

An architectural rendering of a modern courtyard. On the left, a building with large glass windows and a green frame overlooks the space. In the center, a wide staircase with dark metal railings leads up to a second level. A large, vibrant mural of tropical plants and flowers covers the wall at the top of the stairs. To the right, a wooden bench sits in front of a wall of lush green ferns. People are shown in various activities: some sit at small round tables with coffee, others walk up the stairs, and a group sits on the bench. The scene is lit with warm, ambient lights, suggesting a pleasant evening or dusk setting.

Soames Dunn Courtyard

Mural Design Updates

Prepared for MHC Design Review Committee
August 13, 2026

The Pike Place Market PDA submitted a COA package for design enhancements to the Soames Dunn Courtyard, that was reviewed and approved by the full commission on May 22, 2026.

Part of the COA, stipulated that the PDA return to the Design Review Committee for review and approval of the finalized Mural design.

This updated design package provides information on the PDA’s process for artist selection and submittal of a final mural design concept for the North wall of the courtyard.



The City of Seattle
Pike Place Market Historical Commission
Mailing Address: PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649
Street Address: 600 4th Avenue, 4th Floor

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FOR DESIGN

MHC 79/26

Date: May 22, 2026
Applicant: Alex Shapleigh, PDA
Property Owner: Alex Shapleigh, PDA
Business: Soames Dunn Courtyard Renovation
Address: 1916 Pike Pl - outdoor courtyard Seattle, WA 98101
Building: Soames Dunn
Record Number: DONH-COA-02051

At its meeting of May 13, 2026, the Pike Place Market Historical Commission approved the following:

Replacement of courtyard furnishings, enhancement of the hillside planting area, replacement of lighting fixtures, addition of new lighting fixtures, repainting and repair of railings and stairs. Additionally, approval of the general theme and design direction of a wall mural and ground plane murals, for which additional review and approval will be required for the final designs. All work according to the attached plans.

The commission adopted the following conditions as part of its approval:

1. The commission devolves its authority to the Design Review Committee (DRC) to review designs for the murals, allowing the DRC the ability to approve, deny, and request further information for the murals.
2. The applicants will seek guidance from an ornithologist or similar bird habitat resource regarding implementation, including during construction phases.

The commission considered the following district guidelines when making the decision:

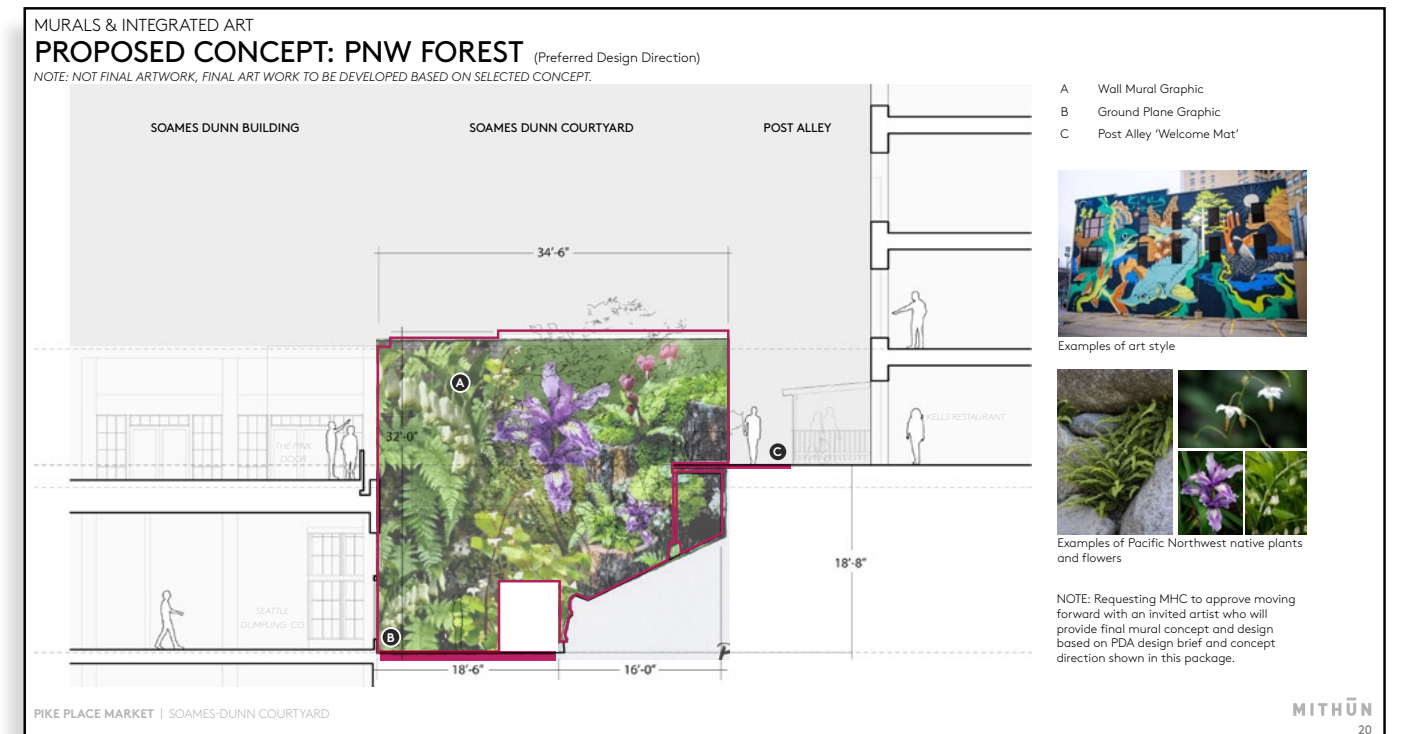
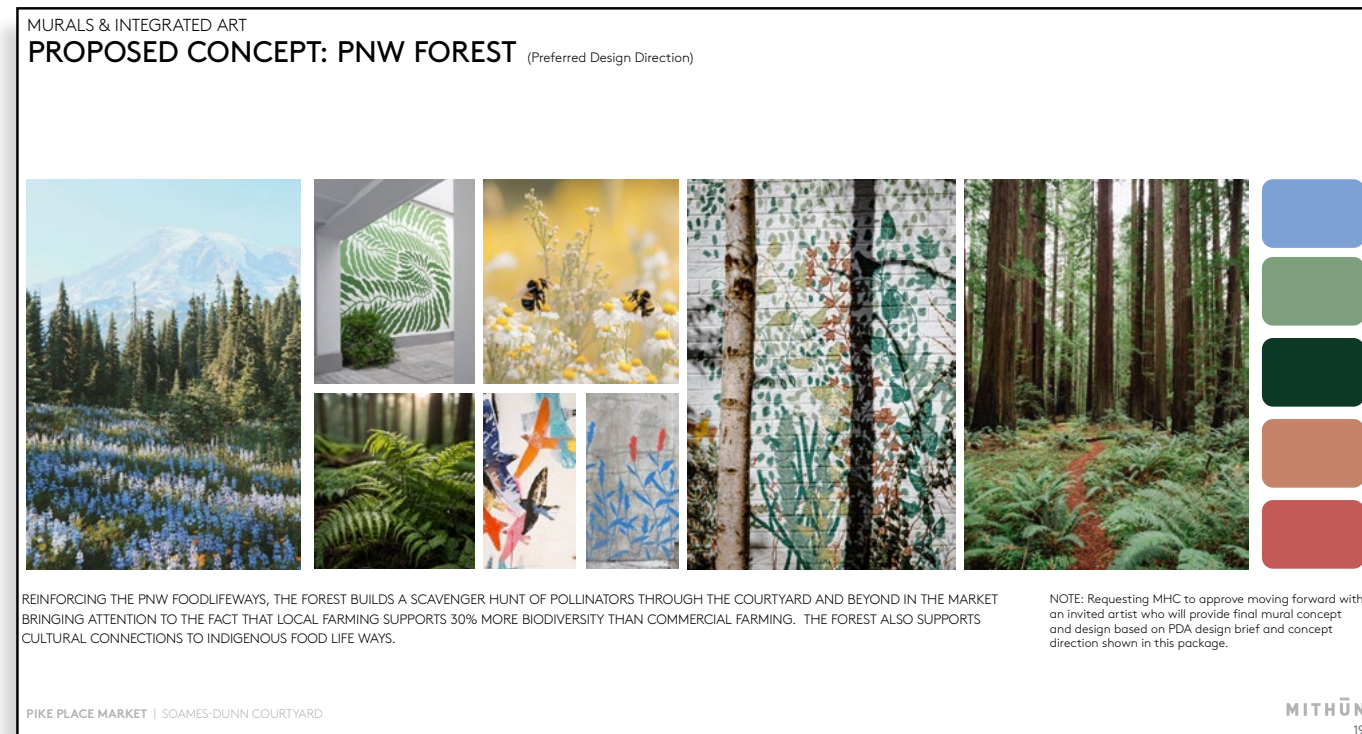
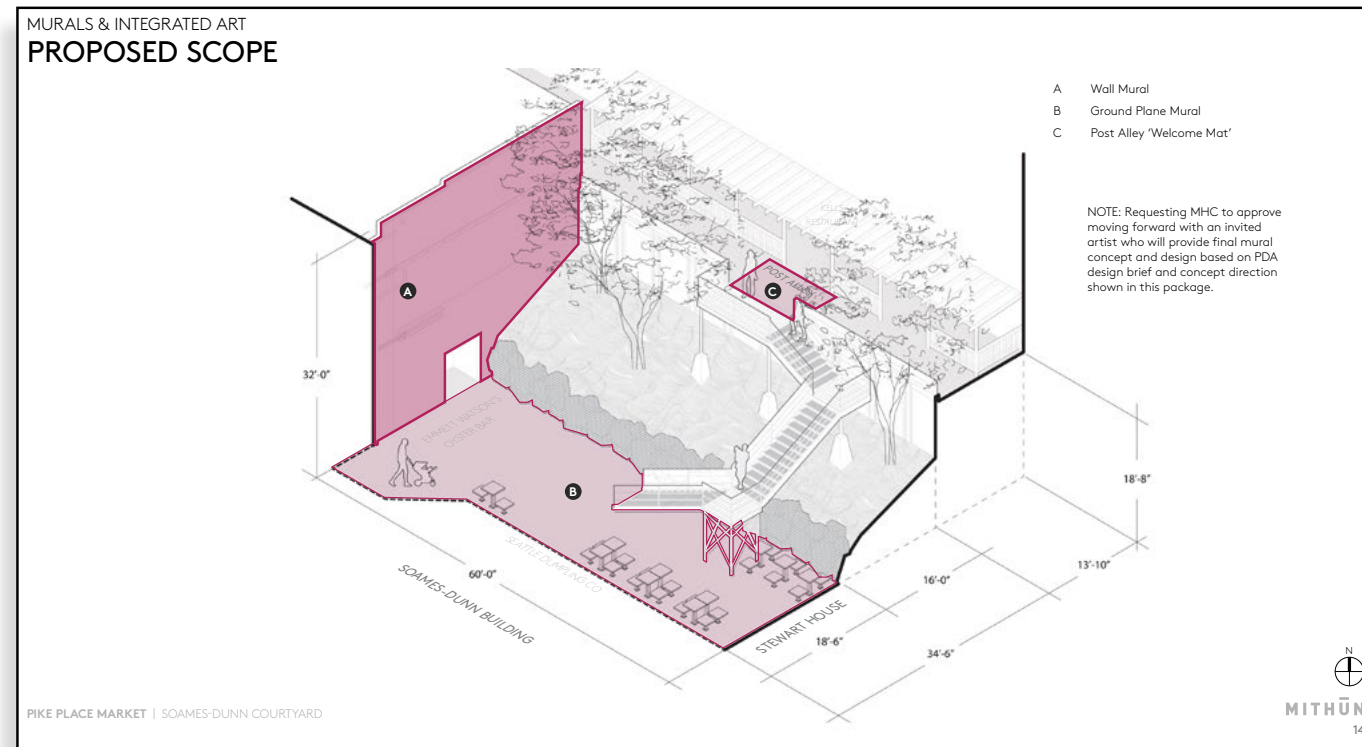
- 3.1 General Principles for Design in the Market
- 3.2 Major Structures and Architectural Elements

Administered by the Historic Preservation Program
Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

Soames Dunn Courtyard - Mural Updates

DOHN-COA-02051

Selection of Relevant Pages from May 22nd COA Package



The PDA contracted with [Overall Creative](#), a public art management and installation company to facilitate a RFQ and artist selection process for the Soames Dunn Mural.

The RFQ was broadly advertised through NW/ Seattle arts organizations, as well as made available to the Pike Place Market artist and craftperson community.

The review and selection committee included PDA Leadership, members of the PDA's Design Advisory Group and Council, and Overall Creative.

- **Over 100 applications were recieved**
- **Round 1 reviews narrowed the field to 15 artists, based on RFQ submittals**
- **Round 2 reviews narrowed the field to 4 finalists**
- **Round 3 reviews evaluated design submissions from the (4) finalist, including in-person or virtual presatations**

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Soames Dunn Courtyard
Pike Place Market, Seattle, WA



APPLICATION CLOSED - THANK YOU!

In collaboration with the Pike Place Market PDA, we are calling for artists to submit their qualifications to design a mural that brings new life to the Soames Dunn Courtyard.

The application form (bottom of page) is intended to be light and easy - please read the below scope carefully.

Posted: April 14, 2026

Contact Email: hello@overallcreative.com

Location: Post Alley, between Stewart and Virginia Street in Seattle, WA - [google maps link](#) -> [here](#).

- north wall // approximately 1,000 square feet

Eligibility: This RFQ is open to all artists and designers, regardless of geography or mural experience, though artists with a past or present connection to the Pacific Northwest (and / or work samples that are relevant to the design prompt) are most strongly encouraged to apply. Finalist will need to be available for installation in June or July, or coordinate with overall creative for installation assistance.

Design Prompt: Northwest Forest (Interpretation)

Phase 1 Project Scope: 3 artists will be invited to present site-specific design proposals and compensated **\$1,000** upon delivery. The selected designer will be compensated an additional **\$4,000** for up to 3 rounds of design reviews with revisions, a total of **\$5,000** for delivery.

Phase 2 Project Scope: (IF APPROVED BY THE MARKET HISTORICAL COMMISSION) mural installation will occur during **June/July 2026**. Installation budget will be **~\$20,000**, with supplies and rentals paid for by Pike Place PDA. Please note that there are other efforts underway to beautify this space and landscaping, lighting and other elements may be considered in conjunction with the installation. Artist may be asked to *consider* the ground plane and / or small art "breadcrumbs" throughout the market. Artist (or their chosen install team) must be willing to work on a lift or swing stage, as determined by Pike Place Market PDA.

Anticipated Timeline (2026): *This project is moving fast, please read carefully before applying.*

RFQ submission: April 14-28

- (3) Finalists Design Proposals: May 1-8
 - we will provide further developed guidance on design, and be fully available to artists to answer questions or visit site during this time
- Artist selection: May 11-13
 - design committee may require a virtual design meeting / interview during deliberation
- Final art development: May 14-27
- Market Historic Submission process : 4-6 weeks
 - this to be scheduled meeting will determine approval and installation dates (likely July)

Soames Dunn Courtyard - Mural Updates

Finalist's RFQ Application Work Samples

Will Schlough

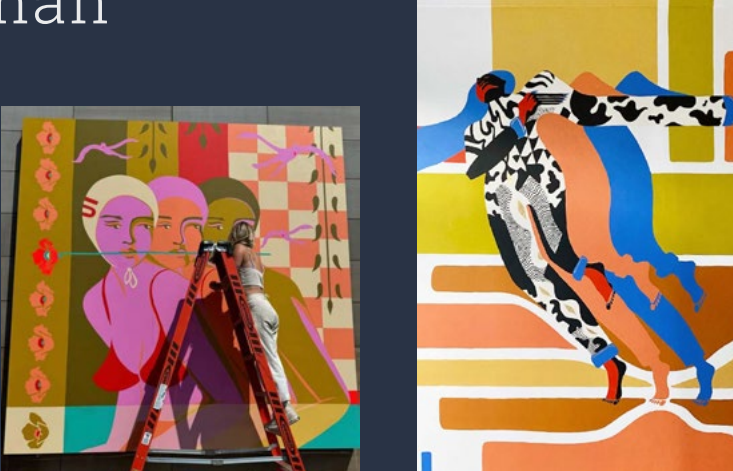
seattle, wa // @willschlough



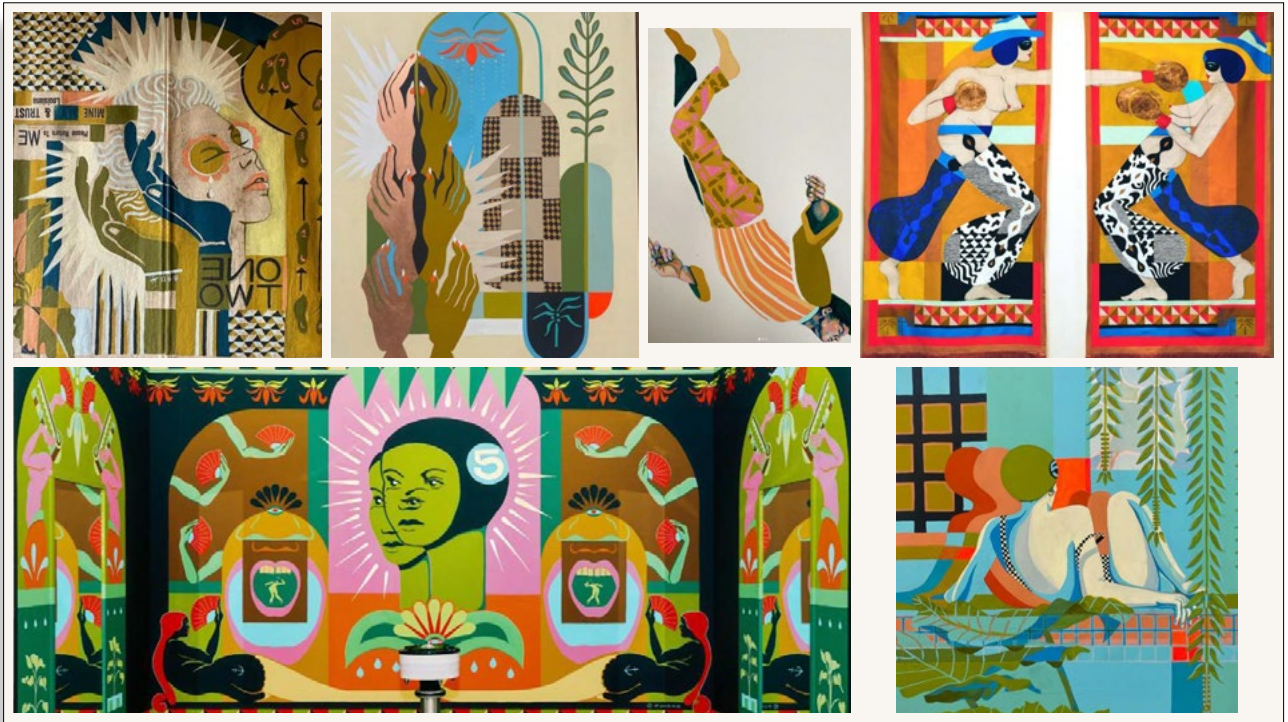
I am so excited to answer this question! The goal of my mural work, in fact, all of my public art, is to interact with the surrounding environment in a way that explores possibilities, presents new ideas, and adds wonder to the daily life of the audience. Truth be told, I'm hard-pressed to think of a mural site I've come across that I feel is better suited for my approach to mural painting. While ideas are already swirling around my head, my general approach would be to create a three-dimensional mural that presents PNW imagery with a twist, adding a layer of awe and magic to the Soames Dunn Courtyard. The site itself has a beautiful split of natural space, from which the mural can emerge, and a more pedestrian space with which it can interact. The mural won't just be a static painting, but will add a narrative to the whole space that speaks to the natural world around us, as well as the nature of discovery that is so palpable and wonderful within Pike Place Market. Thanks so much for the opportunity to throw my hat, or fish, or gum, or giant shoe into the ring.

becca fuhrman

seattle, wa // @fuhrmz



My goal would be to create something that FEELS like a Northwest Forest by creating an aggregate of imagery, pattern, and color. A forest is an ecosystem, a sum of it's parts. So, what are the parts? I would approach the project by investigating the question, 'What elements make a Northwest Forest?' Is it the people, the culture, the flora, the fauna? Even an attitude? Or a word? Beyond imagery, are there colors and patterns that evoke the feeling of the Northwest? How do these elements respond to each other? Asking and answering these questions would allow me to stitch bits of imagery, color, and pattern together to make a dreamlike impression, unique unto itself, and mostly importantly, distinctly Northwest.



Soames Dunn Courtyard - Mural Updates

Finalist's RFQ Application Work Samples

Jean Bradbury

seattle / bowing island, wa // @jeanbradburyart



My practice revolves around a celebration of the diversity of forest life. While I have a fascination with native tree bark patterns and have created many pieces based on these studies, I also champion the small and often overlooked fungi, mosses, lichens, ferns and small native creatures that make up the interconnected ecosystems of the forest. My work always features the small things - even when including our extraordinarily giant trees. There is also a delight - and a thrill - in painting tiny, vulnerable species much, much larger than life. They loom large in our ecosystems and should loom large on our walls too!

baso fibonacci

seattle, wa // @basofibonacci



I noticed a worn sign saying the space is a bird sanctuary so I'd like to use that as a jumping off point. If I get hired I'll spend time at the space talking to people and letting ideas come up over the time I'm there. I often do pretty extensive research about the place, learn as much as I can and through these activities something usually jumps out to me as a good concept to paint.



Final Artist Selection - Concept Package

Becca Fuhrman

BIG BOUNTY

THE SPIRIT OF PIKE PLACE

ARTWORK

Big Bounty embodies the essence of Pike Place Market. Celebrating the intertwining of culture, people, and place, bits and pieces of imagery are woven together to create a rich visual fabric honoring the land, water, and people of the region and market alike.

A strong central figure embodies the spirit of the market, celebrating the bounty and beauty of the pacific northwest. Set amongst easter-eggs of local flora and fauna, the figure proudly raises a hand lightly cupping a yellow warbler – a nod to the site’s history as a bird sanctuary. In the other, they hold a crisp farm-fresh apple from the market that they’ve been enjoying.

A part of the sea as much as the land, a crown of salmon folds to make the figure’s hair while it gently holds a Cockle Clam shell from the water seen in the distance. Their face is intended to remain unpainted, revealing the wall as it is now and embedding the figure into the site. Representing the diversity of the region, the figure’s hands and face are all intended to be different colors. The figure is everyone and is no one, it is the spirit of Pike Place Market.

Elements are unexpectedly stitched together, providing a sense of discovery much like the experience of the market itself with it’s winding paths and surprising finds. Sword ferns and sweet box punctuate the piece, as poppies from flower vendors march along the top of the image. Dance steps and a dancing figure are tucked along the right side of the piece, acknowledging the music and performance history of the location. A curtain parts in the background to reveal a peek-a-boo view of the water beyond, reminiscent of the unexpected views and vistas seen from market shops.

In essence, Big Bounty is like the market itself – a sum of interweaving unique parts, that create a lively and unexpectedly beautiful whole.



KEYWORDS

Pacific Northwest Folklore
Joyful
Reverence
Spirit of Pike Place
Interweaving
Community
Storied Fabric
Movement
Flora & Fauna
Sum of it’s parts
Lively

BIG BOUNTY

THE SPIRIT OF PIKE PLACE

ARTWORK BREAKDOWN

Bits and pieces of imagery are woven together to create a rich visual fabric honoring the land, water, and people of the region and market alike.

- Market Flowers: Nod to the Hmong flower vendors
- Wilson Warbler: Nod to history as a bird sanctuary
- Sweetbox: Reference to native plantings
- Spirit/Guardian/Patron Saint of Pike Place
- Handkerchief: Nod to Kikisoblu, also known as Princess Angeline, daughter of Chief Seattle, who is a historical market figure
- Pattern: from curtain in the market
- Sword Fern: Reference to native plantings
- Salmon friend: Reference to the Sea and fish vendors
- Peek-a-boo Water View: Reference to the unexpected views from market shops
- Dance steps: performance history of the market
- Washington Apple: Nod to agriculture and market vendors
- 'Fresh' signage: Referencing vintage signs in the market

KEYWORDS

Pacific Northwest Folklore
Symbolism
Native Plants
Local Agriculture
Flora & Fauna
Market elements
Interweaving
Fabric of the Market



BIG BOUNTY

THE SPIRIT OF PIKE PLACE

ARTWORK - COLOR MOCK UP

Here is a quick view of how color could start to round out the imagery. The color palette can shift and change as needed but I wanted you to get a sense of how it can provide hierarchy, definition, and visual interest. Overall, I would like to enhance the flora and fauna centric imagery of the mural by utilizing a palette of enhanced earth tones.

Additionally, in an effort to leave bits of history and embed the mural into it's site further, I would like to leave pieces of the wall unpainted - like the background for the figure's face - or partially painted - like the green check below the window.

Lastly, it's important to note that the figure is not intended to be a literal interpretation of a person but rather an entity that embodies the spirit of the market, land, and sea. I intend for the hands and face to be different colors from one another to represent that figure is not just one thing, but compromised of many identities. Rather than use colors that are literal representations of skin tones, I would like to use color that leaves itself open to interpretation of onlookers, inclusive of the diversity of the region.

KEYWORDS

Joyful
Enhanced Earth tones
Inclusive
Vibrant
Untouched Elements
Pattern Elements



BIG BOUNTY

THE SPIRIT OF PIKE PLACE

ARTWORK MOCK-UP

Big Bounty integrates into it's location by considering sight lines, integrating visual imagery with existing building elements, and the hierarchy of visual placement

- Figure looks out to the vista of the sea beyond the buildings while connecting with the adjacent balcony.
- Wanted the mural to feel like it was rooted and growing out of it's location, a hand sprouts from the hillside beneath it as well as the flowers and sword fern that grow from the ground below.
- The figure connects with the wall, it's face revealing the wall texture beneath and her hair curving along the doorway below.
- Sight lines are greatly considered, placing the figure where it can be viewed prominently from the courtyard while also viable from Post Alley .

KEYWORDS

Sight Lines
Hierarchy
Rooted
Wall Reveal
Placement
Connection
Community

