

MISSION TRAILS FIELD STATION PUBLIC ART

ARTWORK PROPOSAL

BY ROMAN DE SALVO

Artist Roman de Salvo is creating a permanent public artwork for the new field station planned for Mission Trails Regional Park. The artist spent several months learning about the park and working with the field station’s design team to develop his artwork proposal.

The proposed artwork consists of a large granite boulder with trail-like channels carved into its surface. A functioning drinking fountain fixture rises out of the highest point of the boulder. When a curious park visitor activates the spigot, water flows through the array of tiny trails in serpentine paths down the slopes of the boulder.



A trail at Mission Trails Regional Park.

Inspired by both the park’s extensive trail system and archeological sites, the sculpture will be a simplified microcosm of the park that playfully celebrates some of its essential ingredients - water, stone, trails, and human energy. With this artwork, de Salvo aims to recreate the joy of finding and following trails on an intimate scale.



Kumeyaay grinding rocks found in Mission Trails Regional Park.

De Salvo’s artwork references the archeological remains of grinding rocks used by the Kumeyaay, who were the first people to extensively live on and make use of the land that became part of the park. For de Salvo, these grinding rocks embody a sense of history, timelessness and a connection to human activity in the park. Through the act of carving into the boulder, de Salvo hopes to create a formal parallel to the grinding rocks, themselves.



Commission for Arts and Culture



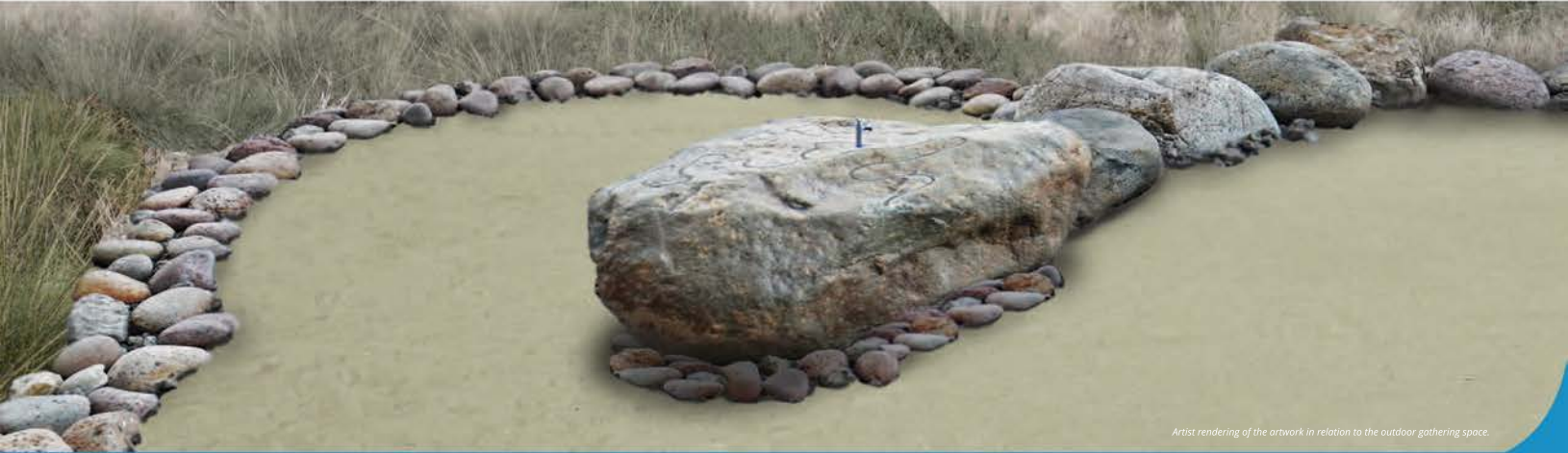
Artist model of the proposed artwork.



Conceptual rendering of the new Mission Trails Field Station with an artist rendering of the artwork.

The artwork will be located among other boulders in the field station’s outdoor gathering space adjacent to the covered picnic area. The sculpture will encourage a sense of discovery and contemplation in visitors as they study its carved trails and activate the drinking fountain.

Share your feedback to help the artist further develop and refine his artwork proposal by completing a survey online at sandiego.gov/MTFS-feedback.



Artist rendering of the artwork in relation to the outdoor gathering space.