

February 7, 2017

To the Maplewood Avenue Community,

I have been working primarily in mosaic since 2000, creating fine art panels and architectural installations for homes, businesses and public places. Mosaic is unique in its durability and textural quality. Viewers are drawn in by the intricacy of so many small pieces combined to create a whole image that can be touched and explored. Public art creates compelling cities and makes art accessible to everyone. It strengthens local economies and brings communities together.

My public art projects have included a memorial panel installed at The Evergreen State College in 2005, a mosaic for the City of Olympia in 2007 that now resides in City Hall, 113 square feet of mosaic panels designed by students at a Seattle elementary school in 2009, a small mosaic mural for the Federal Way Senior Center in 2010, a community mosaic at Olympia's Artesian Well in 2011, and a mural made with the help of very young children for Auburn Parks and Recreation in 2013. I also assisted on the "Garden of Surging Waves" installation for the City of Astoria, led by Lynn Adamo. In recent years, I have created mosaic murals and floors commissioned by a corporation, installed in public spaces. These include a mosaic mural in the Dallas Fort Worth Airport, one in a shopping center in Alpharetta, GA, and another in an outdoor mall in Walnut Creek, CA. My floor inserts can be found in the Time Warner Center, Philadelphia Airport, and in the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, among other places.

If given the opportunity to create a proposal for Maplewood Avenue, I would likely propose a sidewalk inlay, possibly suggesting flowing water with fish, frogs, and other aquatic wildlife composed from colorful glass. Since 2012, I have been leading participatory art events so that citizens have the chance to contribute to public art, generating a sense of empowerment and inclusion for everyone involved. Therefore, I would also propose that portions of the mosaic be created by the local community, or to facilitate a mosaic activity with one of the nearby schools to connect youth with the artwork being installed in their neighborhood. My experience has proven that public art is more likely to be protected and cherished when people feel a sense of ownership, and this involvement can alleviate political tensions surrounding new developments in neighborhoods.

It would be a great honor to design a mosaic artwork for Maplewood Avenue.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jennifer Kuhns  
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