

Tile Project Proposal for Thousand Oaks Elementary School:

“Eastern Redbud Tree Clay Tile Project”

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Tile Installation Proposal for Thousand Oaks Elementary School

The four 1st grade classes have been studying the trees in the small courtyard outside their classrooms. They have been drawing the trees in their seasonal phases, in late summer, fall, winter, and now spring.

They made low relief tiles of images of the trees in all of thier phases. The tiles are 4" x 7".



This is the courtyard as it is now.



This a mock up of the tiles installed on the wall.

We are proposing to install 87 tiles around the inside perimeter of the cement seating area.

Additional Information on following three pages:

- Statement from Amanda Abardanel-Rice
- Inscription for accompanying plaque
- April 30, 2018 email from Jen Corn
- April 18, 2018 email from Jen Corn (forwarding statement from Amanda Abardanel-Rice)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am submitting a proposal for an art installation project at Thousand Oaks School. This project has been funded by our PTA and by the Berkeley Schools Fund. This installation would belong to BUSD. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. The artist, Kalen Meyer, and I would be happy to come in person to discuss the project as well. In the proposal, we included pictures of about 25 tiles. These tiles are indicative of the style and color scheme of all of tiles, of which there will be about 80 in total.

Thank you so much!

Amanda Abarbanel-Rice
amandaabarbanelric@berkeley.net
510-684-0190

Inscription for accompanying plaque:

"These tiles were created by the first graders of Thousand Oaks in 2017-2018 to honor Thousand Oaks and the Eastern Redbud Trees that surround this community circle. Thanks to BUSD, the Thousand Oaks P.T.A, The Schools Fund, and artist Kalen Meyer for making this project possible."

From: **Jennifer Corn** <jennifercorn@berkeley.net>
Date: Mon, Apr 30, 2018 at 10:02 PM
Subject: Fwd: Misspelled word
To: Charles Burress <charlesburress@berkeley.net>

Tiling proposal:

Thousand Oaks first grade is proposing a Clay Tile Installation project in the circular courtyard in front of the primary classrooms. We have been working on the project all year, and, if granted permission, we would like to install it in May of 2018. We have gotten funding for this project from The Schools Fund and from the Thousand Oaks PTA. We are installing it under the direction of professional artist Kalen Meyer. Kalen Meyer is a professional artist who has taught

art privately and at the Jefferson after school program for the past 13 years. She will facilitate the clay tile creation and be in charge of the kiln, firing process, and installation.

From: **Jennifer Corn** <jennifercorn@berkeley.net>
Date: Wed, Apr 18, 2018 at 7:16 PM
Subject: Fwd: tile installation grant cut and paste
To: Charles Burress <charlesburress@berkeley.net>

Below is lots more info about the tile installation project.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Amanda Abarbanel-Rice** <amandaabarbanelric@berkeley.net>
Date: Wed, Apr 11, 2018 at 3:50 PM
Subject: tile installation grant cut and paste
To: Jennifer Corn <jennifercorn@berkeley.net>

Here is the grant. FYI, they are actually not cherry trees (!!). They are Eastern Redbud trees.

FYI, School Fund is giving us \$700 and the TO. PTA is giving us \$700.

Amanda

Statement of Purpose:

We moved to the new Thousand Oaks site 17 years ago. The original plan for the school had left several spaces that were open for public art. We have actually done very little public art through the years. There is a lovely round gathering spot in front of the K/1 rooms that is surrounded by seven cherry trees. There is a perfect place to put tiles that the architects originally designed, but as of now, no tiles! Many classes gather and spend community time in those spaces, and many classes also do paintings of the cherry blossoms throughout the seasons. This project will truly beautify the school. It will enhance the spaces that create community, and in so doing will allow our classes and lower grades to contribute and participate in that community. In addition, It will also allow the children to express their understandings and observations of the plant life cycle and seasons through an in-depth observation of the cherry trees throughout the seasons. It is kind of a win-win-win kind of project. It creates community, gives to the community, and allows the children to experience and express their in-depth understandings of the cherry tree life cycle, and botany studies.

Activities & Anticipated Outcomes:

This project has two parts, each with a science and visual art component. Firstly, each teacher takes her students to "get to know the trees." They explore the trees with their senses, observe and draw the trees in a range of art mediums. The children choose one of the seven trees to observe for a weekly visit. As the seasons and months progress, the children observe how the trees change through the seasons. The teacher augments these observation sessions with lessons about plant life cycle, structure, and pattern. The children learn disciplinary core standards: * individuals of the same plant are recognizable as

similar but can also vary and *plants have different parts that help them survive.

The second part is the public art component. We will have a professional artist spend three sessions with each group helping them create clay tiles of their observations and facilitate the actual installation of the tiles.

Our anticipated outcomes are that the children will feel a connection to the cherry tree circle and to the trees, that they will grow as scientists, and experience contributing to the school. We will observe this through informal observation, and through their art. They will also provide "teaching tours" of the circle to the community and their families.

The first grade team is thrilled about this project; they are all very enthusiastic!

We will do the art installation part of this project after the cherry trees have bloomed (February/March).

We are excited to do a project that combines science, art, and community building.

We did not include this in the grant request because we were not able to confirm with the Museum of Asian Art, but we are also considering doing a field trip to see other representations of cherry blossom trees, and to use the experience to learn more about global and cultural traditions that are centered around cherry trees and community.

We are confident that through a close study of the trees, children will develop a "relationship" of sorts with the trees, which will help them develop a closer connection to the earth overall. As corny as this sounds, we feel this is a first grade version of working for social change- we are helping future global citizens understand and be connected to their environments and communities.

Thank you!







REQUEST FOR APPROVAL – THOUSAND OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Eastern Redbud Tree Clay Tile Project

Public Art Criteria as outlined in BUSD Board Policy 7151 Public Art Policy

1. The art work will identify the building as a student-centered environment. The work will be developmentally appropriate to the students of the school.

The site for this project is in the gathering circle that is by the Kindergarten and first grade classrooms. The circle is surrounded by Eastern Redbud Trees that were planted when the school was built. All of the primary grades, as well as the after school program, regularly gather in this circle. The clay tiles are based on first grade observations of the different life cycles of the Eastern Redbud trees throughout the seasons.

2. Projects may be opportunities for students to have a hands-on learning experience. The permanence of a project will be used to bring significance to the contributions of the students.

The first grade children have been observing the Redbud trees throughout the year. The process of making the clay tiles was developmentally appropriate and hands-on. They are excited about the idea of creating art for the community for years to come. Their art will enhance the gathering space that children use at Thousand Oaks every day.

3. Where feasible, projects should provide staff development or support teacher-directed classroom projects.

Each first grade class has been learning about the Eastern Redbud trees. They have integrated the art into their science curriculum through close observations. Each child has chosen a particular tree to be their “friend.” They have observed that particular tree, as well as the others, throughout the year.

4. The public artwork at our schools should be considered in the overall context of the school and will have a sense of inclusiveness and be broadly meaningful to the larger community.

This art project helps connect the children of Thousand Oaks to the natural world around them. It helps them be environmentally conscious and aware. It is inclusive of all in the community and their relationship to the Earth and its changes throughout the seasons. It brings beauty and joy to the community gathering spaces.

5. The work will complement the architecture of the building and the physical environment, including form, scale, and materials.

The mural fits well in the space and balances perfectly with the Eastern Redbud trees.

6. The proposed materials will withstand weather, vandalism, and maintenance.

The processes used to create this mural are being managed by an experienced artist, Kalen Meyer. She has thought through issues of weather, vandalism, and maintenance.

7. Project will have artistic merit.

Yes! These tiles are joyful and expressive!

8. Applicants will demonstrate appropriate experience and the organizational capacity to carry out the proposed activity and achieve the intended outcome.

We have obtained funding from the Schools Fund and from the Thousand Oaks PTA. We are consulting with professional tilers, and we will work closely with BUSD Facilities to insure that the installation will meet the highest standard that they expect.
