

Dawn Thomas, Robert van de Walle, Dana Albany, Jane Kelly.

January 8th, 2024

City of Sebastopol Public Arts Committee  
7120 Bodega Avenue  
Sebastopol, California 95472

The City of Sebastopol Public Arts Committee,

For years, I have commuted along the Joe Rodota trail to my work as an art teacher in Santa Rosa. When the opportunity to place a permanent work of art was announced, I knew our creative team was a perfect fit. I am an artist, art educator and have experience designing, engineering, fabricating and installing public works of art. My partner, Robert and I have received grants from Creative Sonoma, Bike East Bay and The City of Rohnert Park to build pieces for specific public sites. Another member of the team, Dana Albany, has created large scale mosaics and sculpture for the City of San Francisco, Burning Man and the California Academy of Science.

I believe that one of the jobs of the artist is to bring alive that which has become extinct, or invisible. The original people of Sebastopol, the Batikletkawi lived along the edges of the Laguna de Santa Rosa and told creation myths which included the once-bountiful beaver. In one story, the people turn into beavers to survive a flood. Both the Pomo villages and the North American Beaver have vanished from Sebastopol.

Downtown Sebastopol already features several apple and bicycle sculptures, and a train on tracks. Our mosaic sculpture of a beaver honors an earlier landscape when beavers, other species and the original people flourished here. Our beaver anchors the laguna trail waterways and connects to a sister sculpture, *Guardian of the Creek*, Uribe and Oberti's rainbow trout mosaic piece on the Prince Memorial Greenway trail at Santa Rosa Avenue. As people come and go along the trailhead, they will view the three-dimensional beaver sculpture from different sides. The sculpture will be covered with beautiful reclaimed ceramic fragments and tiles gathered from the community and beyond.

Our creative team based this concept on the work done by Occidental Arts and Ecology Center on beavers that used to live in our watershed. First, permitting, structural engineering, and the fabrication of the beaver would begin with a welded steel armature and fiberglass. After the substrate is complete, our team would create custom tiles, telling the stories of the Batikletkawi, the beaver and the Sebastopol area for the piece. Community members would be invited to place tiles on the beaver. Finally, we would transport the mosaic beaver to its home on a cement slab on the site and celebrate.

I look forward to discussing this opportunity with you further,

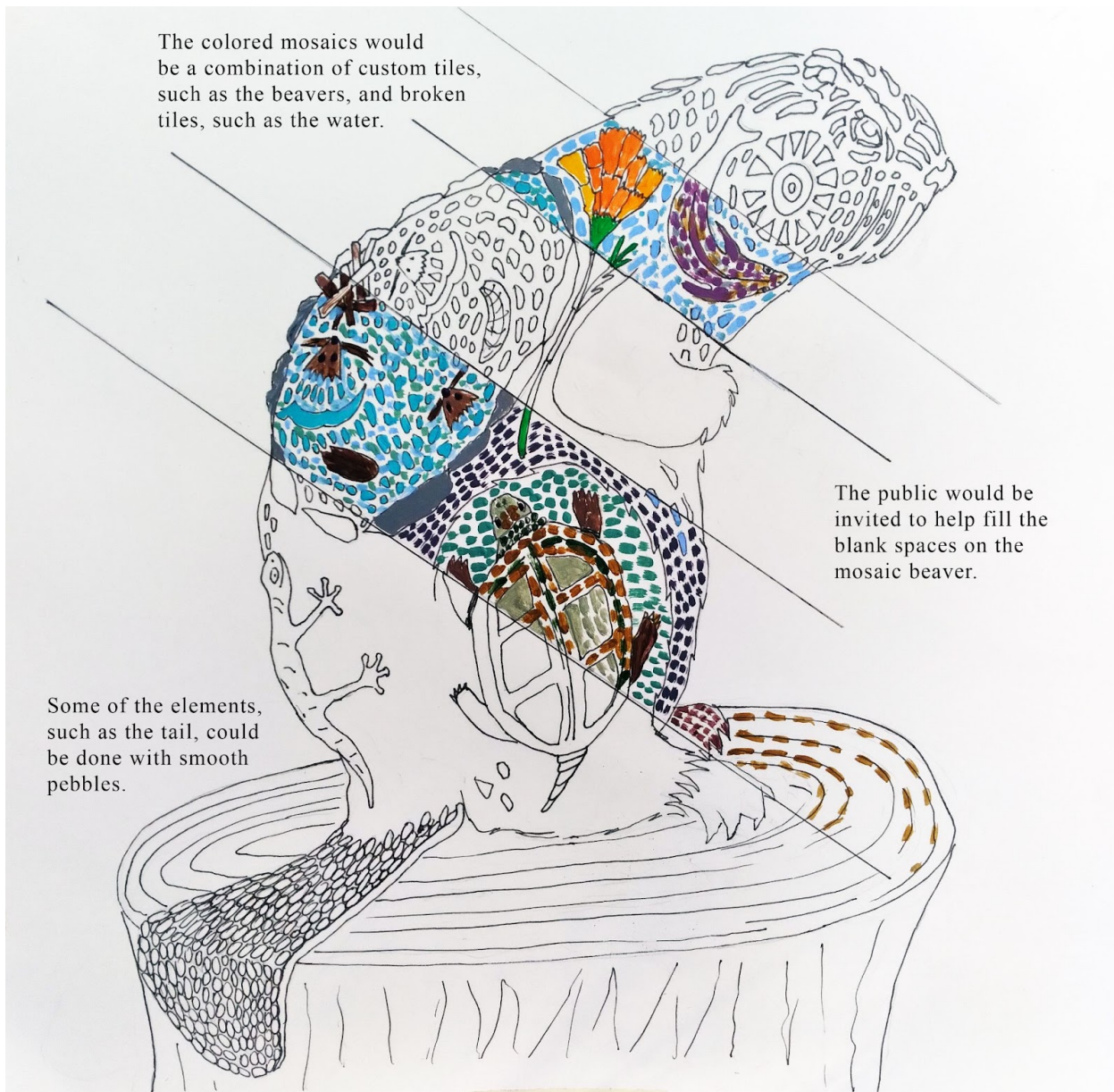
Dawn Thomas  
"she/her"  
*Living on Pomo and Miwok lands*

## Art Description

We envision a large and lively mosaic beaver sculpture, 5ft. tall by 4ft. wide. It sits facing Petaluma avenue, on an elevated base. As bikers and walkers pass the sculpture they can see vignettes of various Sebastopol and Laguna-related content depicted in mosaics on the beaver and the base.

The mosaics will depict beavers building a lodge, a map of the laguna portraying how beavers maintained the watershed prior to the 1800s, a starry night with a beaver constellation, and beavers swimming in the flood mentioned in the Pomo creation myth. It will show people riding bikes along the Joe Rodota Trail, walking dogs, and children playing. It might also depict some local wildlife including herons, kingfishers, hawks, salamanders and frogs. We will create unique tiles in the ceramic studio for the project, such as the beavers swimming, to be used with regular tiles, such as blue tesserae for the waters of the laguna.

The beaver will be cast in fiberglass panels and supported with metal mesh over a steel armature. Local mosaic artists Jane Kelly and Sarah Hylton will create custom mosaics for the sculpture. In the spirit of the industrious and social beaver, local high school students and other community members will be invited to participate in the tiling process.



Concept art of what mosaic on beaver could depict.





Mockup of the sculpture on site shown for scale only (AI image of beaver).



Mockup of the sculpture on site shown for scale only (AI image of beaver).

## **Timeline/Schedule for fabrication and installation**

Submissions Due: January 29, 2024, 3 pm

Finalists Selected: February 2024

Proposal Presentation: March 2024 (Estimated 40 days after finalists selected)

Public Arts Committee Recommendation: April-May 2024

City Council Award: May 2024

Submit drawings to a structural engineer for approval June 2024

Submit plans to the city for the structure and the base July 2024

Begin fabrication of the metal armature. June-July 2024

Fabricate the fiberglass panels July-August 2024

Begin building slab mosaics on the fiberglass panels September 2024

Bisque, glaze slab mosaic panels October 2024

Apply mosaic designs to the fiberglass panels October 2024 - January 2025

When plans are approved by the city, begin fabrication of the base TBD

Continue application of mosaic designs to beaver and base - February-May 2025

Anticipated Installation: June 2025



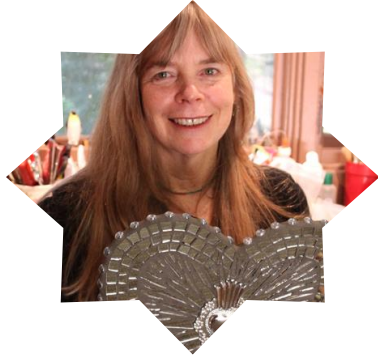
Budget Items	Item Descriptions	Cost of Items	
A. Artist fees			\$10,000
Dawn Thomas	Project Lead, metal fab, mosaic install	\$3,000	
Dana Albany	Art Consultant, mosaic install, fabrication	3000	
Robert van de Walle	CAD, design, metal fab, mosaic install	2000	
Jane Kelly	Mosaics	2000	
a. Design fees (may include research time and/or time spent with local groups getting pertinent information about our community.)		included	
b. Structural Engineering	Plan set	included	
	structural engineer fees	900	
B. Materials, Equipment, and Production costs			\$6,950
	Custom mosaic tiles, clay, glazes	\$3,630	
	Fiberglass, mesh, skinning & finishing	620	
	concrete	500	
	steel and rebar	400	
	dais budget	1200	
	Project management	600	
C. Studio Fees			\$1,200
a. Rental if unique space needed for this project		\$1,000	
b. Utilities (gas, water, electricity), if not included in rental		200	
D. Transportation of finished artwork to site in Sebastopol	research cost for a flatbed with a crane for 1 day	150	
E. Installation costs, including any equipment rental	rent a small cement mixer	800	
F. Lighting costs		0	
G. Insurance		5000	
H. Taxes	Estimated \$100 to \$400		

I. Documentation		included	
Total			\$25,000

# Introducing our stellar creative collective.



**Dawn Thomas**  
Artist, designer,  
arts educator



**Jane Kelly**  
Mosaic artist,  
installations



**Dana Albany**  
Producer and  
fabrication of  
large-scale sculptures,  
museum exhibits and  
mosaic installations



**Robert van de  
Walle**  
Designer,  
engineer,  
fabrication,  
installation



Dana Albany

*Y.E.S. Youth Educational Spacecraft  
Project – permanent installation,  
Healdsburg, CA*

Steel, fiberglass, metal mesh, mosaic,  
plastic bubble.

12 ft. diameter by 14 feet high

2015

Y.E.S. was initially funded for \$40,000 by  
The Exploratorium, The Crucible, Burning  
Man and Makers Fair. Another \$20,000  
was donated to include underprivileged  
kids in the process of creating the piece.  
YES was eventually sold to Healdsburg  
for \$60,000 plus install fees.





Dana Albany

*Portola Petals of Growth*

Mosaic on two concrete benches

5ft. high by 15 feet long

2022

Community mosaic project in the Portola District, funded by City of San Francisco, CA

\$10,000

Plus \$8000 in-kind support in the form of permits, insurance, installation and maintenance.



Dana Albany

*Tara Mechani*

Materials include 75% recycled mixed-metals, copper, brass, chandelier parts, vintage hardware, mild steel, mesh, cable, chain, glass, bicycle spokes and chain, door pulls, and an assortment of unique metal treasures and keepsakes

dimensions: sculpture 4'x3'x15', metal pedestal 3' wooden platform, octagonal shape 16'x16'x2'

Funded by a Burning Man honorarium. \$30,000

2017

*Tara Mechani* can currently be visited at the Sands Regency Hotel in Reno, Nevada.





A

Dawn Thomas, Robert van de Walle

*Humpbacks of Notre Dame*

Steel, foam, rubber, bicycle parts, salvaged plastic and post-consumer materials, silk, acrylic, plywood, paper, paint, ice

7'4" wide x 17'5" long x 12'6" high

2022

\$12,000



B



C

A) Detail

B) *Humpbacks of Notre Dame* at the Kinetic Sculpture Race 2022

C) Youth touching "The Last Glacier," a piece of ice carried by *Humpbacks of Notre Dame* to initiate conversations about climate change





Dawn Thomas, Robert van de Walle

*Tiny Galleries Art Exchange Kiosks*

Aluminum, steel, plywood,  
plexiglass, keypad w/lock, gallery  
cloth, paint, vinyl, artwork.

2'6" wide x 7' tall x 1'8" deep.

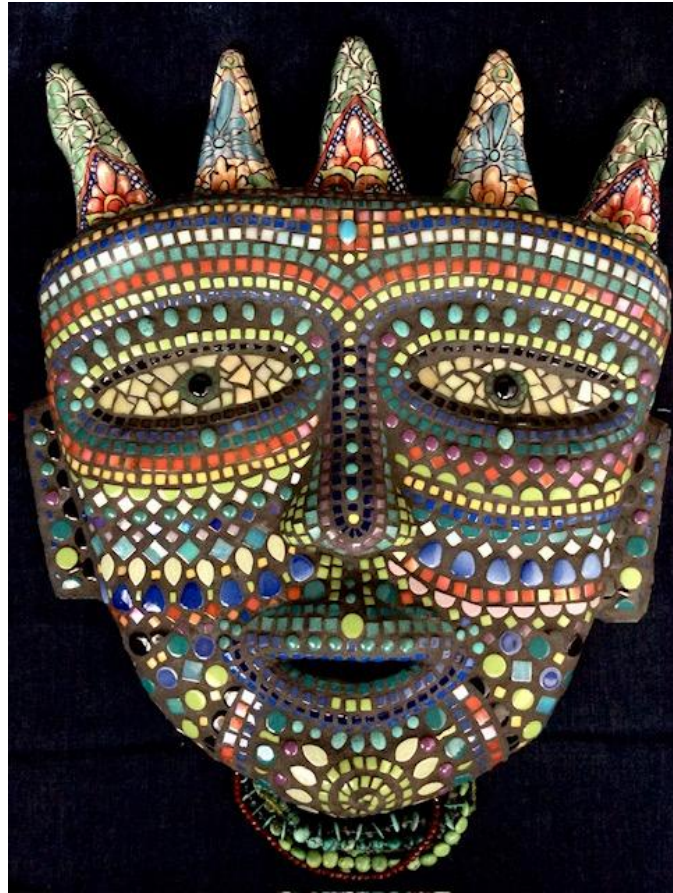
2020 Creative Sonoma Grant

2021 City of Rohnert Park Grant

\$5000 each



A



B

Jane Kelly

*A. Jade and shell mask*

Glass and shell mosaics on concrete form with thinset and grout.

1.5' X 2'

*B. mask*

Glass, precious stones and ceramic mosaics on concrete form with thinset and grout.

2' X 2'

2020

Pieces in private collections





Jane Kelly

*The Rankin Pool Complex,  
Martinez CA*

Mosaics on outdoor shower  
wall

20' by 8'

2012

Commissioned by a  
committee headed by Tim  
Tucker, Martinez City

Engineer,

\$12,000



ALBANY, DANA ALLISON  
www.danaalbanyart.com



### Public Sculpture, Installations & Murals

2024

**Monumental Mammoth** Permanent installation at Ice Age Fossil Beds, Las Vegas, Nevada.  
Life size Columbian Mammoth built with Tahoe Mack and Luis Valera-Rico

**Portal** Permanent installation. San Francisco, CA Recycled metal, glass Arch Entryway  
2023

**Flora: Mosaic Mural for Mission Kids Co-op** San Francisco, CA

**Bone Tree** Retrofit, permanent installation at Fly Ranch Gerlach, Nevada

**Carolee: Mermaid** Installation at Mare Island, Limited Creative Edition  
2022

**Coralee: Mermaid of Chatsworth** Radical Horizons Exhibit, Chatsworth Estate, Derbyshire,  
England. 18'x7'x12' Mixed- metals and recycled slumped glass, mosaic pool on ground floor

**Wonderwoods** California Academy of Sciences, SF, CA. Interactive sculptures East Garden

**Portola Petals of Growth** Mosaic Mural benches San Francisco, CA  
2021

**Tara Mechani** Sands Regency Hotel, Reno, Nevada (On exhibit until 2028)

**Passage** RED development Park Reno, NV (On exhibit until 2026)

**Anarcha, Betsey, Lucy- Mothers of Gynecology**

Permanent Monument, Montgomery Alabama with local artist Michelle Browder  
2019

**Tara Mechani** 2 yr. Installation in Patricia Greens, SF, CA – SF Arts Commission

**Larry Harvey Shrine Memorial** Burning Man Honorarium, Black Rock Desert, Nevada

**Passage** 2yr. installation Paradise Ridge Winery, Santa Rosa, California

**The Monumental Mammoth** Installed at Life is Beautiful Festival, Las Vegas, Nevada  
Burning Man-Honorarium Black Rock Desert, Nevada

2018

**Tara Mechani** Cesar Chavez Park, San Jose, CA (1 yr exhibit)

**Passage** Burning Man Honorarium Black Rock City, NV

**Coral Reef Recycled** Commissioned for exhibit, California Academy of Sciences, SF,CA  
2017

**Pterosaur in the East Garden** Commissioned for Exhibit, California Academy of Science, SF,CA  
2016

**Heartbeat** Mosaic Mural, Commission by Lifelong Medical Center, Berkeley, CA,

**Laffing Sal** – Exhibited at The Queen Mary Hotel & Attraction, Long Beach, CA

2015

**Y.E.S. Youth Educational Spacecraft Project** – permanent installation, Healdsburg, CA  
Private Collection

2014

**Y.E.S. Youth Educational Spacecraft Project** – Las Vegas Learning Village, Downtown Project, Las  
Vegas, Nevada

**Abundance** Mosaic Mural, Commission by Silver Avenue Family Health Center, SF, CA  
2013

**Y.E.S. Youth Educational Spacecraft Project** – Exploratorium, San Francisco, CA, Maker's  
Faire, Redwood City, CA and Burning Man, Black Rock City, Nevada  
2012

**Mission Butterfly** – Public Education Grant for South Van Ness, Mission Kids, San Francisco, CA

2003 **Artist in Residence- Recology SF, CA** continual invitation back for special art projects,  
shows and city cultural events

#### **Group Exhibits and Solo Shows**

2022 **The Dust that Binds Us** Foreign Lens Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2022 **Reimagine Scrap SF** Randall Museum Artist exhibition

2017 **Reclaimed Room** Building Resources, San Francisco, CA

2014 **What Tethers Us** The De Young Museum, San Francisco, CA

2013 **Refined by Fire** Gallery Point Richmond, CA (and previously in 2012 and 2010)

2013 **Recology Celebrating 20 Years**, San Francisco Airport, San Francisco, CA

2011 **NOIR** Stinson Beach, CA

2009 **Vignettes** Venus Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2009 **Mariposa Bevelaqua ,Hearts in SF**, Trans-America Building (permanent)and Marina  
Greens, SF, CA. Second edition, London, England (permanent)

2009 **Voyage** PG&E Building

2008 **2nd Skin** Exploratorium, San Francisco, CA

2008 **The Art of Recycling** San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco, CA

2008 **Detritus Chronicled** Varnish Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2008 **Roadside Attraction** SomARTs Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2007 **Xina Neon** Women's Building, San Francisco, CA (permanent install)

2007 **Masks of Many Mediums**Norcal Corporate Headquarters, San Francisco, CA (permanent)

2004 **Voyage** Bioneers Convention, Marin, CA

2003 **Stanley Dragonfly** Sony Metreon, now Recology Sculpture Garden SF,CA (permanent)

For Press Highlights, please visit [danaalbanyart.com](http://danaalbanyart.com) to review a complete list of Press,  
Publications and Films.

#### **Contacts**

- 1) Deborah Munk – Director of Recology's Artist in Residence Program  
[dmunk@recology.com](mailto:dmunk@recology.com)
- 2) Brain Goggin – Prolific Bay Area Artist, Large-scale Public Art. I have worked with Brian as  
part of his core team on 11 permanent, public art installations
- 3) Jill Manton – San Francisco Art Commissioner  
[Jill.manton@sfgov.org](mailto:Jill.manton@sfgov.org)

# Thomas, Dawn Allison

Artist / Art Educator / Kinetic Sculpture

## Recent Projects and Commissions:

2020 *Tiny Galleries Art Exchange*. Creative Sonoma Pop-Up Grant. Tiny Gallery Art Exchange kiosk for participants to exchange artwork. 4th street, downtown Santa Rosa

2019 *Aluminum Boat Ramp at Pedalfest*. Sponsored by Bike East Bay and John Muir Health, our team organized the amphibious race and fabricated a portable aluminum and plywood ramp for the event, including painting the sponsor's logo on the surface.

2018 *Kinetic Compendium: 50 Years Of Kinetic Sculpture Racing* book. A 600 page, full-color book documenting the history of the race, pilots and sculptures. Ran a successful crowdfunding campaign to print the first edition.

2021 *Succulent* Triptych painting commission for Liz Martin, acrylic on panel, 6'x3'

2022 *Teresa* and *Dallas* portraits commission for Matt Woll, acrylic on panel, 2'x4'

2016 – 2023 Human-powered sculpture series: *Luchadores Piñas, Painapparu Best Friends, Caltrans, Wheels of Dharma, Humpbacks of Notre Dame, Trashlantis*, various venues including the Kinetic Sculpture Race Humboldt CA, DaVinci Days Corvallis OR, Pedalfest Oakland CA, SFMOMA San Francisco CA

## Teaching Experience:

Art/Maker/Digital Media classes, Santa Rosa Middle , 2007- Current  
Foundations of Art and Design: drawing, painting, ceramics, sewing, 3-D, collage and other media. Digital Media explores a range of computer design skills and culminates in movies, psas and schoolwide monthly news broadcasts.

Art / Project Make Teacher, Hilliard Comstock Middle, 2006-2013  
Piloted our district's first middle school Project MAKE! elective, an interdisciplinary, STE(A)M class awarded the SSU Jack London Award in 2014.

## Education:

Single Subject Art Credential -  
Sonoma State University - 2007

5<sup>th</sup>-year Graduate Certificate in Art,  
UCSC 6/1990

Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art, UCSC  
6/1989

## Key Skills:

Project Management.  
Teaching. Teaching. Painting.  
Ceramics. Welding. Social media and marketing. Crowdsourcing campaigns. Writing, research, editing and publishing.

## References:

Ken McCrosky-Wait, *Bike Safety Instructor*, Bike East Bay

Jenette Kime, *Transportation Options Program Coordinator*, City of Eugene  
[Jkime@eugene-or.gov](mailto:Jkime@eugene-or.gov) 541-579-1596

Samantha Kimpel, *Program Officer*, Creative Sonoma  
[Samantha.Kimpel@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Samantha.Kimpel@sonoma-county.org)  
707-565-6134

## Websites and Social Media:

[LinkedIn](#) - [Three Feet Of Air Productions Website](#) - [YouTube](#) - [Creative Sonoma Portfolio](#)



# van de Walle, Robert

## Sculpture, Performance and Environmental Artist

### Career Objective

Multidisciplinary artist combining big picture awareness with attention to detail, dedicated to continuing art's historic role as a tool for defining and shaping our future while building community.

---

### Works, Shows and Events

1998 – 2004 *Drive with Grace*, traffic sculpting automobile, vehicle graphics, Oakland/Alameda CA

2002 – 2006 *Series on Seeing*, installation, various locations Oakland/Alameda CA

2012 – 2015 *The Red Couch*, pedal-powered kinetic sculpture variously amphibious, road and rail, various events in San Mateo, Oakland, Clear Lake, Willits, Petaluma, and Santa Rosa CA

2013 *The Chipper Chopper*, pedal-powered wood chipper, Maker Faire, Fulton Crossing, permanent display at Chimera Arts, Sebastopol CA

2013 – 2017 *The Mighty Whittaker*, human-powered barge, Rivertown Revival Petaluma CA, various other venues

2017 *White Rabbit Watch Doorway*, Palace of the Fine Arts, San Francisco CA

2016 – 2023 Human-powered sculpture series: *Luchadores Piñas*, *Painapparu Best Friends*, *Caltrans*, *Wheels of Dharma*, *Humpbacks of Notre Dame*, *Trashlantis*, various venues including the Kinetic Sculpture Race Humboldt CA, DaVinci Days Corvallis OR, Pedalfest Oakland CA, SFMOMA San Francisco CA

---

### Commissions

2016 *Amphibious Tricycle*, 6'x13'x8' Arcata CA  
Acquired by Wendy Burns 707-498-9193

2018 *Paddlefest Boat Ramp*, 8'x16'x1.2' Oakland CA  
Bike East Bay, Hyeran Lee

2020 *Tiny Galleries Art Exchange Kiosk* 7'x2.5'x1.5', Santa Rosa CA  
Creative Sonoma, Samantha Kimpel 707-565-6134

2022 *Humpbacks of Notre Dame*, 7.3'x17.5'x12.5' San Francisco CA  
SFMOMA Downhill Derby, Dave Harris 415-744-4045

---

### Additional Reference

Dale Dougherty, Make Magazine 707-696-0644

### Contact



---

### Education

University of Notre Dame,  
Engineering 1980

Orange Coast College, Art,  
Computer Graphics 1984

Alameda Point Collaborative,  
Permaculture Design 1996

---

### Awards

2023 Grand Champion KSR  
2022 Best Pun SFMOMA  
2022 Grand Champion KSR  
2020 Grand Champion S.I.P.  
2018 First Place Engineering,  
KSR  
2016 Second Place  
Engineering, KSR  
2016 First Place,  
Obtainium Cup  
2014 First Place, Make  
Magazine Outdoors  
Competition

---

### Relevant Skills

Art Direction  
Design: 2D & 3D  
Fabrication: metal, composites,  
wood, plastic  
Facilitation: design charrettes  
Project Management  
Vendor Relations