



Mercer Island Arts Council | October 25, 2023 meeting  
Designs by Marsha Rollinger

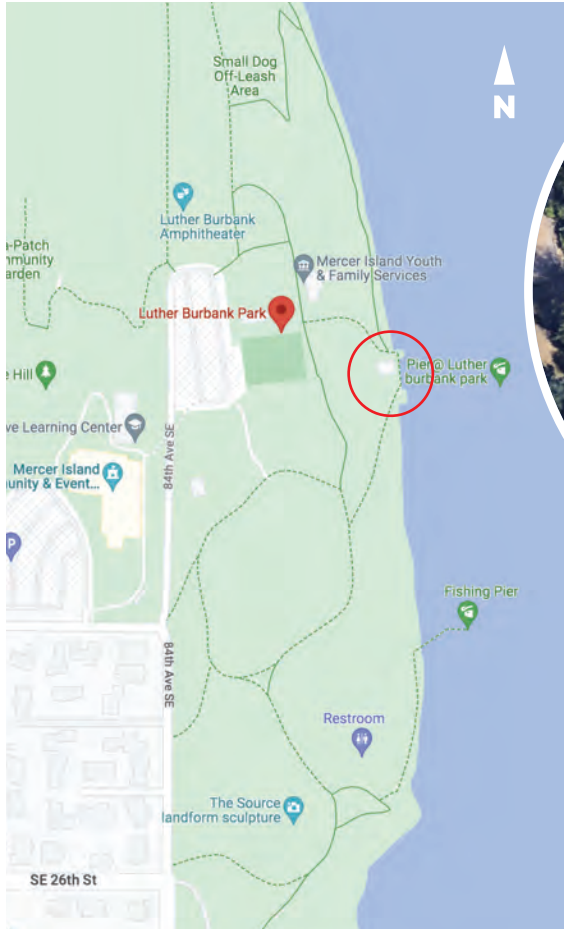
# **Project Summary & Location**

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Through various events, meetings, and other methods of community outreach, artist Marsha Rollinger and the City of Mercer Island worked together to collect input from the public on what they felt makes Mercer Island and Luther Burbank Park special to them. Input came in the form of words, stories, images, and poems. Marsha then created 12 unique medallion designs based on the responses received.

These designs, presented today, will be cast in bronze and set into the new Luther Burbank Park dock plaza paving as part of the renovations there. The bronze medallions are three different sizes: (4) 18", (4) 24" and (4) 30".

## PROJECT LOCATION



The bronze medallions will be installed in the plaza area paving next to the Luther Burbank Park Boiler Building.





PROJECT LOCATION | MEDALLION INLAY LAYOUT IN PLAZA



The layout is reminiscent of bubbles, drawing viewers from one side of the paved plaza area to the other.



**12 total unique bronze inlays**

★ = 18" (qty. 4)

▲ = 24" (qty. 4)

◆ = 30" (qty. 4)

# Community Engagement

A white wavy line graphic that spans the width of the page, positioned below the main title.

**Print materials were designed and posted in various locations containing info about the project, the outreach events, and a QR code linking to the Mercer Island Let's Talk webpage. City of Mercer Island social media platforms also helped spread the word.**

***IN-PERSON EVENTS:*** Mercer Island Farmers Market  
Summer Celebration  
Mostly Music in the Park

***COLLABORATORS:*** Friends of Luther Burbank Park (Sue Stewart & Judith Roan)  
Mercer Island Historical Society (Jane Meyer Brahm & Terry Moreman)  
Mercer Island Visual Arts League (Anne Hritzay)  
Mercer Island Preschool Association (Fan Yuan)

Posters and A-Boards

**MERCER ISLAND MEDALLIONS**

**Help us make a splash at the Luther Burbank Park waterfront!**

Join the City and local artist Marsha Rollinger in creating unique bronze medallions for the Luther Burbank Park waterfront plaza.

Share your ideas for artwork designs by attending a community event or submitting on Let's Talk.

Scan the QR code for more information or visit [www.mercerisland.gov/medallions](http://www.mercerisland.gov/medallions)

**2023 COMMUNITY EVENT SCHEDULE**

SUNDAY JUNE 25	SATURDAY JULY 15	THURSDAY AUGUST 10
10:00am - 3:00pm	11:00am - 4:30pm	6:30pm - 8:30pm
Mercer Island Farmers Market	Summer Celebration	Mostly Music in the Park
7700 SE 32nd St.	Mercerdale Park 3009 77th Ave SE	Mercerdale Park 3009 77th Ave SE

This public art project is funded by the 1% for Art in Public Places Fund. Learn more about public art on Mercer Island at [www.mercerisland.gov/publicart](http://www.mercerisland.gov/publicart).

Postcards

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**SUNDAY, JUNE 25**  
10:00am - 3:00pm  
Mercer Island Farmers Market  
7700 SE 32nd St.

**SATURDAY, JULY 15**  
11:00am - 4:30pm  
Summer Celebration

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**LUTHER BURBANK PARK**  
MERCER ISLAND, WASHINGTON

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*Have Fun Coloring!*

Stickers

Coloring pages

Business cards

Mercer Island Medallions







**LET'S TALK**  
MERCER ISLAND



**IM**  
3 months ago

**2 dogs sitting on the beach watching the sunset with a stand-up paddleboard next to them**

This can symbolize the power of friendship, our island beaches, and the large number of dogs on the island. Idea and art by Sofia and Romy, 3rd graders who live here on the island.

Community engagement for the Luther Burbank Docks & Waterfront Art in Public Places project has concluded. The artist will present her designs based on community input to the Arts Council on October 25. Meeting details will be shared on Let's Talk when available.

**LhonMI**  
4 months ago  
**The dragon from dragon park with kids playing.**

Share 0 Comment 2

**Islander**  
4 months ago  
**Teacher teaching in a classroom**  
Education is so important - let's memorize it

Share 0 Comment 0

**Adrienne Van Strander**  
4 months ago  
**Farmers Market, Music in the Park, MI Summer Celebration, Art Uncorked**  
Depict events that provide a backdrop for shared memories for man...

Share 0 Comment 0

**Maddie**  
4 months ago  
**Tentacles coming out of the water and onto the dock**

Share 1 Comment 0

**IM**  
3 months ago  
**2 dogs sitting on the beach watching the sunset with a stand-up paddleboard next to them**

This can symbolize the power of friendship, our island beaches, a...

Share 0 Comment 1

**Everlyn**  
4 months ago  
**Hands together**

Hands of diff color and sizes like these

Share 0 Comment 0

**Sarah Bluvax**  
4 months ago  
**We want to hear from YOU!**

**MERCER ISLAND MEDALLIONS**

Help us make a SPLASH at the Luther Burbank waterfront by sharing...

Share 1 Comment 0

**MH**  
4 months ago  
**Apple trees**  
I grew up on the island next to 2 families who homesteaded their ...

Share 0 Comment 0

**Carolyn Boatsman**  
3 months ago  
**Songbirds feed only insects, esp. caterpillars to nestlings. Chickadees bring 1000/day to nest. STRICTLY local native plants feed the bugs. Caterpillars, and strictly local native plants, e.g. ocean spray...**

Share 0 Comment 0

**mijslandinfo**  
4 months ago  
**Cyclomates bike statue & info re: Fran Call, former MI teacher and Citizen of the Year**

Fran was named MI's Citizen of the Year in 2012, in recognition o...

Share 0 Comment 2

**DNR**  
4 months ago  
**A "splash pad" at Luther Burbank park for kids- there is none on the island.**  
Art sculpture of kids swimming/canoeing and enjoying the lake ...

Share 0 Comment 4

**DNR**  
4 months ago  
**Pickle ball players, pea patch gardeners, kids on zip-line on playground, theatre stage performance, fireworks show**  
Activities at Luther Burbank

Share 0 Comment 0

**Judith**  
3 months ago  
**A bronze medallion depicting the Bald Eagle**

Bald Eagles are seen and heard daily at Luther Burbank Park

Share 0 Comment 5

# The Designs





**PROPOSED DESIGN #1. | 18" INLAY #1.**

**This medallion is an educational piece featuring phases and stages, focusing on the life cycle of salmon.**

**Starting at the center and moving outwards, this design includes:**

- Sun or water waves (interpretation is up to the viewer)
- Moon phases—the moon has an effect on nature—creating tides, etc.
- Salmon life stages with terms





**This medallion represents two aspects of Mercer Island—the indigenous peoples’ belief the island would sink every night, and the sunken forest(s) off the island’s coastline.**

**Starting at the center and moving outwards, this design includes:**

- Moon and stars
- Underwater trees with fish swimming among them



**This medallion honors education and schools on Mercer Island, past and present.**

**Starting at the center and moving outwards, this design includes:**

- Sun icon for "school days"
- Apples, textbooks and pencils represent education at the Boys Parental School at Luther Burbank Park, and all of the schools on Mercer Island
- Architecture from the 1890 East Seattle School building
- A mushroom shape is "hidden" above the graduation cap as an homage to "The Mushroom" building at Mercer Island High School that was torn down in 1997
- Graduation caps
- Mascots from each of the six public schools on the island: snail, wolf, owl, lion, eagle, and gator



**This medallion pays homage to all of the people throughout history that have walked the land of Mercer Island.**

**Starting at the center and moving outwards, this design includes:**

- A spiral—one of the oldest shapes in the ancient world that has many symbolic meanings: passage of time, growth, rebirth, change, etc. It is also the shape of eddies and whirlpools
- Trigrams, a geometric shape often used in indigenous Pacific Northwest peoples' artwork—here with the spiral they look like a sun
- Gooseberries, relating to the Lushootseed word *TsEjtsEjka'bats* for Mercer Island meaning "place where gooseberries grow"
- A haiku submitted by poet Kalehua Kim (bio at [kalehuakim.com](http://kalehuakim.com))
- Footprints, relating to the haiku title as well as people who have, and do, walk upon this land. As an "easter egg" the footprint above the poem's title contains the shape of Mercer Island



**This medallion features some of the beloved arts and events at Luther Burbank Park.**

**Starting at the center and moving outwards, this design includes:**

- Music notes (Summer Celebration)
- Fireworks (Summer Celebration)
- Theater comedy and tragedy masks (Shakespeare in the Park)
- *The Source* (public art piece)
- *Handsome Bollards* (public art piece)



**This medallion celebrates play and friendship—making memories in the special places on Mercer Island.**

**Starting at the center and moving outwards, this design includes:**

- Hearts (love, connection, kindness)
- Dogs at the docks or Calkins Point, watching the sunrise or sunset—many dogs live on the island and play together at the off-leash area of Luther Burbank Park, etc.
- *Kenton's Dragon* at Deane's Children's Park (Dragon Park), showing past and present versions of the dragon's face
- People holding hearts (community, friendships and togetherness—people working together saved and helped establish parks and other special places on Mercer Island)



**This medallion honors the gardening and farming aspects of the Boys Parental School at Luther Burbank Park, as well as the Community & Event Center pea patch and Farmers Market.**

**Starting at the center and moving outwards, this design includes:**

- Sunflower and leaves
- Slugs, a maligned garden dweller
- Pigs, cows and chickens that were raised by the students at the Boys Parental School at Luther Burbank Park
- Earthworms—a gardener's friend
- Various things found or grown in the island's gardens, farms and orchards: fruits, vegetables, milk, bugs, flowers, etc.
- As an "easter egg", three plants attributed to Luther Burbank are side by side in this design: Shasta daisy, Russet Burbank potato and the Himalayan blackberry



**PROPOSED DESIGN #8. | 24" INLAY #4.**

**This medallion highlights the Great Blue Heron, which can be seen daily at Luther Burbank Park and in other natural places on Mercer Island.**

**Starting at the center and moving outwards, this design includes:**

- Flower
- Great Blue Heron with fish
- Anchors



**This medallion features several elements from Mercer Island's rich history.**

**Starting at the center and moving outwards, this design includes:**

- Sun (relates to *Dawn*, below)
- Rowboats—early means of travel around the island
- *Dawn* passenger ferry
- Calkins Hotel architecture
- The Roanoke Inn sign shape
- Trees and logging saws





**PROPOSED DESIGN #10. | 30" INLAY #2.**

**This medallion celebrates the water-related activities seen and participated in at Luther Burbank Park and other places on Mercer Island.**

**Starting at the center and moving outwards, this design includes:**

- Oars
- Sailboats
- Kayaks
- Fish and life preservers



**This medallion is a tribute to Mercer Island's wonderful natural spaces and the creatures who live there.**

**Starting at the center and moving outwards, this design includes:**

- Blackberry
- Ducks
- Butterfly
- Dragonfly
- Deer tracks
- Bald eagle
- Bewick's Wren with caterpillar
- Rabbit (hiding from eagle)
- Garry Oak and Big Leaf Maple leaves
- Pacific treefrog
- Trillium



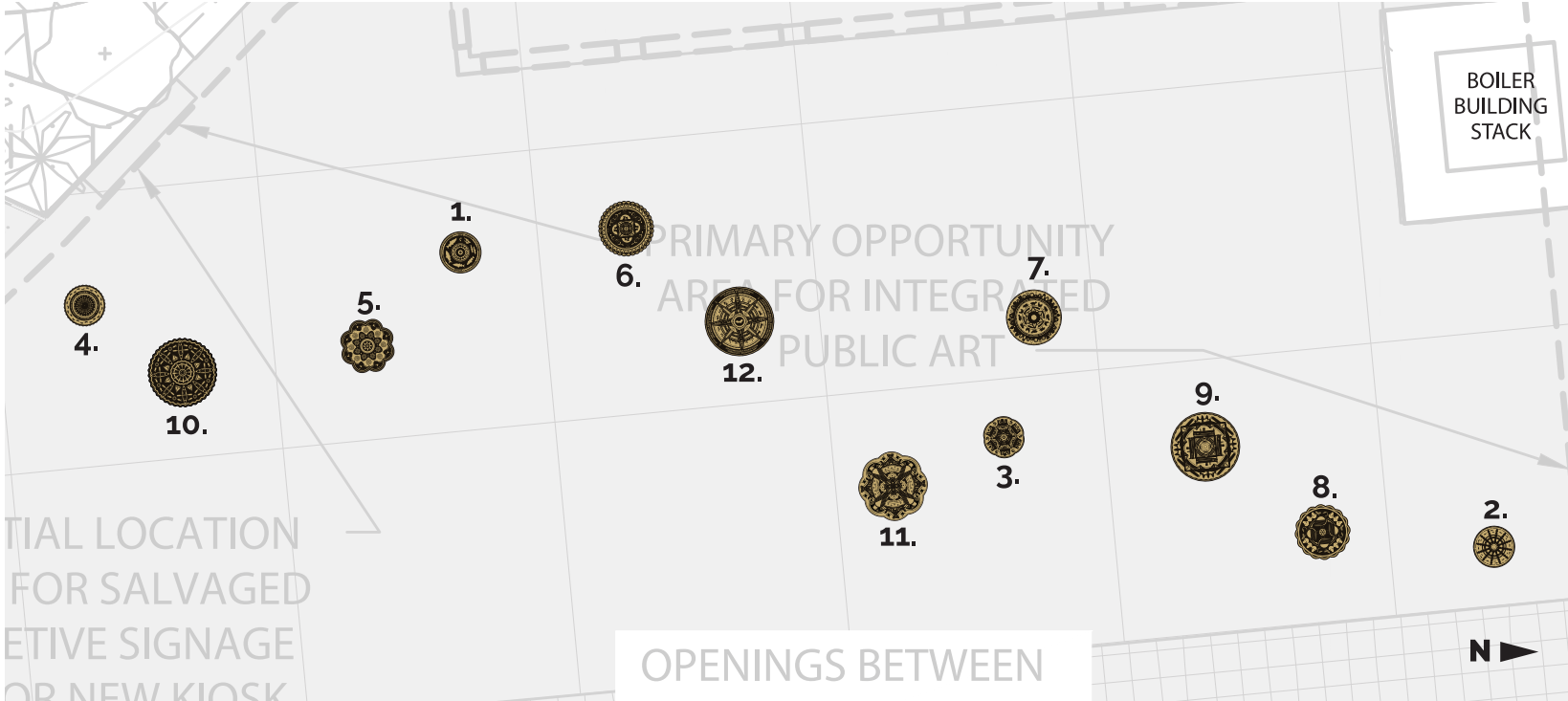
**This medallion is based on a nautical compass rose, and is meant to be a helpful, general wayfinding tool for folks at the dock area.**

**Starting at the center and moving outwards, this design includes:**

- Mercer Island shape
- Ship's wheel
- Tentacle representing the fables about "monsters" who live in deep waters of lakes and seas
- Fishing hook
- Fern design
- Bubbles
- Off-leash dogs running, kayaks/canoers, swimmers, and tennis/pickleball players
- Distant mountain ridge line
- Directions to general, important areas of Luther Burbank Park and nearby cities

LAYOUT OF ALL 12 MEDALLIONS IN PLAZA

Mercer Island Medallions



# **Additional Art Elements**









These are temporary decals made from printed and cut 3M Envision Print Wrap Film, (LX480mC). The expected service life of this material is seven years.

In addition to adding visual interest to the views from the water, the decals would act as a sign, identifying the park to those coming to the docks by boat.

The decals also add verticality to offset the horizontal plane of the bronze inlays.



Belted Kingfisher design

**This is a black aluminum silhouette art piece that would be designed to screw onto existing light pole banner brackets.**

The art would be added to the light pole that will remain along the waterfront, near the Luther Burbank Park Boiler Building.





Pileated Woodpecker design

**This is a black aluminum silhouette art piece that would be designed to screw onto existing light pole banner brackets.**

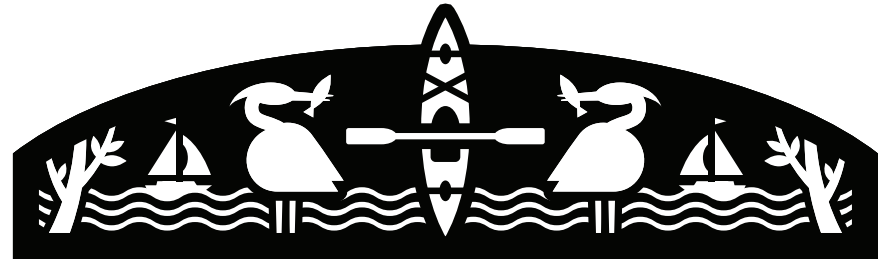
The art would be added to the light pole that will remain along the waterfront, near the Luther Burbank Park Boiler Building.



Salmon design

**These are three separate black aluminum silhouette art pieces that would be designed to screw onto existing light pole banner brackets.**

The art would be added to the light pole that will remain along the waterfront, near the Luther Burbank Park Boiler Building.



This artwork is a black 36.5" x 10.75" cut metal silhouette art header that goes on top of the kiosk that will be down in the dock plaza area.