

A decorative border made of watercolor washes in shades of teal, light green, and pale orange, framing a central blue field.

MARY FULLER MCCHESNEY COLLECTION

PROJECT UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

COLLECTION HISTORY

- Sculptor, author, and art historian Mary Fuller McChesney (1922-2022) lived and worked in the Petaluma area for several decades. McChesney's legacy as a renowned, local, female artist of the mid-century continues in her sculptures. McChesney's friends, neighbors, and estate managers describe the artist's wishes for her works to be displayed for public enjoyment within Petaluma.
- Since October 2022, the PPAC has worked with City staff and estate managers to acquire and install selected works from her estate. In 2023, PPAC and staff selected 14 works of bronze and vermiculite for purchase to represent McChesney's work for the enjoyment of our community. The City Council approved the purchase from estate manager Dennis Calabi on September 5, 2023.
- At the June 27, 2024 PPAC meeting, members opted to trade 2 artworks that were deteriorating for an additional bronze "Coyote Goddess" for a total of 13 vermiculite and bronze works for installation.



LIBRARY



Four animal sculptures will be installed at the Petaluma Public Library once renovation is complete. They are the Rabbit, Ram, Cat and Lion. The pieces were delivered to the library by Spring Maxfield and City Staff in June 2024. Staff has provided conservation to the Cat sculpture.

“FACE TOTEM”

When the McChesney Collection was acquired, a directive of the Petaluma Public Art Committee (PPAC) was to have a sculpture placed at the Petaluma Senior Center located at 211 Novak Drive. Subcommittee members selected the “Face Totem” for installation based on its scale and representation.

In early October, representatives of the Senior Center, Rebuilding Together, subcommittee members and staff met to place the artwork within the garden. The totem was then moved to the site by staff and subcommittee members. Rebuilding Together and Staff met Friday, October 18th and installed the “Face Totem”.

On October 23, 2024 the Petaluma Senior Center hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for their new Gazebo in honor of Martha Fullerton U’Ren. At the event, the sculpture was unveiled to a welcoming community. We are grateful to the support of Rebuilding Together for installation.



“SHAPE TOTEM”

84”H, 34”W, 30”D Concrete/ Vermiculite



Staff has been in correspondence with Fire Chief Jeff Schach about potential installation at Fire Station 2 at 1001 North McDowell Blvd. The “Shape Totem” was selected for installation in East Petaluma , preferably oriented towards Sonoma Mountain where McChesney resided.

A bid has been created for moving the artwork to the site by Spring Maxfield (\$595). Rebuilding Together Petaluma has expressed interest in supporting installation. Still identifying potential fundin for permits and engineering, as needed.





SPEED LIMIT 35

TOTEM FIGURES



“Male Figure 1” 48”H, 12”W, 10”D

“Female Figure” 48”H, 11”W, 9”D



“Male Figure 2” 48”H, 12”W, 10”D

“COYOTE GODDESS” 2 PIECES



- Dimensions: 65”H, 20”W, 20”D
Material: Bronze
- Potential Locations:
 - Oak Hill Park
 - Cherry Valley Elementary
 - City Hall
 - Wiseman Park
 - ???



“SNAKE GODDESS” & “MEDUSA”

Potential Locations:

- Wiseman Park
- Oak Hill Park
- City Hall
- ???



Snake Goddess 36"h x 20"w x 14"d
Bronze



Medusa 68"h x 22"w x 21"d
Vermiculite

NEXT STEPS



- IDENTIFY POTENTIAL PARTNERS & LOCATIONS FOR INSTALLATION OF REMAINING 8 PIECES
- Finish bids packing & moving as needed
- INSTALLATION
- STORAGE AS NEEDED
- WE WANT TO WORK WITH YOU!