stage Wall



3

West Entrance Wall

These three walls sections are in good condition with sturdy, flat, wide slats. They can be viewed as a continuous, mostly horizontal surface for art that can be viewed from many vantage points in the the park.

With or without the gate entrance these areas would be an good location for one or multiple murals.

Hedges are trimmed away from the fence.



Main West Wall

Adding the tall, slating section to the right of the entrance gate creates an even greater expanse of wall for a mural. One continuous piece of art would be a dramatic enhancement to the park experience.

The fence to the right of the gate is also in very good condition. The vertical shrub, photo 5, is a volunteer behind a shed and should be removed.

Note in photo 5 that the hedges at the right in photo 4 are not immediately adjacent to the wall.



Close-up of the vertical shrub in photo 4 above.



Slat Detail

Short Upper West Wall

This shorter section of wall has some issues. With modest improvements this section could add a dramatic completion to the entire west wall, enhancing the park experience as visitors enter from Willow Street.

The larger gate on the left has wide slats, but the chain link fencing to the right is smaller, so has thinner slats. Some thinner slats are missing, but could be replaced.

Shrubs immediately adjacent to the wall at Willow Street are trimmed away from the fence but may need to be temporarily pulled back.



Missing Slats at Corner

Entire West Wall



Slat Detail



10

Willow Street Wall

This section of wall is used extensively for pool signage and promotion. The slats are consistently the thinner style. Weeding and ivy trimming maintenance needs more attention.

A mural on this wall would be a great improvement, especially if it incorporated Ives Pool logo signage and directional signage to the main entrance, after covid.

Discussion with the Manager and Board of Directors is needed to discuss the placement of signs and mural imagery.



11



12



13



14



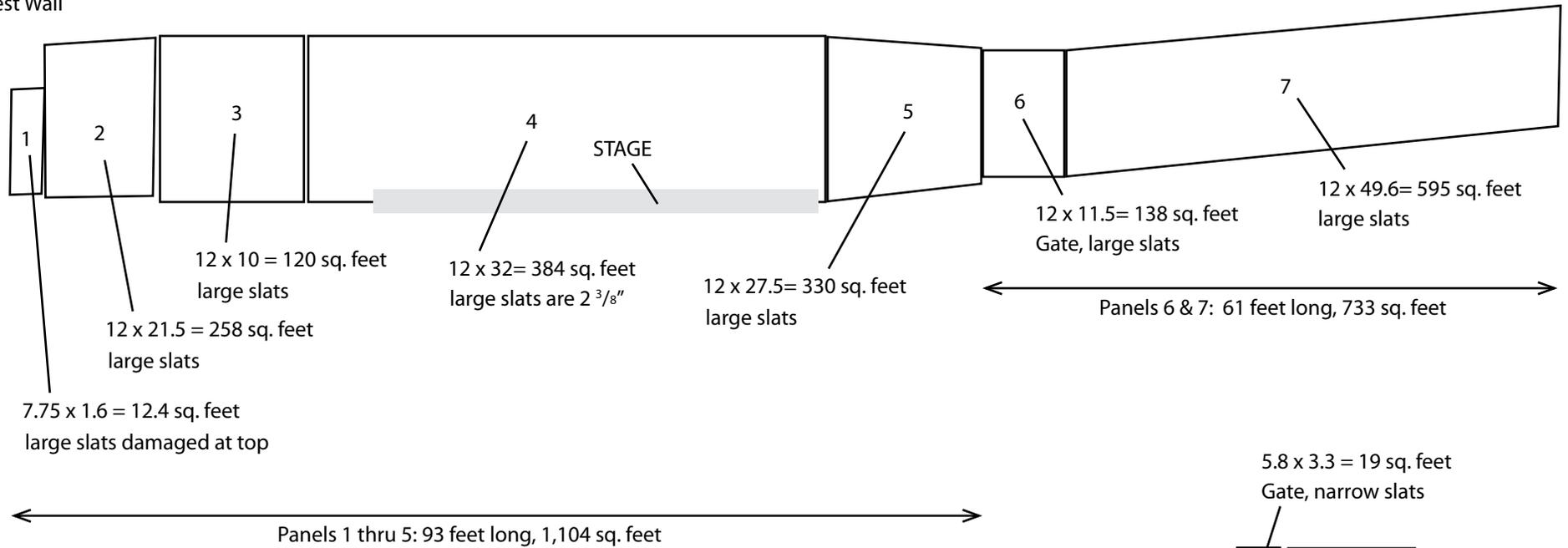
15



16



West Wall

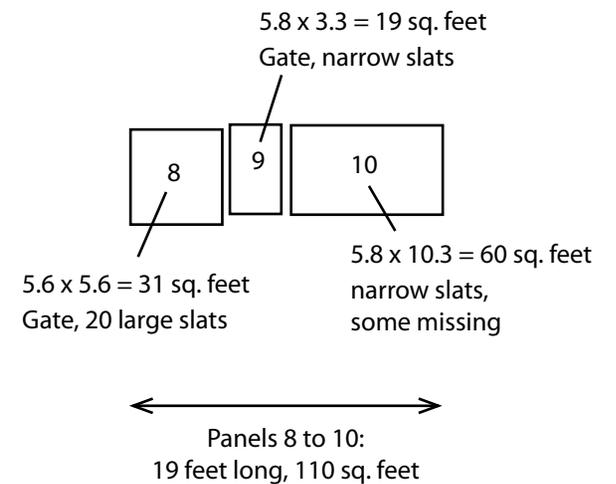


All 10 panels: 173 feet long, 1,947 square feet

All measurements are for planning purposes only.



Upper West Wall at Willow Street





East Wall from the Center for the Arts Parking Lot Gate



East Wall from High Street Gate



High Street Parking Lot - Taqueria El Favorito Back Wall