



*Rio Dell City Hall
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Rio Dell, CA 95562
(707) 764-3532
cityofriodell.ca.gov*

November 19, 2024

TO: Rio Dell City Council

FROM: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

SUBJECT: Artist Selection for Eel River Trail Art Space

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Ratify the selection of Artist Blake Reagan for the community art installation.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

On Saturday, November 9th and Tuesday, November 12th of 2024, community voting sessions were held at Rio Dell City Hall for the selection of the artist for the Eel River Trail community art installation. A special thanks goes out to Mayor Debra Garnes, Mayor Pro Tem Amanda Carter and Councilmember Julie Woodall for volunteering to staff the vote submission periods. A total of 13 artist submissions were provided.

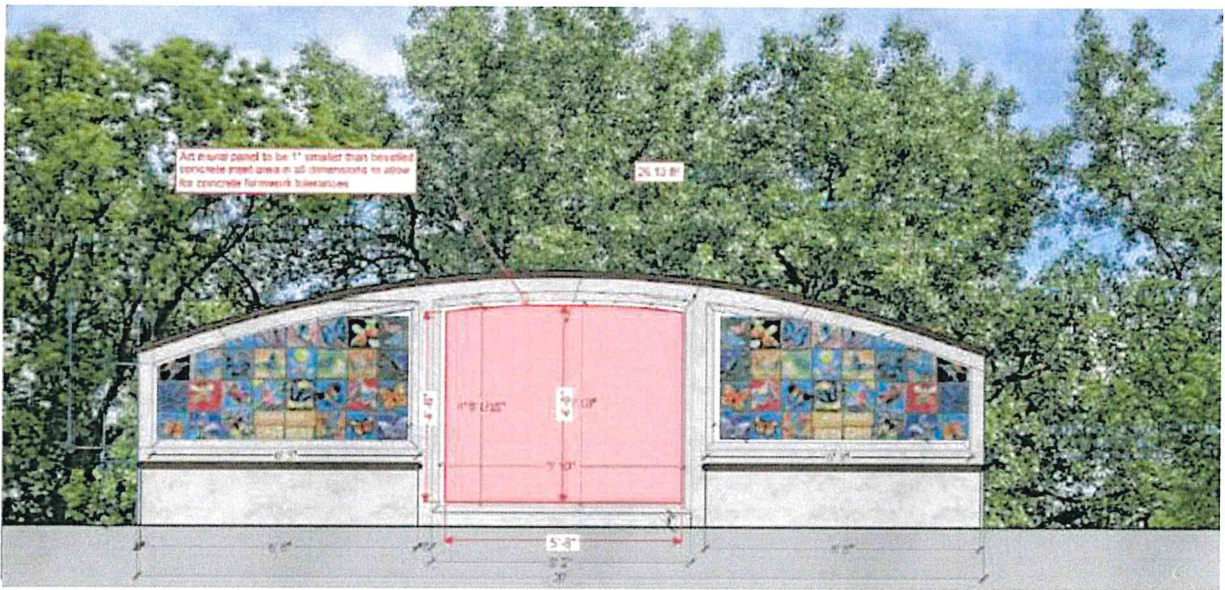
Area artist Blake Reagan was the overall pick from 38 total voters. Mr. Reagan was followed closely by Kim Reid and Laci Dane. Mr. Reagan recently painted the owl mural on the corner of Monument and Wildwood Avenue in Rio Dell.

Attached is the vote sheet and the top three selections resulting from the vote.

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11/13/24 Art Contest vote count

	1	2	3
Lizzy Boak	0	0	2
Lindsay Bryant	4	3	2
* <u>Laci Dane</u>	4	4	6 16
Mir De Silva	4 B	1	2
Ben Goufert	3	2	2
Margaret Kellermann	1	1	0
Erielle Laniewski	0	0	2
Sierra Loucks	1	6	3
Jose Moreno	4	2	6
* <u>Blake Reagan</u>	6	9	2 17
* <u>Kimi Reed</u>	6	5	4 15
Gina Tuzzi	2	5	4
Lisa	1	0	1
	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>36</u>



EEL RIVER TRAIL: COMMUNITY ART INSTALLATION TRAILHEAD ART SPACE

Blake Reagan

Sample Art:



Blake Reagan

Vision for Art Space:

I want display the song of the Smith Longspur bird through waves of gradient energy. The background will be the eel river valley, and feature a river meandering through it. There will be some redwood needles and a branch the bird is sitting on. I would use a digital image unless painting on said surface with acrylic mural paint.

Vision for Youth Art Space:

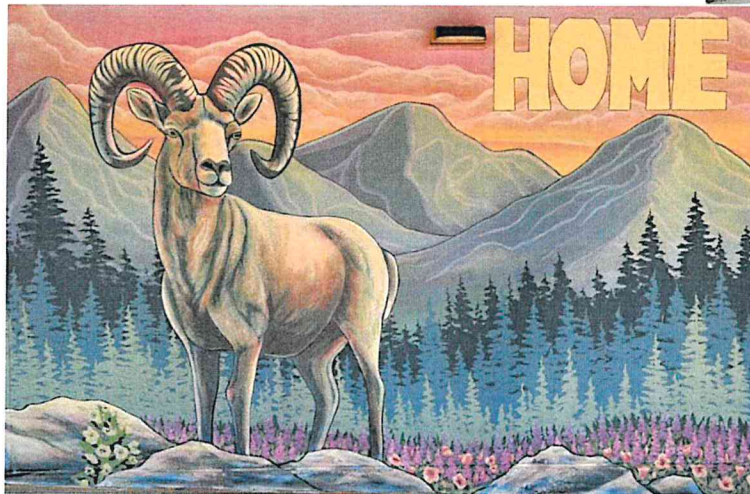
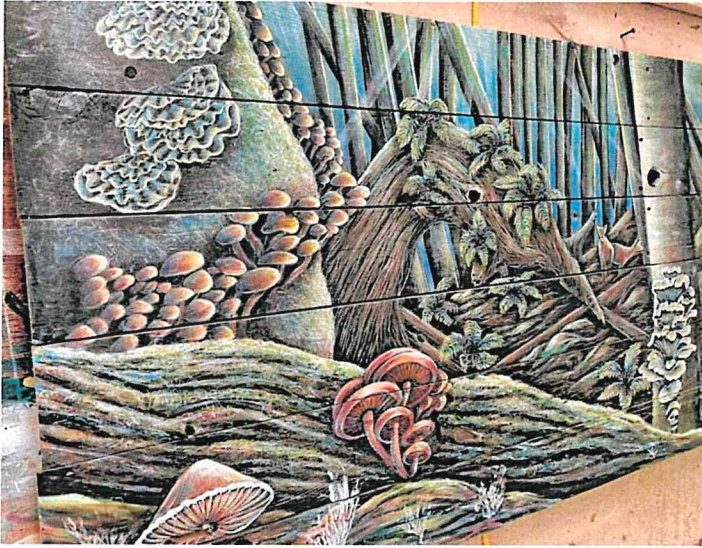
To be determined.

Artist Bio:

Blake Reagan is an artist from Eureka, California, known for his embrace of bright colors, stylized landscapes, and expressions of joy. From Electric Art Deco to undulating fields of pastel flowers, many of Blake's creations fuse gradient exploration with floral vibration. Looking to decorate our buildings with the celebration of sustainability and connection between humanity and nature. I have taken part in the Eureka Street Art Festival for 5 years, creating large format murals in solo and collaborative productions including the Humboldt County Courthouse. I have also painted murals around California displayed art galleries around USA. Outer Roominations in art festival that I help curate and create large outdoor sculptures for.

Laci Dane

Sample Art:



Laci Dane

Vision for Art Space:

My artistic vision for this project would be to highlight the Eel river, which I have had the pleasure of living next to for the last 8 years. My property borders the Eel between the Redwood State Parks, and I am able to experience the beauty and tranquility of all the flora and fauna daily. I would like to paint the river with all the water highlights reflecting the sky, lots of movement and a healthy clean glow with many beautiful greens and blues. The banks of the eel are peppered with a variety of trees, where some of the most stunning sections have a mangrove feeling, roots and plants clinging to the sides. I often see many birds along the banks and fish in the water. To call in a healthy and clean river, I'd like to incorporate merganser ducks above the water, many salmon swimming below, as well as many other creatures and plants and roots. Painting a beautiful and thriving ecosystem on the Eel would be my goal. I usually prefer to leave humans, man-made things, or words out of my nature murals, and would rather convey the untouched scenery to show how it should be. I could possibly incorporate ripples in the water from a hand to symbolize the ripple effect that we all have from our actions. Or a smiling reflection of people in the water, subtly implying our stewardship of the land and water. A symbiotic relationship between humans and nature is as simple as taking in the wonder and deciding to not alter it in any way.

Vision for Youth Art Space:

1: There are so many options for collaborating with students! Since the tiles from students will be fairly small, I feel the best approach would be for them to make single subject art pieces. We could research together and compile a list of all the flora and fauna of the Rio Del Eel area, print them out, and let each student choose one to focus on. It could help compliment the larger river painting I would create, and be a fun way to show the diverse and healthy eco system with all of its critters shown and labeled. In addition, it would be an educational opportunity, as that is one of the ways in which we can keep a special place clean and cared for. For example, we could have frogs, bugs, lizards, fish, birds, or plants.

2: I am open to working with the kiddos directly, as I live not too far away, and have experience teaching kids in all ages. It would be very easy for teachers to work with the kiddos researching the creatures that make up the area, and assigning a critter to each kiddo. Then I would be able to come in and show some guidance with an art lesson. From there the kiddos can make as many pieces as they want and choose their favorite version for the mural. In addition to the art, perhaps learning about each creature and how they interact with the life cycle and the environment would be a great opportunity for a biology lesson that could be provided by someone else.

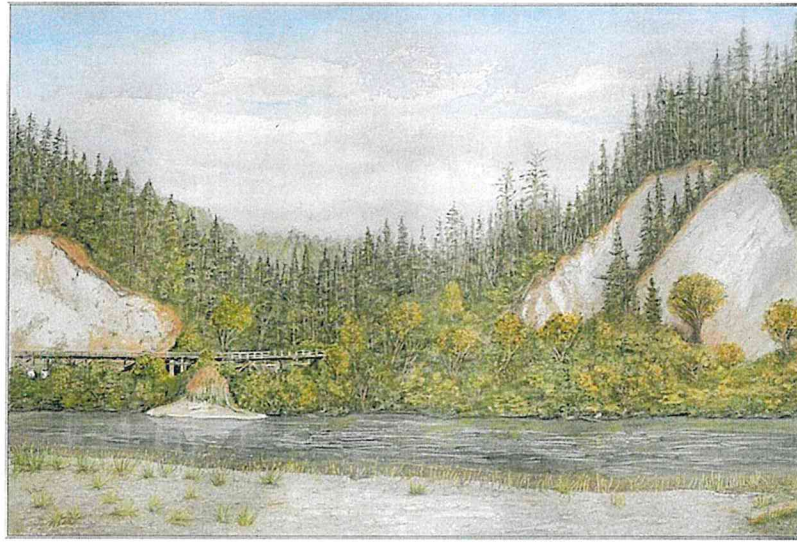
I would use acrylic paint on wood to create a painting, focusing on natural and neutral colors, but with subtle pop of color where seems appropriate, such as water highlights, sky reflections, and flora and fauna details. My design would be clear and clean, so it could be easily translated through printing or for merch and PR campaigns for the trail. I plan to focus on the river and it's ecosystem in a creative but palatable dreamscape, healthy and happy.

Artist Bio:

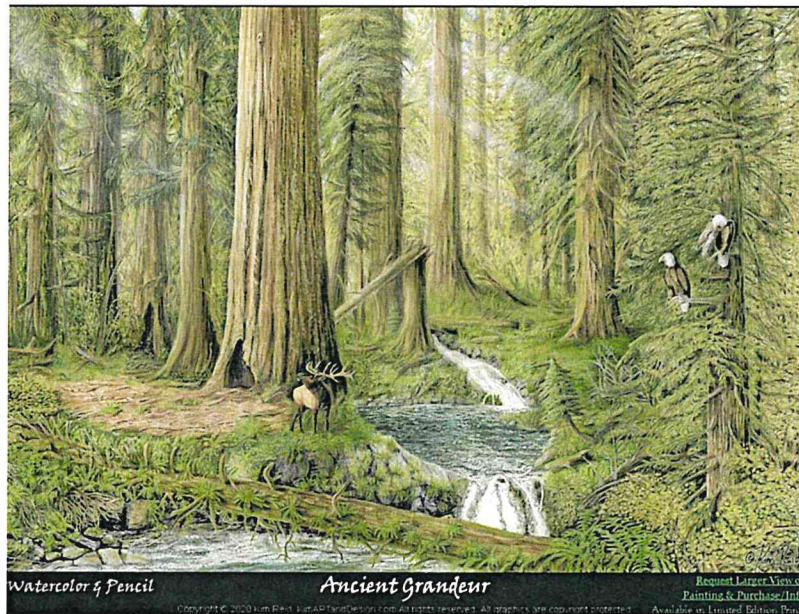
Laci Dane is a Montana born Humboldt artist, where natural beauty has a major influence on her art. It wasn't until she moved to Northern California years ago, that she began to find her style. Influenced by unique and beautiful landscapes, culture and community, and the vast variety of nature, she uses color alchemy and depth to achieve her dreamscapes. Knowing that art is the glue for any healthy community, incorporating that into her structure is very important to the overall purpose and reward in her work. As a driving force, Laci hopes to inspire people with the art she creates.

Kim Reid

Sample Art:



Red River in Red River Park Final Watercolor Painting



Watercolor & Pencil

Ancient Grandeur

[Request Larger View of Painting & Purchase Info](#)

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Mission Paintings



Castle Colors



Kim Reid
♦ *Watercolor*

My work represents a lifetime of professional illustration experience. A love of capturing the magnificent beauty of the redwoods is my favorite topic. I'm an artist member of the Humboldt Arts Council and showing/selling my paintings in the Artists Gallery in the Morris Graves Museum of Art: 636 F Street, Eureka

Hours: Noon to 5pm, Wednesday thru Sunday
Visit my website for additional shows and galleries.

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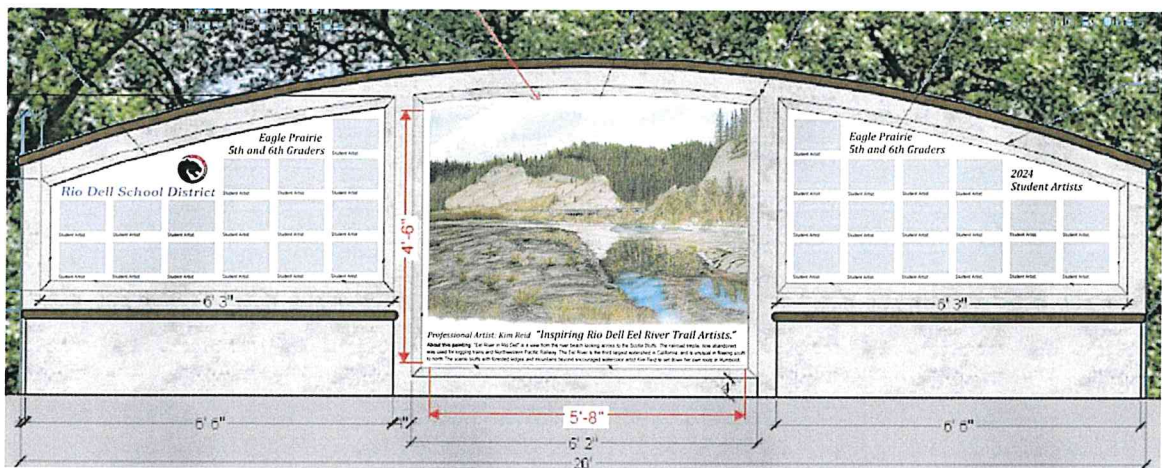
Vision for Art Space:

A picture says a 1000 words. See sample artwork. I want to use one of these images in your project. I will give usage rights for your project. My originals are watercolor. They will be scanned and enlarged for outdoor usage.

Vision for Youth Art Space:

Professional Artist: Kim Reid "Inspiring Rio Dell Eel River Trail Artists."

About this painting: "Eel River in Rio Dell" is a view from the river beach looking across to the Scotia Bluffs. The railroad trestle, now abandoned, was used for logging trains and Northwestern Pacific Railway. The Eel River is the third largest watershed in California, and is unusual in flowing south to north. The scenic bluffs with forested ledges and mountains beyond encouraged watercolor artist Kim Reid to set down her own roots in Humboldt.



Artist Bio:

My interest in our redwood forests and hiking trails has led to the development of this collection. A defining characteristic of these works is a feeling of space and depth within the picture whereby the viewer is drawn into the painting. In some of her paintings a loose, big-brushed edge pulls the viewer's eye to the painting center to see finest detail. A love of capturing nature, landscapes and history has inspired all of my painting collections. Also shown in the castle and California missions collections found on: KimARTandDesign.com