

**MARY TARTARO**

PROJECT COST



IN BUDGET





# ART PLACEMENT FROM ARTIST





# RHAA CONCEPT PLAN

## LANDSCAPE CONCEPT

- Art placement scattered through entire site
- Stone sculptural ground plane with plant pockets

DG VIEWING AREA

SIGN

ART

LIGHT BOLLARD

(E) CONCRETE PATH

BOULDERS

VISIBILITY TRIANGLE

LIMIT OF WORK

(E) ABOVE GROUND UTILITIES

(E) REDWOOD

PROJECT SITE  
4,500SF





RHAA CONCEPT RENDERING







# RECYCLEDDELIC

Mary Tartaro



Entering the gateway to Santa Cruz will be a magical experience as giant mushrooms personify both the wonder of nature and our uniquely creative community. The future looks bright for these fungi sprouting up from dark places and subtly transforming the world around us. Santa Cruz has long been perceived as a hub of progressive thinking. What better icon to represent tapping limitless potential than an organism so old that it precedes even land plants yet is currently revolutionizing human creativity and innovation. Mushrooms have bloomed in popularity as they steadily gain the spotlight for holding the key to “the future of sustainability.” From earth friendly alternatives to plastic packaging, textiles, construction materials and factory farmed food to overcoming environmental challenges as the “great recyclers of the planet. “

*Recycledelic* is a project that references Santa Cruz’s colorful history while celebrating a mind set which is most likely to lead us through challenges to come. The spirit of open mindedness necessary to rise to the challenges of the future most certainly resides here in Santa Cruz! Mushrooms possess a vast network of connections beneath the ground with an unlimited potential to transform and heal. They are an emblem for the strength of our community. Santa Cruz holds nature close to its heart and draws inspiration from its environment while taking pride in protecting it. Visitors come here to enjoy our diverse landscape and tap into this spirit of renewal. Mushrooms are an iconic symbol for transformation through nature. They speak so eloquently to the Santa Cruz Experience. The title *Recycledelic* simultaneously plays on the concept of recycling (mushrooms are known as nature’s recyclers) and the material from which the sculptures are made.(Reclaimed material gleaned in collaboration with our diversely creative community) Each of the ten giant mushrooms will vary in form, genus and size.



There will be five giant mushrooms placed within each of the two lawns alongside ocean street and their arrangement will be composed to visually complement the stand of redwoods on each lawn. They will spread out over each lawn and crop up in openings within the two redwood forests. Their scale will range from 5 feet to 12 feet and smaller will alternate with larger ones as they crop up throughout each lawn space.



Their scale makes them clearly visible to cars driving by and their bold patterns make them easily enjoyed from a distance. The surface of each mushroom will be wildly dynamic with brightly colored swirling patterns that embody the style envisioned as psychedelic. These forms will engage the imagination and delight the senses as their translucent surfaces emit a warm glow that brings them to life after dark.

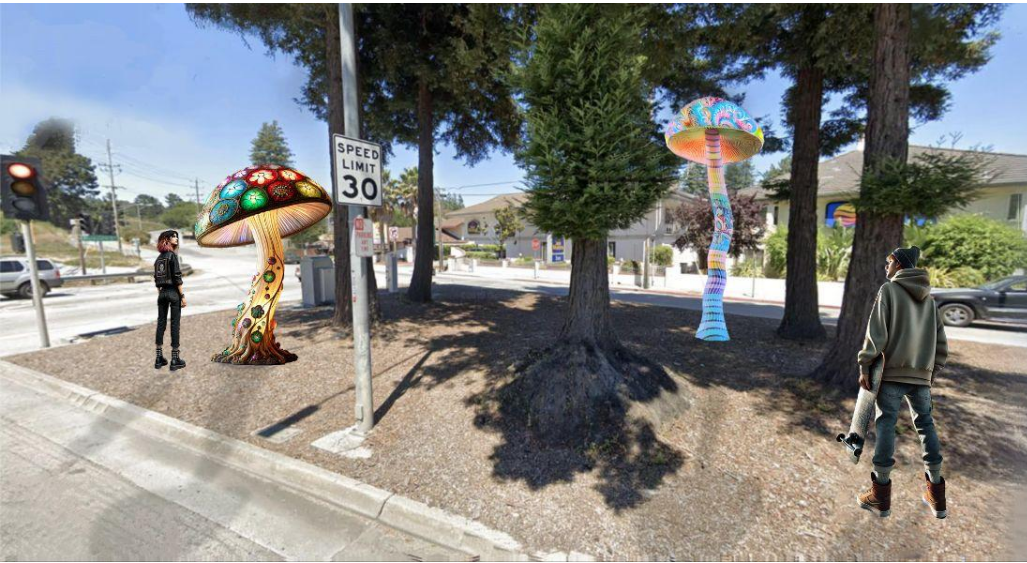




The glowing surfaces of the sculptures suggest the magic that's going on beneath the soil. It also elicits an inspired response from viewers engaging with them.



Lawn on Plymouth side viewed from two angles.



Mushrooms are an iconic symbol for transformation through nature. The playful surface patterns stir the sense of curiosity so essential to being open to positive change.

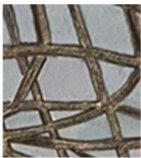




The forms will accurately represent existing types of naturally occurring mushrooms while their surfaces bring a playful element implying the supernatural.



The basic form of each mushroom will be achieved by welding an armature of linear steel elements that will draw its three dimensional shape in space. This skeleton will be sheathed by a skin of wire mesh that will further define its form. A layer of fiberglass cloth will then skin its surface and (once coated with translucent resin) will give the form rigidity while providing a base for recycled translucent fabric to then be resin coated to the top layer. Recycled translucent cloth will provide the richly patterned colorful surface of each mushroom. Diverse patterns and color will be applied to achieve a swirling surface. Many layers of clear coating create a durable surface that is smooth to the touch. Light emanating from inside each mushroom will activate the richly patterned surface and enliven the form. The sculptures will be anchored through a process of welding steel brackets around the base of each sculpture through which bolts will attach to a concrete pad beneath the surface of each mushroom.



**Steel Armature**



**Wire Mesh**



**Rigid Fiberglass**



**Recycled Materials**





## Community engagement:

The title *Recycledlic* immediately suggests sustainable acquisition of material. My plan is to glean used fabric submissions from the community through a process of outreach that also educates on the power of mushrooms and celebrates the pride of our diverse, open minded and “tight knit” community. The “fabric” of our community is engaging and interactive and community collaborators will identify personally with mushrooms embellished with their material contributions when they live amongst glowing sculptures that highlight the strengths of the Santa Cruz community. Social media and events at donation sites will give participants of all ages and backgrounds an opportunity to identify with and “own” their public art. As director and curator of a downtown gallery I have access to a public space for such events and I plan to expand by connecting with arts programmers all over the county to engage a wider audience with this process. I have spoken to Radius gallery who brought up the idea of engaging the local community with involvement in the creation of the surface within the gallery space during a month-long residency at the Tannery’s Radius gallery.



# Questions /Discussion

## **A. Existing conditions (trees, utilities...)**

Refer to the diagram for placement. Also will work with the city and landscape design team to ensure that placement does not interfere with the health of tree roots or disturb utility lines. Depth and width of concrete pad will be engineered to fit the scale of each mushroom.

## **B. Placement of art elements on the project site**

Refer to placement diagram

## **C. Lighting Ideas**

- long life fixtures, commercial IP65 waterproof rated to avoid maintenance cost and to deal with unexpected weather. The lighting will be kept dry inside the waterproof mushrooms but if flooding occurs on the lawns the lighting will be durable.
- long life components, high quality power LED rated at 8-10 years+ when programmed as night time only, lighting designer has 15 years experience installing these fixtures with >10 year MTBF (mean time between fail)
- low power, we can do as low as 10 x 50W = 500W programmed from sunset to early morning, though if we want to make it pop then budget 10 x 150W = 1500W per hour or much more each night, all easily adjustable.

## **D. Thoughts on how landscape design can compliment the art.**

- Signage to correlate with sculpture
- Collaboration on barrier around lawn
- Succulent plants- low enough not to block sculpture but high enough to discourage climbing over plants that have needles or are pokey ex. agave, nopales etc
- Fence which visually relates to sculpture but doesn't block the view. Constructed of metal and taking natural form ex blades of grass etc. This could allow access to the lawns for closer inspections but reserve the up close spaces to ensure the safety of the art.



## **E. Thoughts on vandalism and graffiti measures.**

- Vandalism -see durability below
- Graffiti- All mushrooms will be coated with a layer of *MuralGuard*, a two component, high performance, Zero VOC, odorless water based aliphatic Polyurethane varnish . provides years of excellent protection for public art against harsh weather conditions, UV exposure, corrosion, and Graffiti. Additionally this product has good chemical acid resistance, excellent water resistance, abrasion resistance and is environmentally safe. If graffiti occurs, *VandiClean*, acetone, lacquer thinner or paint thinner can be used over this product to remove graffiti.

## **F. Thoughts on maintenance and durability**

- Durability: The strength of the steel armatures combined with the rigidity of the applied materials will make the forms resistant to weather and durable against attempts to ram, hit, climb or in any way destroy these sculptures. Prior to graffiti coating, a layer of UV resistant coating will be applied to the surface. CLR clear laminating Epoxy is a high-performance, clear-coating epoxy system. A Super Sap® Formulation, the CLR system is a water-clear, UV-stabilized epoxy system for laminations and coatings that require a low-color, low-yellowing epoxy such as high-colorwork applications. This system features a quick air-release and world-class UV resistance package, including excellent clarity and yellowing resistance.
- Maintenance: The mushrooms and their surfaces will require no maintenance unless graffiti occurs in which case cleaning as described above would be utilized. Most of the maintenance has to do with lighting as it would with any public art. Access to interior lighting would be built into each sculpture. There will be a panel on the wall of each mushroom toward the base that will allow access for any future attention needed to maintain lighting within. The lighting consultant would provide all info for the maintenance/purchase of of LED lighting over an extended period of time as well as project life of bulbs.

## **G. Thoughts on working with other artists**

- I do see possibility for my concept being compatible with some but not every other sculpture and signage being proposed. I can see as many as 3 proposed plans coexisting. I have worked alongside many other artists on collaborative projects over the years. As a curator I have daily experience bringing a diverse number of approaches together to work toward a cohesive whole.