

**CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** October 23, 2025

**TO:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Greg Mediati, Director of Parks and Recreation

**SUBJECT:** Parks and Recreation Department Update

**Preschool Program**



*The children took a fieldtrip walk to the neighborhood mailbox.*

Students at Siebecker Preschool learned about the meaning of the words, “friendship” and “kindness.” One of the activities was to write a letter and draw a picture for one friend. The friend was randomly picked by the teacher to ensure every child received a letter. One of the goals of this activity was to build new friendships with classmates they normally see every day but don’t play with often. Every child drew a picture for their friend and picked out the stationery they wanted for their letter. The children dictated their letter to the teachers. The teachers printed their words using highlighters so students could then trace the letters. This activity helps children develop pencil grip and fine motor skills as well as starts to familiarize them with the alphabet and forming a

foundation for early writing skills. By doing this activity they are learned to show compassion and kindness while taking pride in their work. The children as part of the activity took a field trip to the mailbox to drop off their letters. The children were excited and proud as they walked the neighborhood to the mailbox. They were interested in how the mailing process works. Each student was thrilled to receive their special mail at their home.



*They were able to experience dropping off their mail.*

**Cultural Arts Program**

*October 2025 Art Show and Virtual and Extended Exhibition*

Artists explored their heritage and the life experiences which shape their future hopes at the final 2025 art gallery exhibit titled the “Past, Present, Future” Art Show - Celebrating Indigenous Culture. The show, which opened on October 3 and 4, featured 42 exceptional artworks by 29 artists. At the Friday opening, guests were treated to presentations by the South San Francisco Parks and Recreation Department Ukelele and Hula classes. Delighted visitors were captivated by their skillful music and dance performances. In the first week of the exhibition, the art was enjoyed by over 85 visitors.

Entries were judged by San Mateo County Arts Commissioner Stephen Seymour. Seven artists received awards. Elisa Colón Sosa was awarded first place in two-dimensional art as well as Best of Show and the Cultural Arts Commission Award for her artwork titled, “The Hands that Hold a Story.” All the award-winning artists will be acknowledged at the Tuesday, October 28 Cultural Arts Commission Meeting.

The art gallery is currently open weekdays from October 6 through 31, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The gallery will also be open until 8:00 p.m. for a special evening viewing on Tuesday, October 28. It is located on the third floor of the Library | Parks and Recreation Center.

A virtual exhibit of the award-winning art may be viewed at <https://ssf CulturalArts.padlet.org/culturalarts1/Oct2025ArtShow>. More information is available at [www.ssf.net/culturalarts](http://www.ssf.net/culturalarts).



*“The Hands that Hold a Story” by Elisa Colón Sosa*

## **Seniors Program**

### *Astronomy Class*

The Senior Services team was thrilled to partner with Classes Program Instructor, Josh Roberts, to provide an opportunity for senior participants to learn more about current events in astronomy. Josh has over a decade of experience in presenting in planetariums around the Bay Area and even worked at NASA Ames Research Center. A total of 10 participants signed up for Josh’s class on October 2. They learned about the planets, constellations, and asterisms that can be seen in the autumn as well as what is coming up in the winter. The participants loved Josh’s presentation, especially being able to interact with the technology he brought with him. Staff are excited about Josh’s next class on October 16 and hope to partner with him again in the future.

### *Indoor Jogging Class*

All were thrilled when instructor, Monica Gutierrez, added an additional fitness class at the Roberta Cerri Teglia Center. Starting on Tuesday, October 7, an Indoor Jogging class will be offered every Tuesday from 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. The class offers a safe, indoor space for all those wanting to improve their cardio skills. All levels, from beginners to experts, are encouraged to participate whether that is marching in place, walking around the room, or a full-on jog. Everyone is encouraged to keep their bodies moving and active. On the first day of class, there were a total of 15 participants and staff is certain it will continue to expand.



*Several seniors participated in the astronomy and indoor jogging class at the Senior Center.*



City of South San Francisco  
Cultural Arts Program  
presents

# Past Present Future

October 2025 Art Show  
Celebrating Indigenous Culture

**FREE ADMISSION**

**VIEW ART ON EXHIBIT  
3RD FLOOR GALLERY**

*Weekdays through October 31*

The final 2025 art gallery exhibit opened on October 3rd and featured over forty exceptional artworks.

Artists explored their heritage and the life experiences which shape their future hopes.

Universally resonant, the art becomes a bridge promoting interconnectedness across cultures.



[ssf.net/culturalarts](http://ssf.net/culturalarts)

**Open for  
Weekday Viewing**

**Gallery Hours** (Monday - Friday)

October 6 - 31 | 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

(Closed Monday, October 13)

**Evening Viewing**

Tuesday, October 28 | 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

**Library | Parks and Recreation Center**

901 Civic Campus Way, South San Francisco  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Gallery Room #321

**SSF Parks and Recreation Department**

[www.ssf.net/culturalarts](http://www.ssf.net/culturalarts)

[ercie.santos@ssfca.gov](mailto:ercie.santos@ssfca.gov) | 650.829.3810





**CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** November 6, 2025

**TO:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Greg Mediati, Director of Parks and Recreation

**SUBJECT:** Parks and Recreation Department Update

**2025 Picnic Season Summary**

The 2025 picnic season officially concluded on Sunday, October 26. This year, 660 permits were issued across 17 picnic areas. Each year, picnic rentals generate over \$100,000 in revenue for the Department.

Picnics are truly a team effort among the Parks and Recreation staff, who work together to answer questions, issue permits, post signage, check in and out permit holders, clean, power wash, and maintain each site, ensuring every area is ready for the next group to enjoy.

The picnic season runs annually from the first week of March through the final weekend in October. Permitting for the 2026 picnic season will begin on January 5, 2026.



*Eucalyptus Shelter at Orange Memorial Park*

## **Cultural Arts Programs**

### *Cultural Arts Commission Approves Selection of Artist for New Aquatic Center Mural*

The Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to share that artist Rachel Rodi has been selected to proceed with her proposed concept design for the new Aquatic Center, “Water Dances.” The robust process for the public art selection reflects extensive community engagement, staff review, and artist presentations, culminating in formal acceptance by the Cultural Arts Commission at their regular meeting on October 28, 2025, with a vote of 8 in favor and 1 absent. Staff will now move forward with contracting and next steps to bring this artwork to completion. Attachment 1 contains the staff report and presentation shared with the Cultural Arts Commission.

### *October 2025 California Public Art Administrators Meeting*

On Friday, October 17, South San Francisco Cultural Arts Specialist, Ercie Santos, attended the meeting of the California Public Art Administrators (CAPAA) hosted by the City of Palo Alto Community Services Department’s Public Art Program. CAPAA is a statewide network of California public art administrators and consultants dedicated to sharing information and national best practices within the public art field. Members gather virtually or in-person in California cities to compare programs, share solutions and discuss the direction of public art in the state.

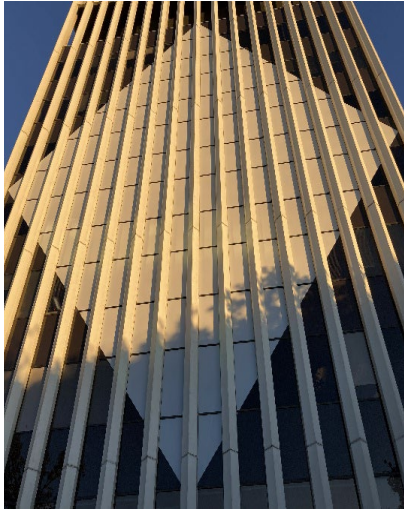
Topics addressed by the participants representing Northern and Southern California included the impact to the arts under the current administration and navigating the changes to grant funding and relief programs for artists. There was also thoughtful discussion on intra city policy for the notice of CIP projects that incorporate public art.

Lively conversation on the challenges encountered with the use of AI followed. Concerns included artists using the technology to complete submission requirements or to come up with their concepts. Strategies for integrating AI in the administration of an equitable yet user-friendly art submittal and jurying process were considered.

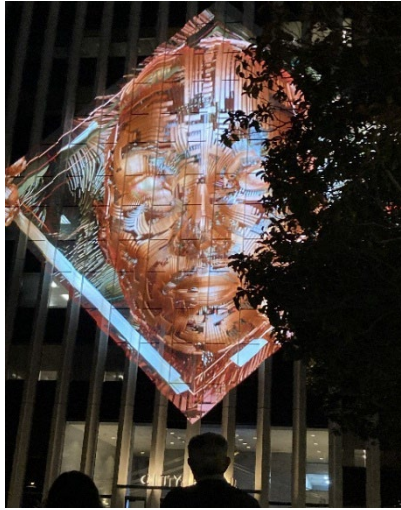
The successful passage of California’s SB 456 was addressed. The bill exempts artists who draw, paint, apply, execute, restore, or conserve a mural, from the existing law which makes it a misdemeanor for a person to engage in the business, or act in the capacity, of a contractor without a license. Participants recommended using contractors to handle the preparation of surfaces and to set aside funding for safety trainings for artists.

Palo Alto’s Public Art Director Elise DeMarzo gave a brief presentation on Palo Alto’s 10-day “Code: Art” Festival and the five interactive art installations that the group would tour after the conclusion of the 2-hour meeting. She highlighted the 8-story projection artworks by three world-renowned 3D projection mapping artists on the Palo Alto City Hall façade. Tours of Cantor Art Center and Stanford’s Public Art Program were conducted earlier in the day, and tours of the seven art installations near the San Francisco MTA’s Central Subway T-line were scheduled for Saturday morning.





*Building before 3-D art projections*



*Tempest by Jeff Dobrow*



*Code: Art Festival*

### **Youth Enrichment Services (YES)**

Youth Enrichment Services (YES) finds fun ways to combine seasonal themes and learning. Halloween is the perfect holiday for STEAM activities. Pumpkin catapult launchers combined engineering and creativity allowing children to design their own catapult. After testing the launch of their “pumpkin” they determined if they could make changes to increase the distance the pumpkin would go. The children were also able to compare their designs with each other to determine what aspects of each launcher might be a factor in the distance.



*Child with her catapult.*

### **Preschool Program**



*The children at the three preschool locations had a visit from the SSF Fire Department.*

In October, the children at all three preschools focused on learning about community helpers and Fire Prevention Month. On Friday, October 24, Fire Stations 61 and 64 visited all three preschools. The children got to see the fire trucks and learned about their equipment. The firefighters also spoke to the children about fire safety at school and home. Each child received a firefighter hat and sticker. We are grateful to have our firefighters come out and share their experiences.

## **Aquatics Program**

### *Adult Aquatic Exercise*

The Adult Aquatic Exercise class at Orange Pool has returned after a search for a new instructor. Mary Serrano, a part-time staff member at Orange Pool for 13 years, has stepped up to teach it. Demand for this class remains high among frequent registrants. It is a low-impact water exercise class open to all adults, but it specifically caters to participants with mobility issues or those who may not be able to participate in land-based exercises due to balance, strength, or similar restrictions. This fall, 18 participants are registered. Depending on demand, the class might eventually be split into two time slots, as it was previously scheduled. With the upcoming new pool featuring easier access with a zero-beach entry into the indoor pool and railings at all stair access points, staff believe this class will grow with improved accessibility.

### *Lifeguard Training: StarGuard Transition and Timeline*

Aquatics Coordinator Cynthia Lin and Aquatics Supervisor Brian Noce recently completed the Instructor Development Course (IDC) for StarGuard lifeguard training program. Passing the IDC and earning their certification allows them to train and transition current Red Cross lifeguards to StarGuard. Training dates and the transfer of staff to StarGuard are not yet finalized, but the plan is to conduct the training once staff transfer to the new Aquatics Center. Starting training in the new facility will help ensure a smoother transition, as protocols there will differ from those in the current facility. As a StarGuard authorized agency, the staff will be able to customize training specifically for the facility, resulting in an efficient experience for both the lifeguard staff and facility management. Overall, the initial training with StarGuard has been very positive. Management staff are pleased with the change and believe it will better serve the community and facility staff.





# Parks and Recreation Dept. Update - Attachment 1

## City of South San Francisco

P.O. Box 711 (City Hall, 400  
Grand Avenue)  
South San Francisco, CA

### Legislation Text

**File #:** 25-1143

**Version:** 1

**Agenda Date:** 10/28/2025

**Item #:** 5.

Report Regarding Recommendation of Artist Selection for the Mural at the New Aquatic Center at Orange Memorial Park. (*Erin O'Brien, Business Program Manager*)

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**It is recommended that Cultural Arts Commission approve the recommendation of the selected artist for the mural at the New Aquatic Center at Orange Memorial Park.**

#### **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

The City of South San Francisco, in collaboration with the Public Art Subcommittee, conducted a competitive artist selection process for the New Aquatic Center mural at Orange Memorial Park. The project sought a vibrant, community-centered artwork that reflects the City's spirit, aquatic heritage, and commitment to public art excellence.

An open call for artists was issued in May 2025 to identify qualified artists for this opportunity. The call was both invitational, reaching artists listed on the City's Public Artist Inventory, and publicly posted on CaFÉ (CallForEntry.org), a national online portal for public art opportunities.

The opportunity was promoted through the City's website, newsletter and social media channels, resulting in 96 artist submissions from across the Bay Area and beyond at the closing of the RFQ in June 2025. The project's public art consultant and City staff vetted and recommended a manageable fifteen applicants to proceed with a thorough review and rating. An emphasis on considering local artists was included in the vetting process. The Public Art Subcommittee and City staff carefully reviewed all submissions and shortlisted four finalists based on artistic quality, relevance to the site, professional experience, and community engagement.

The four finalists met with the New Aquatic Center construction project team (ELS Architecture representatives, Swinerton project manager, and City staff) to review design plans for the New Aquatic Center, and specifically the dedicated mural space. Each finalist received a stipend of \$500 to develop a site-specific concept proposal for the New Aquatic Center at Orange Memorial Park, ensuring thoughtful, well-developed designs that incorporated community feedback and reflected the unique identity of the South San Francisco community.

The four finalists invited to develop concepts were:

- Angelina Duckett
- Elena Manferdini
- Crystal and Cameron Moberg
- Rachel Rodi

Each finalist presented their concept to the Public Art Subcommittee who then evaluated the four concept proposals using criteria that included artistic quality, community fit, contextual relevance, experience with public art, and local connection. The Public Art Subcommittee scored the submissions through a weighted poll system, awarding points for first through fourth, resulting in the following outcome:

- Rachel Rodi (13.0 points)
- Elena Manferdini (11.0 points)
- Angelina Duckett (8.0 points)
- Crystal and Cameron Moberg\*

## Parks and Recreation Dept. Update - Attachment 1

**File #:** 25-1143  
**Version:** 1

**Agenda Date:** 10/28/2025  
**Item #:** 5.

- Concept 2 (5.0 points)
- Concept 1 (1.0 points)
- \* Crystal and Cameron Moberg submitted multiple concept proposals. Subcommittee members were asked to apply their weighted points to their preferred design. As a result, Concept 2 emerged as the preferred design to share in the community poll.

To ensure community input, the City hosted a public showcase at the annual Concert in the Park on Saturday, September 20, 2025, where residents viewed the proposed concepts and ranked their top choice.

An online poll was also made available through the City's website and promoted at Orange Pool, across social media channels, and through newsletters, allowing residents to weigh-in on their preferred concept. The poll resulted in 359 completed surveys, which closed on Friday, October 3, 2025, reflecting strong engagement and enthusiasm for the project. The results are as follows:

- Rachel Rodi "Water Dances" (132 points)
- Crystal & Cameron Moberg "Design 10"/Concept 2 (97 points)
- Angelina Duckett "Bird's Eye View" (85 points)
- Elena Manferdini "Water Dip" (45 points)

Based on the combined results from the Public Art Subcommittee poll and community feedback, the highest-ranked proposal was "Water Dances" by artist Rachel Rodi, developed in collaboration with her partner, Guy Fuerte.

Rodi's mosaic concept celebrates the generations of Orange Pool swimmers and the diverse South San Francisco community. The design's radiant color palette, mirrored "bubbles," and iridescent elements express the dynamic, joyful, and inclusive spirit of South City. The mosaic will be constructed using high-quality, durable materials suitable for the aquatic environment and designed for minimal maintenance.

### CONCLUSION

Following this transparent and inclusive selection process, the Public Art Subcommittee and project team recommend Rachel Rodi for the mural commission at the New Aquatic Center at Orange Memorial Park. Her concept, "Water Dances" best captures the project's vision and the community's shared values. Staff recommend the Commission, by way of motion, formally accept the recommendation of Rachel Rodi and her proposed design of "Water Dances" for the mural project at the New Aquatic Center. Pending the Commission's approval, staff will begin contract negotiations with the artist and coordinate the art installation with the New Aquatic Center project construction team.

*Attachment 1: OMPAC Mural Artist Selection Presentation*

*Attachment 2: Orange Memorial Park Aquatic Center Mural RFQ*

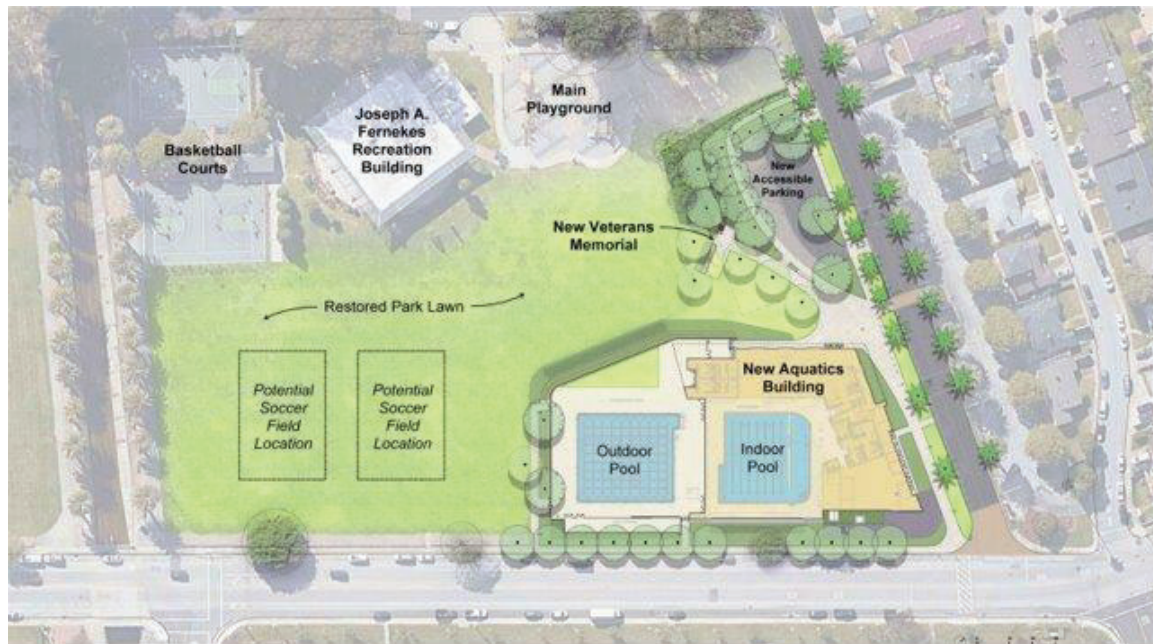




# Recommendation of Aquatic Center Mural Artist Finalist

October 28, 2025  
Cultural Arts Commission Meeting

## New Aquatic Center Overview



**Orange Memorial Park Aquatics Center**  
*Completed Site Plan*



els architecture+urban design

WICKMAN  
development & construction

- New facility, anticipated opening in 2026
- Replaces existing single-pool facility with a heated two-pool facility
- Expanded learn-to-swim programs
- More health and wellness opportunities
- Modern community space



## Outdoor Rendering



## Indoor Rendering





# Indoor Lobby Rendering: Mural Location





## Mural Artist/Concept Selection Process To-Date

- Request for Qualifications (Opened May 2025 & Closed June 2025)
- 96 Submissions were received and reviewed by Consultant and City Staff
- Public Art Subcommittee met and received a presentation on the 15 qualified artists recommended for evaluation and reviewed the scoring rubric
- Public Art Subcommittee members scored 15 artists, the top four artists were eligible to advance to the shortlist:  
***Angelina Duckett, Elena Manferdini, Crystal & Cameron Moberg, Rachel Rodi***
- Shortlisted artists, consultants, project team, and City staff met to review project and answer questions
- The top four artists entered into Concept Agreements with the City

## Mural Artist/Concept Selection Process To-Date

- Shortlisted artists submitted concept design proposals
- Public Art Subcommittee received presentations from the artists on their proposals
- Subcommittee members ranked the four proposals
- Concepts were revealed to the public at the annual Concert in the Park (September 20, 2025). Artists were encouraged to attend and speak to their proposals. (Crystal Moberg and Rachel Rodi were both in attendance)
- Community Poll requesting preferred design released (Opened September 20, 2025 and closed October 3, 2025)
- Public Art Subcommittee met with consultants and City Staff to review community poll results and prepare finalist recommendation

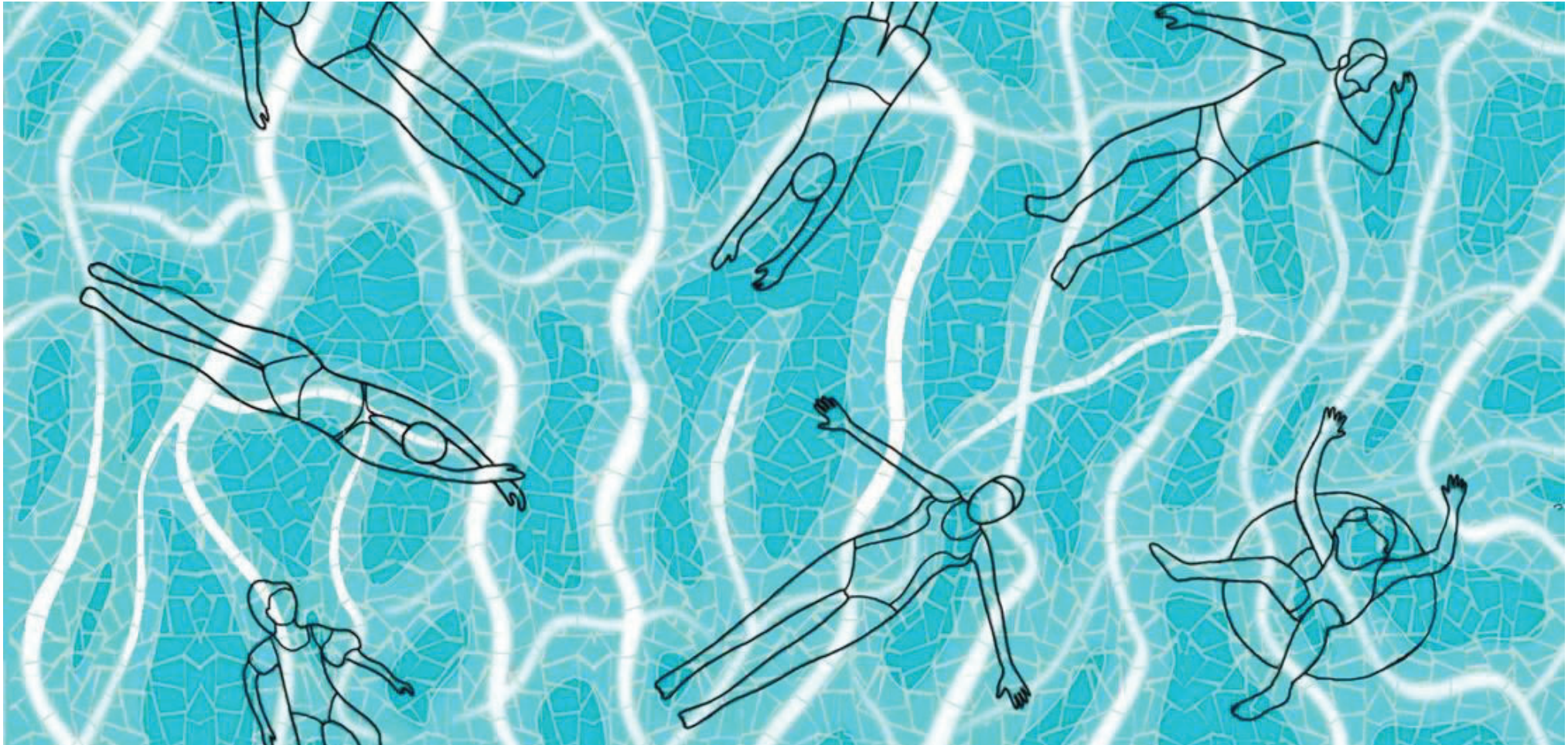
## Mural Artist Selection Criteria

- Artistic Quality
- Community Fit / Contextual Relevance
- Experience with Murals / Public Art
- Community Engagement
- Local Connection / Proximity to South San Francisco



# Concept Proposals (Shortlisted Artists)

## Angelina Duckett: “Bird’s Eye View”

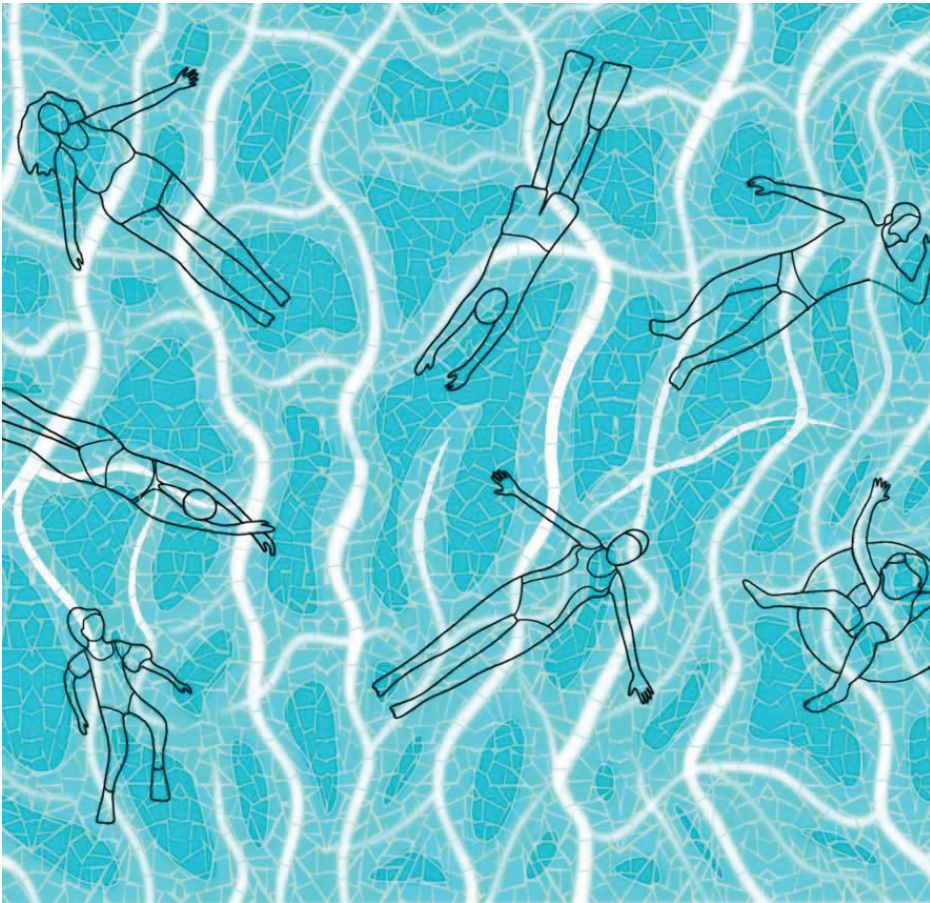


10



## Angelina Duckett: “Bird’s Eye View”

**Artist Website:** <https://angelinaduckett.com>



### Concept

- Celebrates wellness & environment by highlighting clean air, water, and community health
- Use of transparent blue glass evokes air and water, uniting themes of movement & vitality
- The bird's eye view perspective invites viewers to see themselves in the scene as the swimmers and divers

### Materials

- Professional-grade stained glass in light blue color palette

### Maintenance

- Routine cleaning – wiping mosaics with damp cloth and buffing dry
- Heavier cleaning – use of tile cleaners (Miracle Sealants recommended)

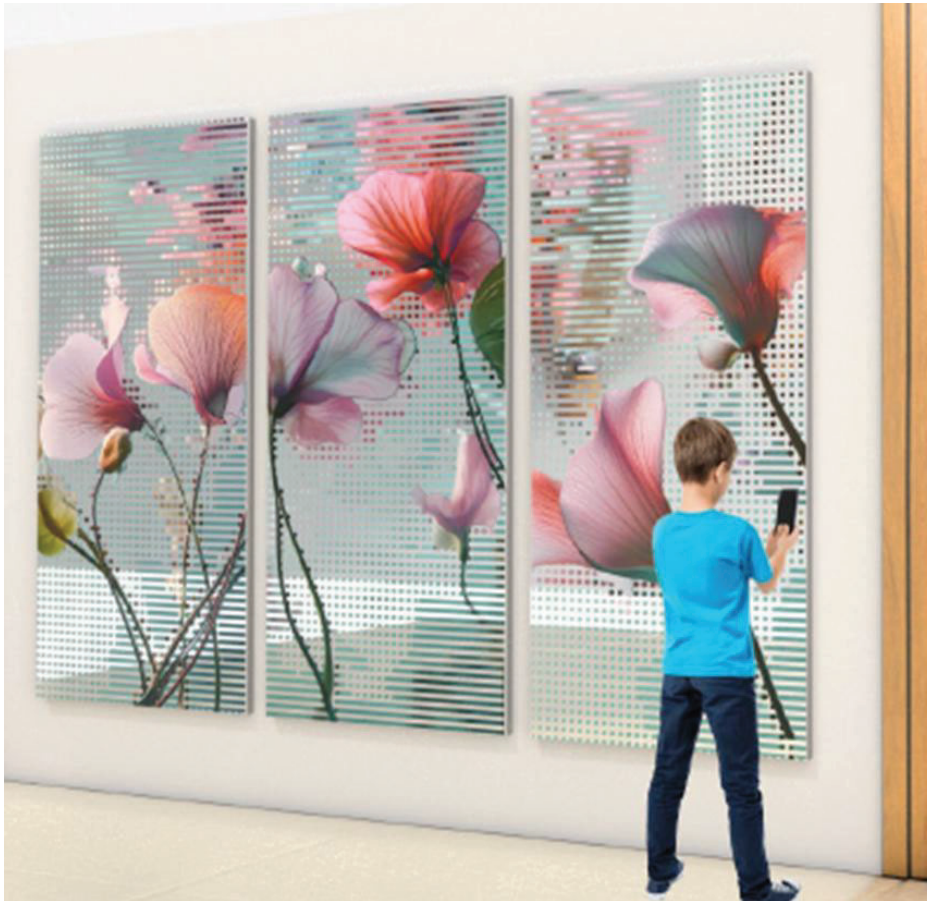


## Elena Manferdini: "Water Drip"



## Elena Manfredini: “Water Drip”

**Artist Website:** <https://www.ateliermanferdini.com>



### Concept

- Underwater-inspired triptych evoking curiosity and the beauty of submerged worlds
- Stylized aquatic plants rise from shadowy roots to light-filled blooms, symbolizing growth, vitality, and transformation
- QR codes link to animations, sounds, and online content promoting engagement and environmental awareness

### Materials

- Three, custom printed laser cut metal panels (3.5'x7.5')
- Stainless steel with a #8 mirror finish, and powder coated custom imagery

### Maintenance

- Routine cleaning – mild soap and water with a soft cloth, and dusting
- Heavier cleaning – use low-pressure washing if needed



## Crystal and Cameron Moberg





## Crystal Ibarra Moberg & Cameron Moberg: “Design 10: Concept 2”

**Artist Website:** <https://talkingwalls.art/>



### **Concept**

- Celebrates the wonder of childhood by capturing the carefree joy and the light, weightless feeling of being in a pool
- Blends color, realism, and graphic elements to reflect the newly constructed space
- Focuses on wonder and playfulness, inviting viewers to connect with memories of swimming and aquatic fun

### **Materials**

- Primary mediums – spray paint and house paint with protective finish

### **Maintenance**

- Routine cleaning – upkeep with standard washable techniques; clear coat protects against scuffs and minor surface damage

**DESIGN 10**

## Rachel Rodi & Guy Fuerte: "Water Dances"





## Rachel Rodi & Guy Fuerte: “Water Dances”

**Artist Website:** <https://www.rachelrodi.com>



### Concept

- Celebrates community and play – inspired by generations of Orane Pool swimmers and South City’s diverse population, capturing the joy of learning, exploring, and swimming
- Flowing sunlit colors reflect the energy of SSF dancers, including Ballet Folklórico
- Interactive & dynamic mirror “bubbles” let viewers see themselves in the mural

### Materials

- Professional-grade stained glass, mirrors, and iridescent stained glass accents
- Installed with specified adhesive and grout, specifically designed to perform in wet environments with high chlorine exposure

### Maintenance

- Routine cleaning – wiping mosaics with damp cloth and buffing dry
- Heavier cleaning – use of appropriate tile cleaners (Miracle Sealants recommended)



# Community Outreach

## Community Poll

### Poll Details

- Opened: Saturday, September 20, 2025
- Closed: Friday, October 3, 2025
- 359 Completed Submissions
- Provided in English and Spanish

### Publicity

- Concert in the Park  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (with artists)
- Flyers
- Newsletters
- Social Media
- Posters displayed at Orange Pool

## Publicity Samples





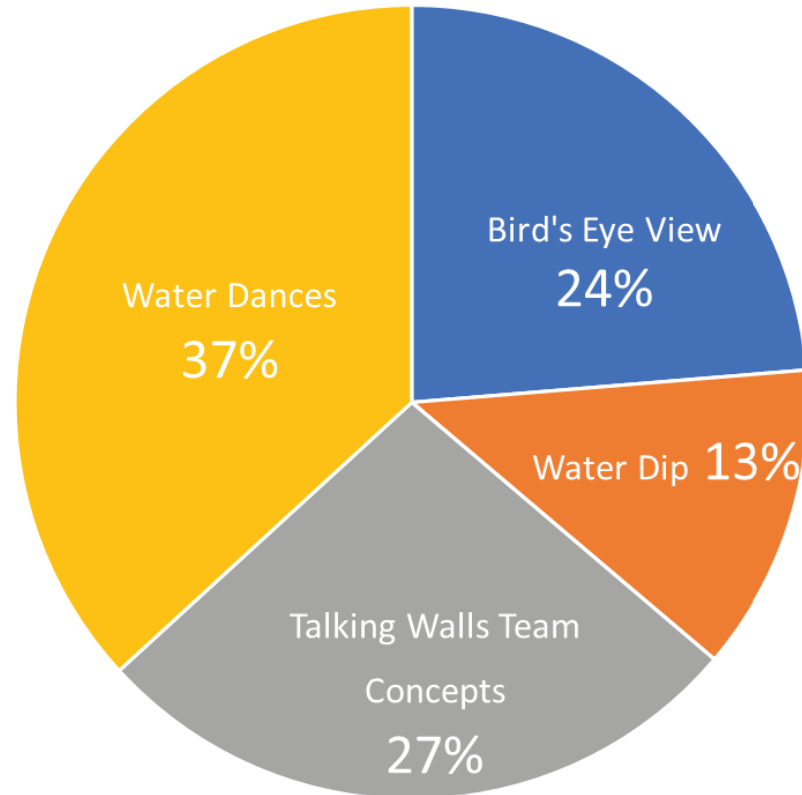
## Concert in the Park – Concept Reveal



# Community Poll Results

## Response Statistics

### 1. Which is your preferred Concept? (Select one)



Angelina Duckett - Birds Eye View

Elena Manderdini - Water Dip





Crystal & Cameron Moeberg - Talking Walls Team Concepts

Rachel Rodi & Guy Fuerte - Water Dances



## Response Statistics

## 1. Which is your preferred Concept? (Select one) - Continued

Value		Percent	Count
Angelina Duckett – <b>Bird's Eye View</b>		23.7%	85
Elena Manferdini – <b>Water Dip</b>		12.5%	45
Crystal & Cameron Moeberg – <b>Talking Walls Team Concepts</b>		27.0%	97
Rachel Rodi & Guy Fuerte – <b>Water Dances</b>		36.8%	132
<b>Totals</b>			359








## Response Statistics

## 2. Which of the following applies to you?

Value		Percent	Count
<b>I live in South San Francisco</b> <i>Vivo en el sur de San Francisco</i>		69.3%	268
<b>I work in South San Francisco</b> <i>Trabajo en South San Francisco</i>		22.7%	88
<b>I attend school in South San Francisco</b> <i>Asisto a la escuela en el sur de San Francisco</i>		10.1%	39
<b>I use South San Francisco parks</b> <i>Utilizo los parques del South San Francisco</i>		59.9%	232
<b>I visit shops, restaurants, and service businesses</b> <i>Visito tiendas, restaurantes y negocios de servicios</i>		66.1%	256
<b>None of the above</b> <i>Ninguna de las anteriores</i>		3.1%	12
<b>I am an Orange Pool patron</b> <i>Soy cliente/a de la Piscina Orange</i>		32.6%	126

## Response Statistics

### 3. What is your age?

Value	Percent	Count
Under 12 / <i>Menos de 12</i> 	4.1%	16
12-18 years old / 12-18 <i>años</i> 	4.1%	16
19-24 years old / 19-24 <i>años</i> 	4.4%	17
25-44 years old / 25-44 <i>años</i> 	45.1%	175
45-64 years old / 45-64 <i>años</i> 	26.5%	103
65 years and older / 65 <i>años o mas</i> 	14.9%	58
Prefer not to answer 	0.8%	3
<b>Totals</b>		388



# Winning Concept / Recommended Artist

## Rachel Rodi & Guy Fuerte: "Water Dances"



## Rachel Rodi & Guy Fuerte: “Water Dances”

### About Rachel Rodi & Guy Fuerte

Rachel Rodi and Guy Fuerte - a husband and wife artist team. We design and create public art and site-specific mosaic installations, murals and sculpture for businesses, homes and public spaces. Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, we have created more than 70 art installations throughout the United States and abroad. We work closely with designers, architects, builders and diverse communities to design art that becomes integral to a site, and meaningfully connects with a community or location.

### More About Rachel Rodi

Originally schooled as a painter and ceramic sculptor, Rachel Rodi has been a practicing artist for over twenty five years. Rachel has designed and created architectural mosaics since 2006, including large scale murals, sculptures, water features and plazas, where she expertly fuses her painterly aesthetic, sculptors sensibility and technical skill into moving works of art.

#### **Website:**

<https://www.rachelrodi.com/>



# Rachel Rodi & Guy Fuerte: “Water Dances”

## About the Proposed Concept

Water Dances is inspired by the generations of Orange Pool swimmers and the vibrant, diverse community of South San Francisco.

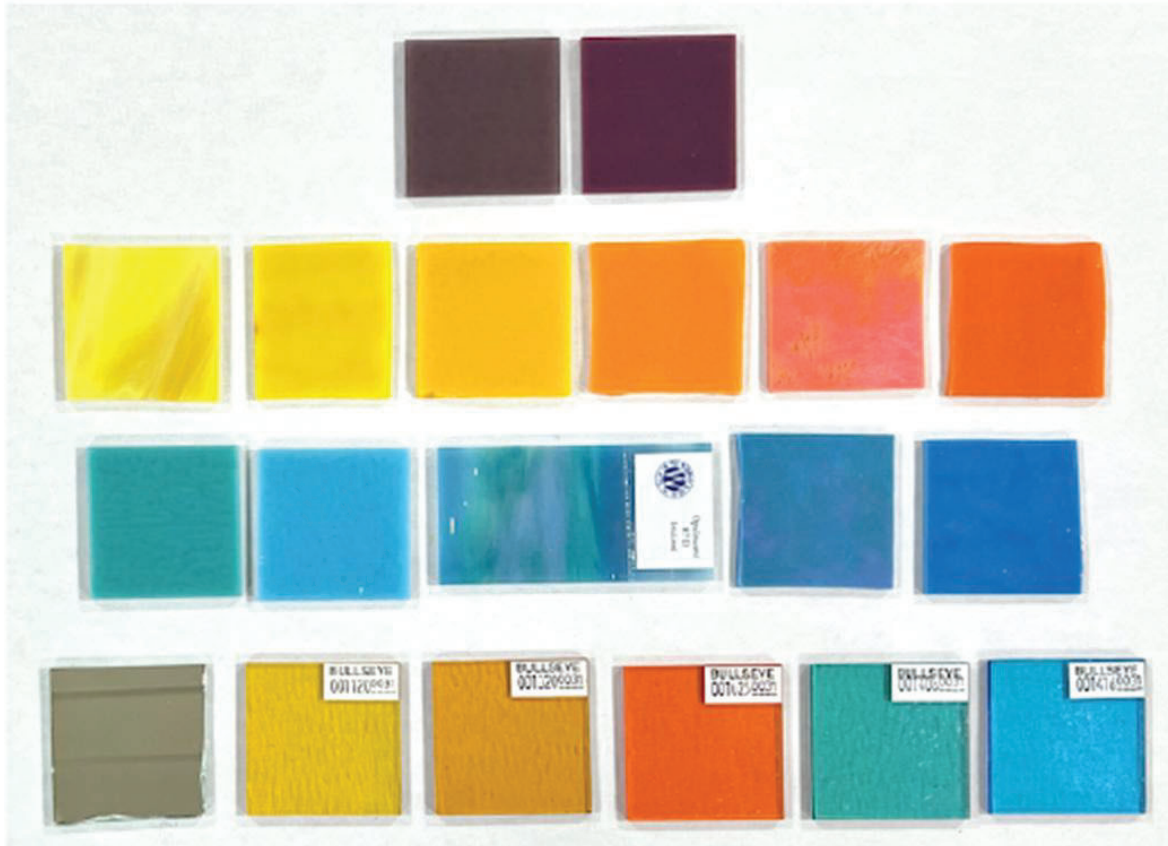
Our design celebrated the earliest days of swimming, where the love of water begins. Long days at the pool – learning, exploring, and playing – instill a lifelong joy for swimming and a strong connection to the community. The radiant, bold colors of the sun shining through the water represent the dynamic, creative, and resilient spirit of South City. The flowing sunshine is inspired by the movement of South City dancers, including Ballet Folklórico.

Throughout the mosaic, mirror “bubbles” are placed at strategic heights, allowing community members of all ages to see their own reflection. Through these mirrors, viewers become part of the mural and, in turn, part of the community. Each passerby adds infinite possibilities for expression. Alongside the mirrors, iridescent accents flow through the design, creating a lively sense of movement and an ever-changing play of light.

## Rachel Rodi & Guy Fuerte: "Water Dances"



## Rachel Rodi & Guy Fuerte: "Water Dances"



Preliminary stained glass selection for mosaic mural

### Materials proposed for the mosaic mural:

Stained glass and mirror with accents in iridescent stained glass

If preferred we can create the mural in glazed porcelain tile and mirror in similar colors.



Example Mosaic Lay Patterns for this mural



## Rachel Rodi & Guy Fuerte: “Water Dances”

### Community Engagement

The mosaic mural will be fabricated in the Artists' studio on fiberglass mesh sections.

The Artists will bring sections of the mosaic mural to South San Francisco and lead the community in helping make the mosaic during one Community Build Day. Artists will guide participants in tool use and mosaic setting.



## Next Steps

### Tentative Dates

- Notify Artist & Contract Signing (Nov. 2025)
- Fabrication & Installation (Nov. 2025 – Feb. 2026)
- New Orange Memorial Park Aquatic Center Opening (TBA 2026)

# THANK YOU



Recommendation of Aquatic Center Mural Artist Finalist  
Cultural Arts Commission



## CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 20, 2025

**TO:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Greg Mediati, Director of Parks and Recreation

**SUBJECT:** Parks and Recreation Department Update

### **LPR Café RFP Update**

During the design of the Library | Parks and Recreation Center (LPR), an approximately 150 square-foot portion of the third-floor lobby had been contemplated for a future café space and was furnished with necessary water and power for future tenant improvements.

Members of the City Council may recall that staff had issued a request for proposals seeking an operator for the café at the LPR in June 2025. The proposal period ended in July, with no qualifying candidates. The RFP was then reissued in August, closing in October. Staff reviewed applications, with three proposers receiving passing scores. The three finalists will be interviewed by staff on December 4, at which time a finalist will be recommended for award of contract to build out and operate the café. Additional details will be shared with City Council as the process moves forward.

### **Classes Program Update**

#### *Observe the Moon Night*



*Participants were able to observe the moon with a high-tech telescope.*

Astronomy Instructor Josh Roberts from the Recreation Classes program, recently hosted an “Observe the Moon Night” program at Alta Loma Park. This program was free to community members of all ages with an estimated 70 people in attendance. While pre-registration was not required, it was encouraged with some drop-ins that included park visitors on their evening walks.

Participants had the opportunity to learn about lunar features, navigate the Moon’s surface using special software, and observe celestial details through two high-powered telescopes. Community members had an opportunity to engage in larger conversation and questions regarding the Moon. Josh, formerly

employed with NASA, hopes through his astronomy class program to connect with local astronomy enthusiasts and inspire the next generation through hands-on, community-based learning experiences. Josh will be launching a new series of class workshops in “Telescope Clinic” for the upcoming winter session where students can learn to operate and maintain their telescopes.

### *Karate Promotional*

On Sunday, November 11, the Shinkyu Shotokan Karate Program hosted its annual Karate Promotion event for youth and adult participants in the Karate program. Approximately 24 participants from ages 7 through 33 tested for the promotion. This marks the first karate event since the passing of our lead and head instructor of the program, Sensei Sue Miller. This event continued under the leadership of Sensei Patrick Dunleavy, Sempai Alex Moreno, Sempai Juan Carlos Barajas, Sempai Isaul Beltran, Sempai Amanda and Austin Lee. The Recreation Classes program is grateful for the leadership and enthusiasm the team has demonstrated, especially the inspiration and lasting impact of Sensei Sue.



*Shinkyu Shotokan Karate Program  
annual promotion.*

### **Rentals Program**

#### *Taste of South San Francisco*

The South San Francisco Parks and Recreation Department hosted the Chamber of Commerce's Taste of South San Francisco event on November 6, utilizing the Banquet Hall, Social Hall, both kitchens, and the patio area at the Library | Parks and Recreation Center (LPR). The South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce featured 21 local restaurant vendors and welcomed around 200 guests in attendance. The Recreation Department's Rentals staff prepared the Banquet Hall and Social Hall the night before the event, assisted with garbage removal, set up tables in the patio area, and provided on-site support with room adjustments and audio-visual setup. This marks the second consecutive year the Taste of South San Francisco has been hosted at the LPR, and we look forward to welcoming the Chamber of Commerce back in 2026.



*Taste of South San Francisco took place at LPR.*

**CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** November 27, 2025

**TO:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Greg Mediati, Director of Parks and Recreation

**SUBJECT:** Parks and Recreation Department Update

**Parks Division Update**

*Siebecker Preschool Revitalization*

The landscape renovation at Siebecker Preschool has seen significant progress since the last update, with one half of the planting project now fully realized. This section features the installation of a variety of new plants, all nestled within a layer of protective woodchip mulch. A drip irrigation system has been installed to ensure these newly planted additions receive a consistent water supply, promoting their healthy establishment and growth. The drip irrigation installed in this phase is much more water efficient than the old overhead broadcast sprinkler system that was in place before. This initial phase marks a major step toward creating a vibrant, sustainable outdoor environment for the children.

In parallel with the landscape work, Siebecker Preschool students completed a unique element for the new design. The preschool teachers and students finished painting their custom flagstones, which will serve as a creative, personal touch within the new walkway. Parks staff have since applied a professional sealant coat to protect the vibrant artwork and the flagstones themselves from wear and weather. Once this protective sealant is fully cured, these personalized stones will be carefully laid into the new pathway. The stones will then be surrounded with pathway fines and receive a final finishing spray to seal the entire surface, setting the stones in place and completing the main pathway.







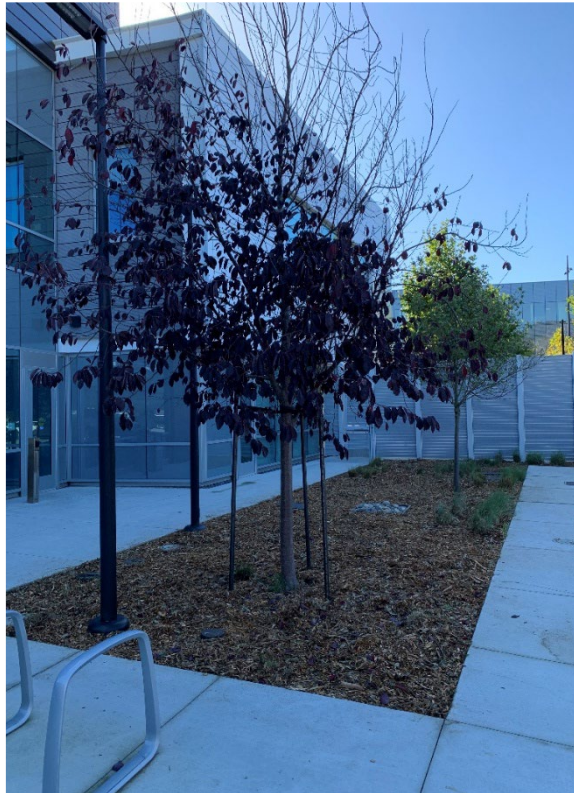
#### *Police Department Landscape Corrections*

The City's tree crew recently completed an important maintenance effort at the Police Station, focusing on the removal of a few failing trees and the spreading of woodchip mulch across the landscape. The application of woodchip mulch serves multiple beneficial purposes. It significantly improves the aesthetics of the area, providing a neat, uniform look. More importantly, it acts as a natural barrier to prevent weed growth, reducing the need for chemical herbicides and frequent labor efforts. Furthermore, the mulch enhances the soil quality by retaining moisture and gradually breaking down to release nutrients, which in turn provides a better overall environment for the remaining trees and plants to thrive.

Following the tree crew's work, Parks staff are currently engaged in a comprehensive follow-up



effort. Their focus is on meticulously cleaning up the planted beds, which includes the removal of existing weeds and undesirable volunteer plants. They are also taking steps to spread woodchip mulch in any areas that the tree crew did not cover. This coordinated effort between the tree crew and other Parks staff will ensure the sustained maintenance and improved appearance of the Police Station grounds.



### *Sports Field Closures*

Parks staff have successfully completed the annual process of closing down our natural grass sports fields for the winter season. This crucial maintenance step means that all natural turf fields are now unavailable for organized sports or general use until the spring. This closure is standard practice and is essential for preserving the quality and integrity of these high-use areas over the coming months of colder weather and increased moisture.

The primary purpose of closing the fields is to allow staff to perform necessary enhanced maintenance and repairs without interruption. This winter period provides a vital window for key agronomic practices, such as deep aeration, overseeding, topdressing, and nutrient application, all of which are essential for soil health and turf resilience. Restricting use during the winter actively prevents damage to the fields. Saturated soil conditions combined with foot traffic can quickly lead to compaction, ruts, and bare spots, which would require extensive and costly remediation before the next playing season.

By taking the fields out of commission now, Parks staff are ensuring that the turf has the opportunity to rest, repair, and strengthen. This proactive management strategy guarantees that when the fields reopen next spring, they will be in the best possible condition to handle the high demands of organized sports, providing a safe and high-quality playing surface for all users.

**CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** December 4, 2025

**TO:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Greg Mediati, Director of Parks and Recreation

**SUBJECT:** Parks and Recreation Department Update

**December Holiday Closures**

Parks and Recreation Department community centers and recreation programs will be closed for the holidays as listed below. This closure is planned in conjunction with the citywide administrative closure from Wednesday, December 24 through Friday, January 2. During the closure, full-time staff will have the option to come to work or take time off using their allotted leave time as permitted by their supervisor.

December 22, 2025 - January 2, 2026

Siebecker Preschool  
Westborough Preschool  
Little Steps Preschool

December 22, 2025 - January 3, 2026

Roberta Cerri Teglia Center

December 24, 2025 - January 2, 2026

Library | Parks & Recreation Center, Administrative Office\*  
Terrabay Gymnasium and Recreation Center  
Alice Peña Bulos Center  
Joseph A. Fernekes Recreation Building

December 24, 2025 - January 4, 2026

Orange Pool

\*The Library will remain open as usual except for a half day schedule on December 24 and December 31, and a full day closure on December 24 and January 1.

Community members who need to report an urgent issue during the closure related to a City park or facility may call (650) 829-3837 or email [parks@ssfca.gov](mailto:parks@ssfca.gov). Registration for recreation classes will still be available online at [www.ssfca.gov/rec-catalog](http://www.ssfca.gov/rec-catalog) during the closure period.



## **Winter Camp**

During the weeks of the Christmas and New Year holidays, the Department's Youth Enrichment Services team will be open for Winter Camp, offering Winter Wonderland-themed art, science, games, and more. Winter Camp is open to children who are currently enrolled in transitional kindergarten (through a school district) through age 12. The camp is hosted at Ponderosa Elementary School and will take place on December 22, 23, 29, 30, and January 5 and 6. Each day is scheduled 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

## **2026 Calendar of Events**

Save the date for your favorite Parks and Recreation events! See Attachment 1 for the 2026 Calendar of Events brochure.

## **Preschool Program**



On Thursday, November 20, Little Steps Preschool held its first of two parent workshops in partnership with the South San Francisco Public Library. Little Steps Preschool is partially grant funded from San Mateo County of Education. Early literacy is a big component of the curriculum. This workshop shared tips with families on how to practice early literacy skills at home. Vivian Ton, Lead Literacy Services Coordinator with the South San Francisco Public Library, lead the workshop. The preschool program works collaboratively with parents to help increase reading success for all students. Many of the families

also participate in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which delivers high quality books to their homes. This gives families the opportunity to build their own libraries at home. A total of six families attended the workshop and they received helpful tips along with three books to take home.

## **Thanksgiving Fun Run Recap**

The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Thanksgiving 5K Fun Run took place on Saturday, November 22, starting and ending at the Oyster Point Dog Park. The course guided participants through the Genentech Campus and along the Bay Trail, offering a scenic and enjoyable route for both runners and walkers.

Registration opened on September 1 and closed on November 15. There were a total of 1,033 registered participants and for the first time, walk-up registration was not accepted on event day.

This decision ensured accurate participant counts, maintained safety, and supported smooth event operations. Limiting registration to pre-registered participants enabled staff to prepare race



materials in advance, coordinate appropriate staffing, and manage course logistics without last-minute adjustments, ultimately providing a safe, organized, and positive experience for all participants.

Below is the list of sponsors who supported the 2025 Fun Run. These donations will be presented to City Council for formal acceptance at a future meeting.

2025 Fun Run Sponsors:

- Caccia Home Services
- Danny Boy Designs
- Genentech
- Kaiser Permanente
- Molloy's Tavern
- Fitness Tech
- The Nicolas Family







## Our Special Events

Each year, we host many public special events in various interest areas with the hope that they will serve our residents.




If you would like to provide feedback on any of our events and activities, please email [web-rec@ssfca.gov](mailto:web-rec@ssfca.gov).



### ABOUT US:

The South San Francisco Parks and Recreation Department continues its mission to provide opportunities for physical, cultural and social well-being in 2026 for the community. We would like to thank each of you for your continued support!

## Contact Us

-  [www.ssfca.gov/pandevents](http://www.ssfca.gov/pandevents)
-  [web-rec@ssfca.gov](mailto:web-rec@ssfca.gov)
-  (650) 829-3800
-  901 Civic Campus Way, 3rd Floor

City of South San Francisco

# Parks & Recreation Department



## 2026 Calendar of Events



## JANUARY

- 1 New Year's/Programs Closed
- 5 Winter Session Classes Begins
- 15 Seniors Valentines for the Troops
- 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day/Programs Closed

## FEBRUARY

- 6-7 "What is Love" Art Show
- 10 Seniors Lunar New Year Celebration
- 16 President's Day/Programs Closed
- 23 Spring Resident Registration Begins

## MARCH

- TBA Summer Camp Public Registration Begins
- 7 Youth Baseball Celebration
- 9 Spring Non-Resident Registration Begins
- TBA Summer Camp Public Registration
- TBA 2025-2026 Afterschool Program Public Registration
- 21 Easter Bunny Photo-Hop
- 23 Spring Classes Begin
- 30-31 Spring Camp

## APRIL

- 1-3 Spring Camp
- 12 Karate Tournament
- 15 Jr. Giants Registration Begins
- 17-18 Youth Art Show
- TBA Arbor Day/Earth Day Celebration

## MAY

- 3 Karate Promotional
- 4 Summer Resident Registration Begins
- 13-14 Pre-Kinder Learners Graduation
- 15 Senior Health Fair
- 18 Summer Non-Resident Registration Begins
- 22 Preschool Graduation
- 25 Memorial Day Holiday/Programs Closed
- 25 Memorial Day Flag Ceremony
- 29 Last Day of SSFUSD School
- 31 SSF Civic Ballet Spring Showcase

## JUNE

- TBA Senior Services/SSFPD Pancake Breakfast
- 1 Summer Session Classes Begin
- TBA Summer Camp Begins
- 19 Juneteenth Holiday/Programs Closed
- 20 Pre-Karate Promotional

## **July is Parks and Recreation Month!**

## JULY

- 3 Fourth of July Observed/Programs Closed
- 10-11 Community Art Show
- 17 Movie Night/Field Day

## AUGUST

- 10 Fall Resident Registration Begins
- 13 SSFUSD First Day of School
- 21 Movie Night
- 24 Fall Non-Resident Registration Begins
- 30 Karate Tournament

## SEPTEMBER

- 7 Labor Day/Programs Closed
- 8 Fall Session Classes Begins
- 12 Coastal Cleanup
- 19 Concert in the Park

## OCTOBER

- 2-3 Fall Art Show
- 12 Indigenous Peoples' Day/Programs Closed
- 17 Halloween Extravaganza

## NOVEMBER

- 7 Senior Maker's Fair/Holiday Boutique
- 8 Karate Promotional
- 11 Veteran's Day/Programs Closed
- 21 Thanksgiving Fun Run
- 26-27 Thanksgiving/Programs Closed

## DECEMBER

- 5 Santa Comes to Town
- 7 Winter Resident Registration Begins
- 12 Pre-Karate Promotional
- 12 Improving Public Places Wreath Making Workshop
- 19-20 Nutcracker
- 21 Winter Non-Resident Registration Begins
- 24-31 Recreation Admin Offices Closed
- TBA Winter Camp Begins

Subscribe to our **monthly newsletter**

at: <https://bit.ly/SSFParkRec>

We're on **social media!**

Follow us for the latest news and announcements!



Visit the SSF Parks and Recreation Events webpage for detailed information about our upcoming events at [www.ssfca.gov/PandREvents](http://www.ssfca.gov/PandREvents).