



**ALAMEDA CREEK WATERSHED CENTER ARTIST REVIEW  
MEETING 2 SUMMARY**

**MEETING DATE**

February 13, 2019

**VOTING SELECTION PANELISTS**

Nicholas Ancel, Landscape Architect, Department of Public Works  
Monica V. Arellano, Vice Chair, Muwekma Ohlone Tribe  
Connie De Grange, Chair, Sunol Citizen Advisory Council  
Theresa Harlan, Curator and Writer of Contemporary Native American Art  
Blair Randall, Arts and Education Program Manager, PUC (shares a vote with Carla Schultheis)  
Carla Schultheis, Watershed and Environmental Improvement Program Manager, PUC (shares a vote with Blair Randall)  
Abby Sadin Schnair, Arts Commissioner  
Weston Teruya, Artist  
Sean Uyehara, Director of Programs, Headlands Center for the Arts

**PROCESS**

The following artists presented an overview of their practice and proposals for the Alameda Creek Watershed Artist Review Panel:

Nicholas Galanin  
Walter Kitundu  
Nora Noranjo-Morse

The panelists were asked to discuss and evaluate each of the proposals on the following criteria:

- Aesthetic quality
- Acknowledges the historical and contemporary presence of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe in the Alameda Creek Watershed.
- Highlights the Watershed’s diverse natural resources and role in the SFPUC water supply system
- Serves as a focal point, yet is integrated with the site and surroundings.

The panelist then ranked the artists 1, 2, or 3 (1 = highest rank) accordingly.

**RESULTS**

Walter Kitundu	8
Nora Noranjo-Morse	16
Nicholas Galanin	24

**ARTS COMMISSION APPROVAL**

**Motion:** Motion to approve the selected artist, Walter Kitundu, and proposal for the Alameda Creek Watershed Center, as recommended by the artist review panel.

**Motion:** Motion to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into a contract with the selected artist, Walter Kitundu, for an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the design, engineering, fabrication, transportation and installation consultation of an artwork for the Alameda Creek Watershed Center.



Muwekma Ohlone Tribe  
of the  
San Francisco Bay Area

# Artwork Opportunity



- Large outdoor sculpture located on a 30' diameter plaza at the entrance to the Center's gardens
- Artwork integrated into the Center's gardens, which may consist of sculpture(s).



# Project Goals

- Acknowledges the historical and contemporary presence of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe in the Alameda Creek Watershed.
- Highlights the Watershed's diverse natural resources and role in the SFPUC water supply system.
- Serves as a focal point, yet is integrated with the site and surroundings.

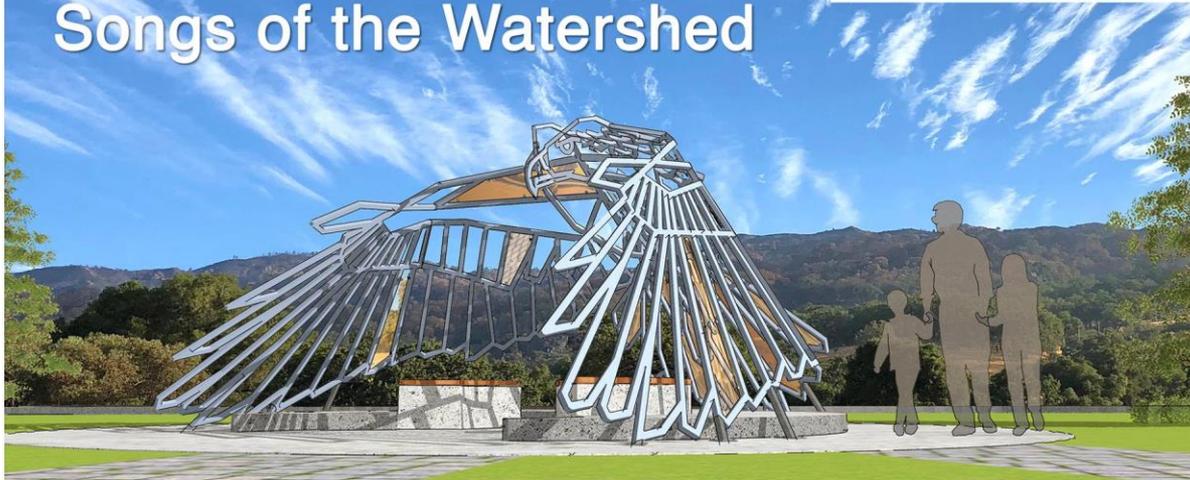
# Project Budget

- **\$500,000**, inclusive of artist fee, design, materials, engineering, fabrication, transportation, installation, lighting, insurance and contingency.

# RUUPAYWA

## Songs of the Watershed

### A PROPOSAL FOR THE ALAMEDA CREEK WATERSHED CENTER



### WALTER KITUNDU

The Alameda Creek Watershed Center in Sunol is just 16 miles from one of the most significant Golden Eagle breeding areas in the world. These birds are powerful residents of the watershed and surrounding areas. **Ruupaywa** (the eagle) is a chief, protector, and a creator in the Muwekma Ohlone creation story. This sculpture represents a protector spirit, a guardian of spaces above and below ground. This eagle is a framework, an invitation to the Muwekma Ohlone community to generate imagery and song in a collaborative partnership.



#### COMMUNITY

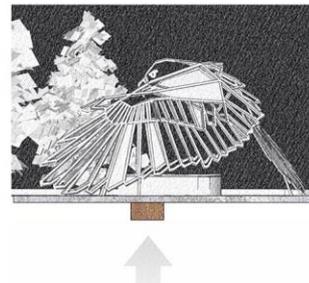
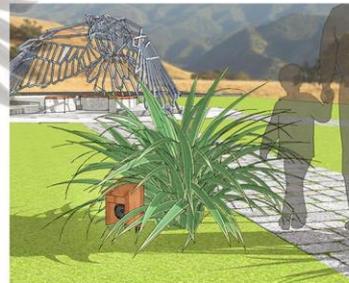
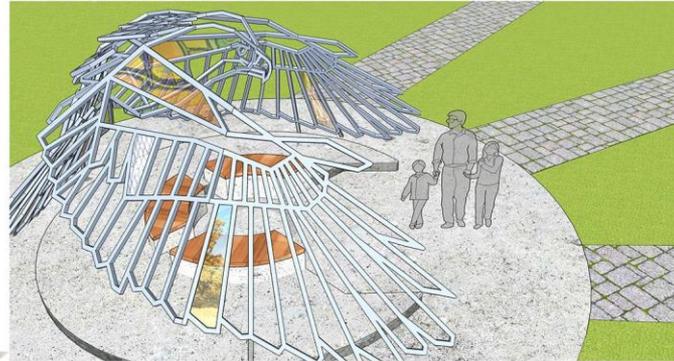
Guided walks with the Muwekma community will take place along Alameda Creek and images we collect will appear in the glass panels. We will conduct several "Song Sharing Circles" where bird and animal calls will be reinterpreted through song using the Chochoyeno language. The collected sounds, images, and documentation of community workshops will be made into a book and album to be shared with the Muwekma Ohlone tribe and project participants.

#### SCULPTURE

The Golden Eagle is made from painted square steel tubing and faces Mt. Diablo to the north. All corners and edges will be rounded and smooth to the touch. Its wings wrap around 3 benches oriented to the cardinal directions. Glass panels are printed with translucent images photographed by members of the tribe during "watershed walks." Shadows of the sculpture will be rich with color and texture projected from the glass on sunny days.

#### SOUND

The sound installation asserts the tribe's continued presence and survival despite centuries of erasure and oppression. Slowed bird and animal calls from the watershed are learned by participants. The melodies are then sung using Chochoyeno phrases. When sped up, the voices of the Muwekma people will ring out as the calls of Sandhill Cranes, White-crowned Sparrows, or frogs in the night. The recordings will be played from speakers hidden in the gardens, and located in the specific watershed habitat where the animals can be found.

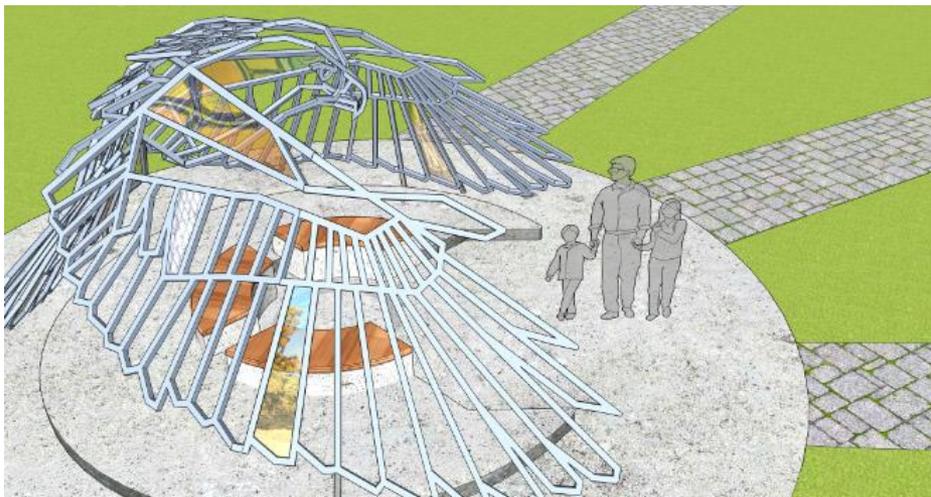


#### ARCHIVE

The Muwekma community will be invited to ceremonially place artifacts and contemporary items in the soil below the sculpture in this place where so many relatives and objects were so recently removed. This is a small gesture to acknowledge indigenous survival and land rights amidst erasure and displacement. Objects placed in the archive will be protected, and the earth beneath the artwork will remain undisturbed.

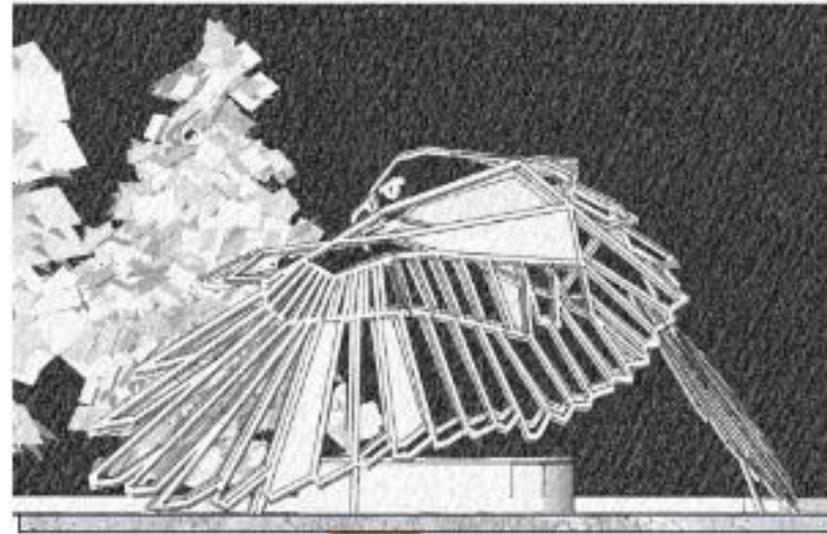


- Includes sculpture, sound installation, and archive.



- Pays tribute to the Muwekma Ohlone People and recognizes both their history and their continued presence and power.
- Ruupaywa (the eagle) is a chief, a protector, and a creator in the Muwekma Ohlone creation story. Sculpture represents a protector spirit, a guardian of spaces above and below ground.
- Meant as a vessel, a sheltering place for reflection, remembrance, and visioning.

- ACWC is only 16 miles from one of the most significant Golden Eagle breeding areas in the world. These birds are powerful residents of the watershed and surrounding areas.
- Eagle sculpture is a framework, an invitation to the Muwekma Ohlone community to generate imagery and song in a collaborative partnership. Open areas in the wings and tail will be filled with images gathered collectively on “Watershed Walks.”
- Vivid images will populate the area with color and texture through reflected light and cast shadows. Tule reed textures printed on tail panels will evoke the historic shelters constructed by Muwekma Ohlone people.



- Below Ruupaywa the eagle, between the benches, rests an archive. Once the sculpture is in place and before any official opening, members of the tribe will be invited to ceremonially place artifacts and contemporary items, in the soil below..
- Archive is a small gesture to acknowledge indigenous survival and land rights amidst erasure and displacement.



- Sound installation is a response to a desire communicated by the tribe to assert their continued presence and survival despite centuries of erasure and oppression. It is an invitation to members of the Muwekma community to select and learn the songs of birds and animals in a unique way.
- The calls of the eagle, the hawk, the hummingbird, the coyote, the acorn woodpecker, the bobcat, and many other watershed species will be slowed down until they enter the human vocal range. Then, singing the melodies in Chochenyo, each person will learn and replicate the sounds of the slowed animal calls.
- Sound installation can be an audio treasure hunt for those wanting to learn about the wildlife of the watershed, but for the tribe it is offered as a repository of language and a document of multigenerational community expression.