

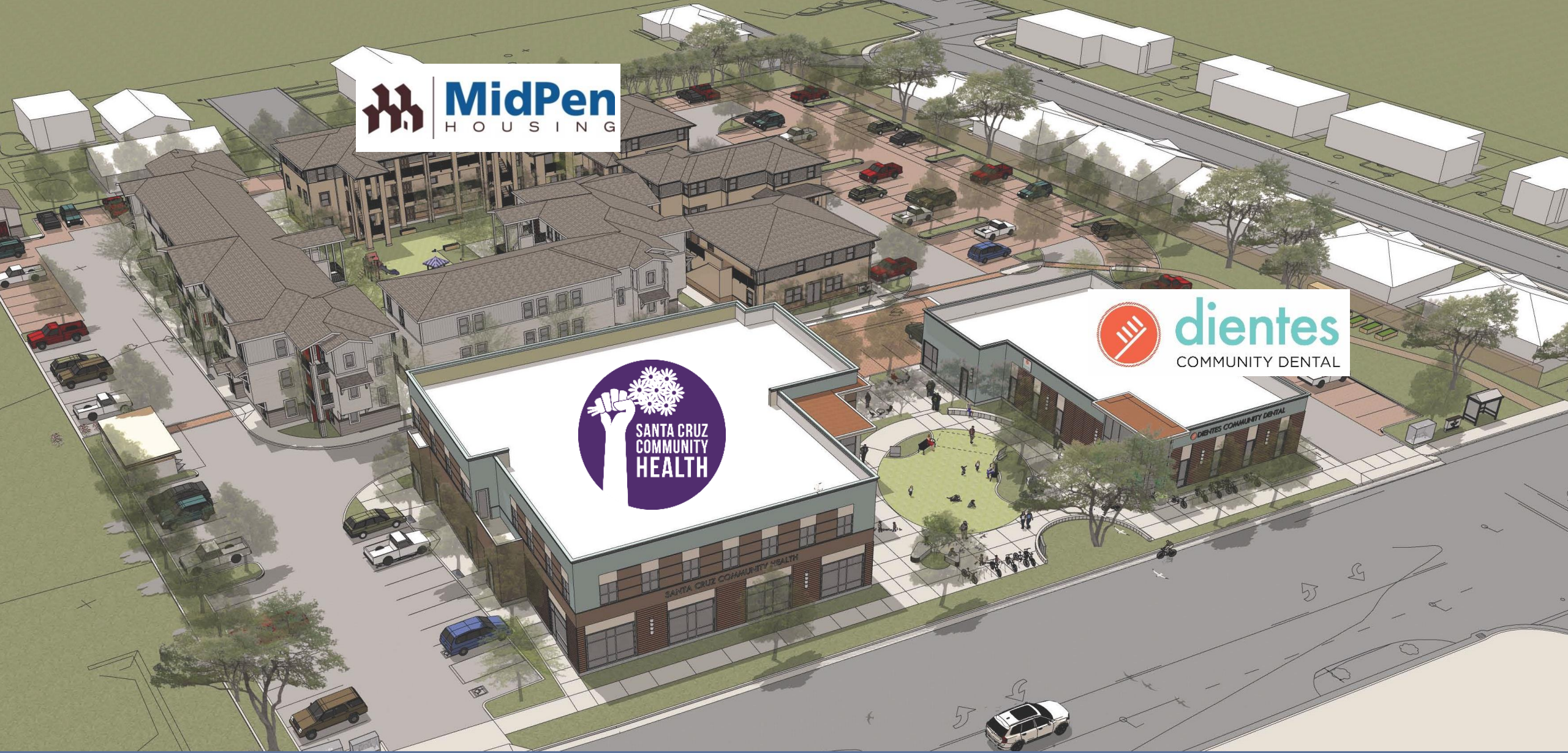


Presentation & Request for Feedback

Conceptual Draft of Interpretive Historical Installation

1500 Capitola Road Mixed Use Development

County of Santa Cruz Historic Resources Commission Meeting
October 13, 2020



1500 Capitola Road: Strengthening our Community

MidPen Housing

- Nonprofit founded in 1970
- 100 communities in 11 northern California counties
- Core businesses:
 - Real estate development
 - Property management
 - Resident services



Santa Cruz Community Health

- Founded 1974
- Now a Federally Qualified Health Center
- High quality care to all, regardless of ability to pay
- Key COVID-19 Responder
- Strong partnerships: hospitals, private specialty groups, managed care, schools, social service, County, Community Foundation



SC Women's Health Center



East Cliff Family Health Ctr



Dientes Community Dental Care

- Founded 1992
- High quality, comprehensive, affordable dental care
- 11,000 patients (50% < age 18), 33,000+ visits/year
- Culture of innovation for 75 employees
- Strong community partnerships



15-Chair Main Clinic



4-Chair Watsonville Clinic



3-Chair Beach Flats Clinic



30+ Outreach Program, 1-Chair HM





Previous Action by HRC

- February 2018: Determination that Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) report for the Merriman House needed to be redone by a historic consultant to correct inaccuracies in the existing DPR 523 report.
- July 2019: Revised DPR report by Architectural Resources Group supported NR-6 designation. HRC requested that we still honor Robert Merriman at the site through an interpretive historical installation.
- November 2019: Land use entitlements approved by Board of Supervisors
 - *Condition III(T)*: The installation shall include references to his role as Commander of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, the historical importance of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade fighting fascism in Spain, and reference to Merriman as inspiration for the character Robert Jordan in Hemmingway's "For Whom the Bell Tolls".

Artist Selection Process for Historical Display

- Issued Request for Qualifications for Local Artists
- Highlighting the themes of volunteerism, social justice, and community service
- Interviewed three local artists
- Selected Vanessa Stafford



April 17, 2020
1500 Capitola Way

Request for Qualifications for Local Artist

MidPen Housing, in collaboration with Santa Cruz Community Health (SCCH) and Dientes Community Dental (Dientes), is building a mixed-use community development which includes 57 units of affordable housing, 19,000-square-foot community medical clinic to be run by SCCH, with additional 1,200 square-foot retail pharmacy space, and an 5,000-square-foot community dental clinic to be run by Dientes.

The 1500 Capitola Way development will re-invigorate an historic site, formerly home to Robert Merriman, commander of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. This was the brigade of American fighters who contributed to the Spanish Civil War leading up to World War II. Merriman became the inspiration for Robert Hemmingway's novel "For Whom The Bell Tolls". In addition, the former Live Oak ranchette sub-division, has an important agricultural economic history for the Santa Cruz County unincorporated area.

As a way of linking the new development to the multiple historical narratives attached to the site, the aforementioned development partners are commissioning two art features which will highlight the compelling Live Oak Neighborhood legacy for both the new residents, the existing neighbors and visitors to the clinics. First, we have planned a set of permanent display panels featuring a narrative and visual illustration of Robert Merriman and the Abraham Lincoln Brigade story. This feature is intended to highlight themes of volunteerism, social justice and community service which are evident in the biography of Robert Merriman as well as engrained into the mission of each of the three non-profit development partners. These themes align closely with the missions of today's partners who envision an installation that will connect the shared values of both past and present:

About Vanessa Stafford



B.S in Graphic Design from San Jose State in 1997
Teaching Credential in Art from San Jose State in 1999



Sailboats, a painted traffic signal box at Ocean & Soquel Avenue



Night Wharf, a painted traffic signal box at Ocean & Soquel Avenue



Capitola Bridge, purchased for the permanent collection by the Count of Santa Cruz. 5th floor of the County building on Ocean St.



Aptos Blue, imagery of the Castro Family in Aptos



Beautillity, a group mural project for the City of San Jose



Work with Local Historians

- Worked with Linda Wilshusen and Norman Poitevin to craft draft narratives for historical installation.
 - Draft language included as an addendum to this presentation
- Installation will also include translation for the benefit of Live Oak's Spanish-speaking population.
- Development partners will be responsible for finalizing narratives before January HRC meeting.

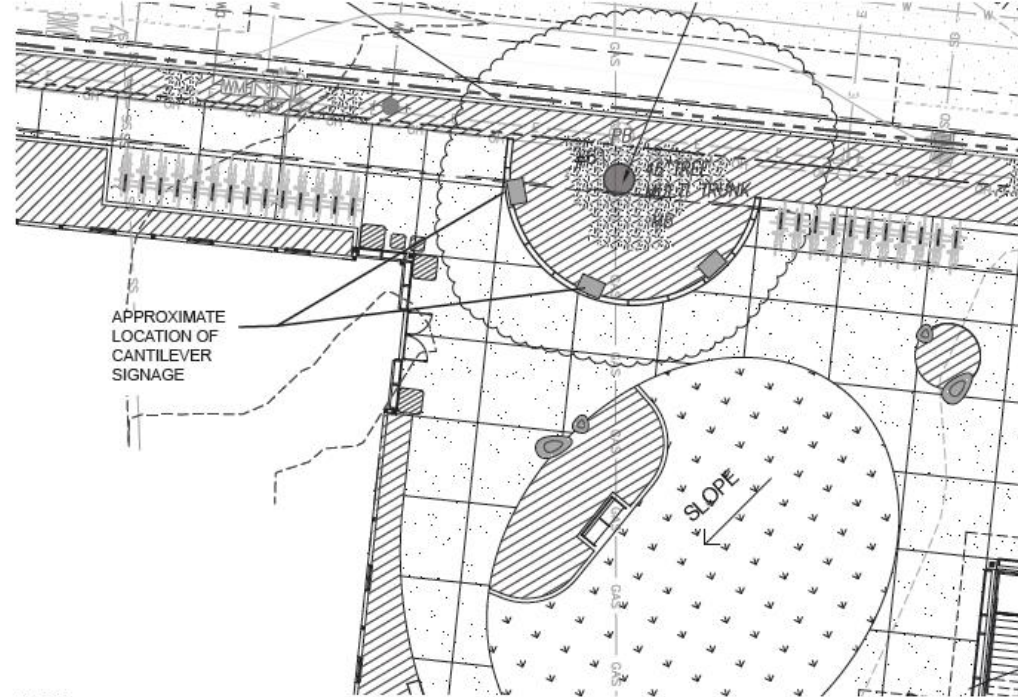


Public Plaza Space



Proposed Historical Displays

- 3 cantilevered panel displays mounted on posts facing public sidewalk & plaza
- Centered around plum pine (existing tree preserved as focal point of plaza)
- Each panel will feature a distinct historical theme



PLAN



PERSPECTIVE 1



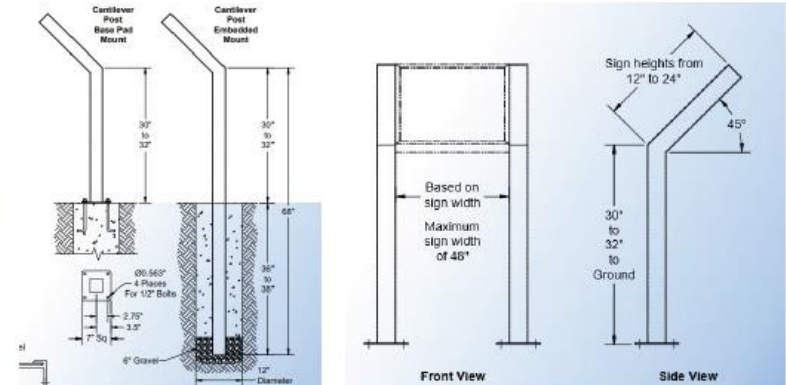
PERSPECTIVE 2



PERSPECTIVE 3



PERSPECTIVE 4



MOUNTING DETAILS AND DIMENSIONS FROM GOPHER SIGN

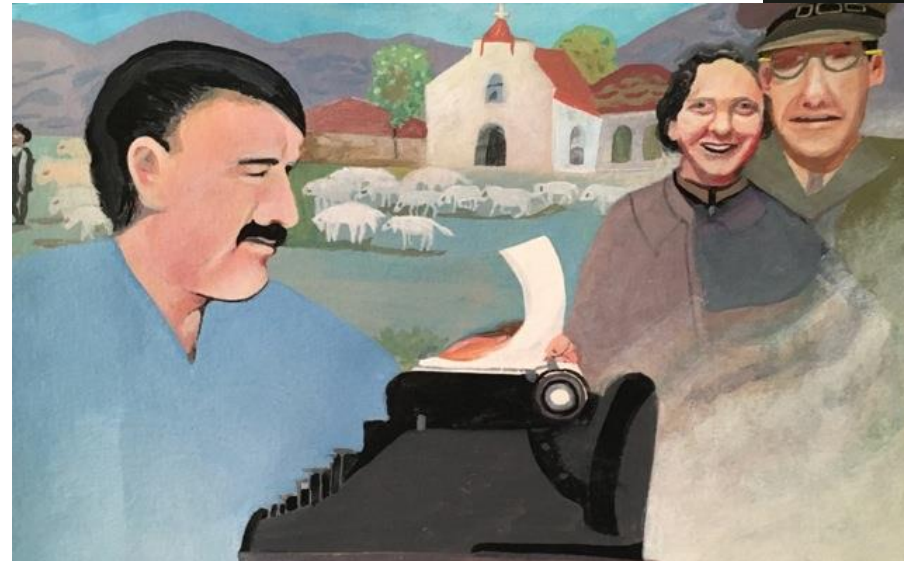
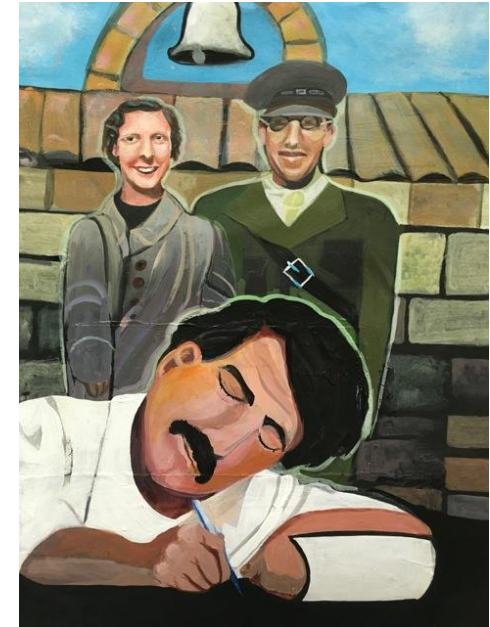
Historical Theme #1

Robert Merriman as
commander of the
Abraham Lincoln
Brigade and significance
of the Brigade's
involvement in the
Spanish Civil War.



Historical Theme #2

Robert Merriman's story as an inspiration for Hemingway's
For Whom the Bell Tolls



Historical Theme #3

Agricultural history of Live Oak community and past use of these parcels along Capitola Rd as small family farms



Questions?

