

Art Commission Review – Submittal Form

(Applicant complete below section)

Project Name: FJ Myers Percent for Art Project

Project Address: 5801 Kingsessing Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19143 **On Public Property?** Yes No

Total Budget: 160,000 **Utilizing City Funds?** Yes (specify amount): 100% No

Project Type (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building – New Construction or Addition | <input type="checkbox"/> Encroachment in/over ROW |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building – Renovation or Repair | <input type="checkbox"/> Signage (Reconsideration) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plaza/Park/Playground | <input type="checkbox"/> Streetery (Reconsideration) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Project Team:

Agency/Org.: Creative Philadelphia Design Lead (firm): Reginald Adams

Other: _____

Primary Contact for Project Communications:

Name: Marguerite Anglin

Affiliation: Creative Philadelphia

Email: [REDACTED]

(Art Commission staff complete below section)

Art Commission Meeting Date of Project Review: 4/8/26

Level of Review:

Concept Review Final Review If Final, specify date of preceding Concept Review: _____

Administrative Review (for projects with minimal visual impact on public realm)

Staff Notes (Optional):

Percent for Art component of overall recreation center building renovation project approved by Art Commission in April 2023.



March 23, 2026

Katherine Liss
Director
The Philadelphia Art Commission
One Parkway, 1515 Arch Street, 18th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

SUBJECT: Request for Art Commission review of Percent for Art at Francis J Myers Recreation Center

Dear Katherine:

Creative Philadelphia (Creative PHL) is requesting a concept review for a Percent for Art project at the Francis J Myers Recreation Center during the Philadelphia Art Commission meeting on Wednesday, April 8th, 2026. The project is described below.

The Percent for Art opportunity for the Francis J Myers Recreation Center was initiated in collaboration with our partners at Capital Program Office – Rebuild and Parks and Recreation, as part of a major construction project that includes a new addition to the recreation center building, along with significant interior and exterior upgrades. The project is located in the Kingsessing neighborhood at 5801 Kingsessing Ave.

The Francis J Myers Percent for Art project will feature two complementary mosaic artworks: a prominent piece installed on an exterior wall of the recreation center and a smaller piece located inside the building's entryway. The content and themes of both mosaics were shaped by community input, ensuring the final works reflected the voices and identity of the surrounding neighborhood. The artworks will be permanent and site-specific.

Creative PHL distributed a Call for Artists which was open from May 22nd, 2025 – July 17, 2025, and 41 applications were submitted. Creative PHL assembled a Percent for Art Committee to guide the artist selection, which included: community members, local artists, culture professionals, and representatives of Rebuild, Parks and Recreation, City Council District 2 office, and Creative Philadelphia.

The Francis J Myers Percent for Art Committee selected four finalists to provide design proposals. The artists received input and inspiration from the community through in-person and online community engagement meetings and a virtual public survey. Artist Reginald Adams was selected by the Francis J Myers Percent for Art Committee as the winning artist. His design features two complimentary artworks that celebrate the neighborhood's heritage, natural surroundings and vibrant community spirit.

The exterior mosaic, titled *We Are Stronger Together*, will be composed of six stained-glass inspired pillars that reflect the soul, resilience and beauty of the people who walk through the doors of the recreation center. Vertical panels will function like a window into the heart of the neighborhood, echoing the quiet reverence of cathedral glass, while grounding the imagery in the experience of the intergenerational community.

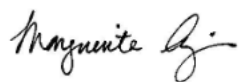
From left to right, the mosaic begins with a blooming garden of fruits and flowers, symbols of nourishment, growth and nature's abundance. The second panel features layered faces of community members, young and old, embodying heritage and the strength of shared identity. At the center stands a radiant sunburst mandala surrounded by vibrant abstract forms representing the energy, spirit and divine unity that connects us all. Continuing across the mural, scenes of intimate human connection emerge: elders speaking to youth, profiles locked in generational dialogue, hands extended in care. The final panel returns to nature, a mirrored garden blooming upward, signifying renewal and the sacred life cycle.

The interior mosaic, titled *The Tree of Life*, will serve as a vibrant and enduring focal point inside the recreation center. Designed in radiant glass and porcelain tile, the work will portray a luminous tree with roots anchored deep in the earth, with branches that rise into a kaleidoscope of blossoms, butterflies, and celestial patterns, honoring the cycles of life, renewal and collective strength.

The project will include a series of two hands-on community workshops at the recreation center. The sessions will actively involve local youth, adults, and elders in the fabrication of portions of the mural, offering meaningful opportunities for creative expression, stewardship, and shared ownership of the final works. Participants will work with the artist to co-create a portion of the mosaic that will be incorporated into the final work. This collaborative process will ensure that the mosaics reflect the diverse spirit of the Kingsessing neighborhood while celebrating the power of community and collaboration through public art.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at 215.686.4596.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marguerite Anglin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Marguerite" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and "Anglin" is written in a smaller, more compact script to the right. The signature is positioned to the left of a vertical line that separates it from the typed name below.

Marguerite Anglin, RA, NOMA
Public Art Director
Creative Philadelphia

We Are Stronger Together

Francis J. Meyer Recreation Center

Large Scale Mosaic Mural Proposal by Reginald C. Adams



Reginald C. Adams

Location

Francis J. Meyer Recreation Center
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Date

April 8, 2026

Artist Rendering: *We Are Stronger Together*



Artist Rendering: *We Are Stronger Together*



Proposed Mural Rendered in Glass and Porcelain Tile Mosaics

Dimensions: 38' 7" H x 52' L

We Are Stronger Together

Concept & Inspiration

We Are Stronger Together is a sacred visual offering to the Kingsessing community, a mosaic mural composed of seven stained-glass-inspired pillars that reflect the soul, resilience, and beauty of the people who walk through the doors of the F.J. Myers Recreation Center every day. Each vertical panel functions like a window into the heart of the neighborhood, echoing the quiet reverence of cathedral glass while grounding the imagery in the lived experience of this vibrant, intergenerational community.

Rendered in luminous glass and porcelain tile, the work evokes the spiritual language of stained-glass windows, transforming the building's exterior into a sanctuary of light, color, and collective memory. The materials, cut by hand and placed with intention, capture the divine in the everyday. Each shard reflects light differently throughout the day, breathing life into the surface and inviting contemplation from every angle.

From left to right, the mural begins with a blooming garden of fruits and flowers, symbols of nourishment, growth, and nature's abundance. The second panel features layered faces of community members, young and old, embodying heritage and the strength of shared identity. At the center stands a radiant sunburst mandala surrounded by vibrant abstract forms representing the energy, spirit, and divine unity that connects us all.

Continuing across the mural, scenes of intimate human connection emerge: elders speaking to youth, profiles locked in generational dialogue, hands extended in care. The final panel returns to nature, a mirrored garden blooming upward, signifying renewal and the sacred cycle of life.

This work is not simply a decorative installation. It is a sacred tapestry of Kingsessing's past, present, and future. It honors the community's struggles and triumphs with reverence and radiance. Through the interplay of light, texture, and story, the mural becomes a monument to belonging, healing, and the unshakable truth that we are, indeed, stronger together.

Artist Rendering: *Tree of Life*



Proposed Mural Rendered in Glass and Porcelain Tile Mosaics

Dimensions: 15'H x 9'W: 135 s.f.

Concept & Inspiration

The Tree of Life mosaic mural will serve as a vibrant and enduring focal point inside the FJ Meyers Recreation Center, offering a powerful symbol of unity, heritage, and interconnection for the Kingsessing community. Designed in radiant glass and porcelain tile, the mural portrays a luminous tree with roots anchored deep in the earth and branches that rise into a kaleidoscope of blossoms, butterflies, and celestial patterns, honoring the cycles of life, renewal, and collective strength.

The **Tree of Life** is one of humanity's oldest and most universal symbols, found across continents and cultures as a representation of resilience, connection, and spiritual continuity. In this mural, it will stand as a visual reminder that while our community is richly diverse, we are all rooted in shared values and aspirations for a brighter future.

Importantly, this mosaic will not be created in isolation. Youth and community members will have the opportunity to directly shape the mural through hands-on tile-making workshops and co-creation sessions. Under the guidance of the artist team, participants will design and fabricate sections of the tree using custom ceramic pieces, hand-formed tiles, and personalized embellishments. This participatory process ensures that the artwork not only reflects the spirit of Kingsessing, it is built by the very hands of the people who call it home.

As a permanent fixture in the interior of the center, the **Tree of Life** will serve as a landmark for generations to come, a space where history, creativity, and community are woven together into one powerful and uplifting mosaic.

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Location & Dimensions

The Francis J. Meyer Recreation Center is located at 5801 Kingsessing Street, Philadelphia, PA 19143, in the heart of South Philly. Undergoing a major renovation, the FJ Meyer Rec. Center serves as a vital community hub dedicated to empowering local youth and families.

The proposed glass and porcelain tile mosaic mural will span a total area of 1,000 square feet, taking into account necessary adjustments for light and safety features. The exterior portion of the mural will measure 32 feet in height and 50 feet in width, serving as a prominent visual statement on the façade of the newly renovated center. In addition to the exterior installation, an additional 15 feet in height and 9 feet in width, totaling 135 square feet of mosaic artwork will extend into the interior of the entranceway, creating a cohesive and immersive artistic experience that bridges the outside environment with the welcoming interior space of the facility.

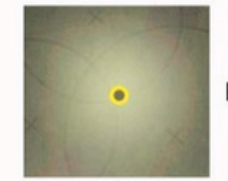


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Exterior Mosaic Mural Placement



Site Plan Legend



Pedestrian Light



PPR Standard Light Fixture

Entrance Plaza

Vehicular Gate

Existing Driveway to be Repaired

Parking Spaces (2)

Renovated Community Garden

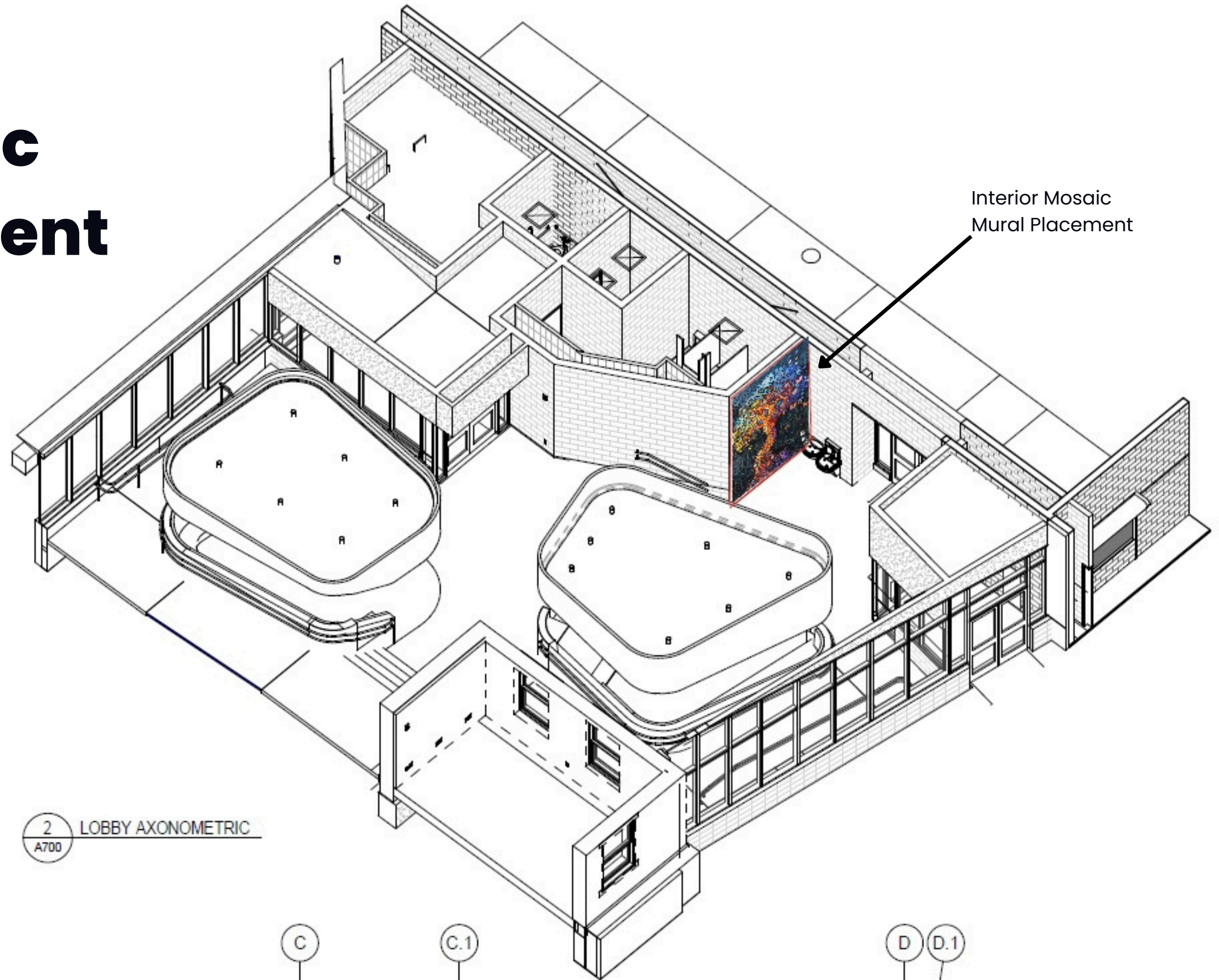
Vehicular Gate



PROJECT SCOPE BOUNDARY

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Interior Mosaic Mural Placement



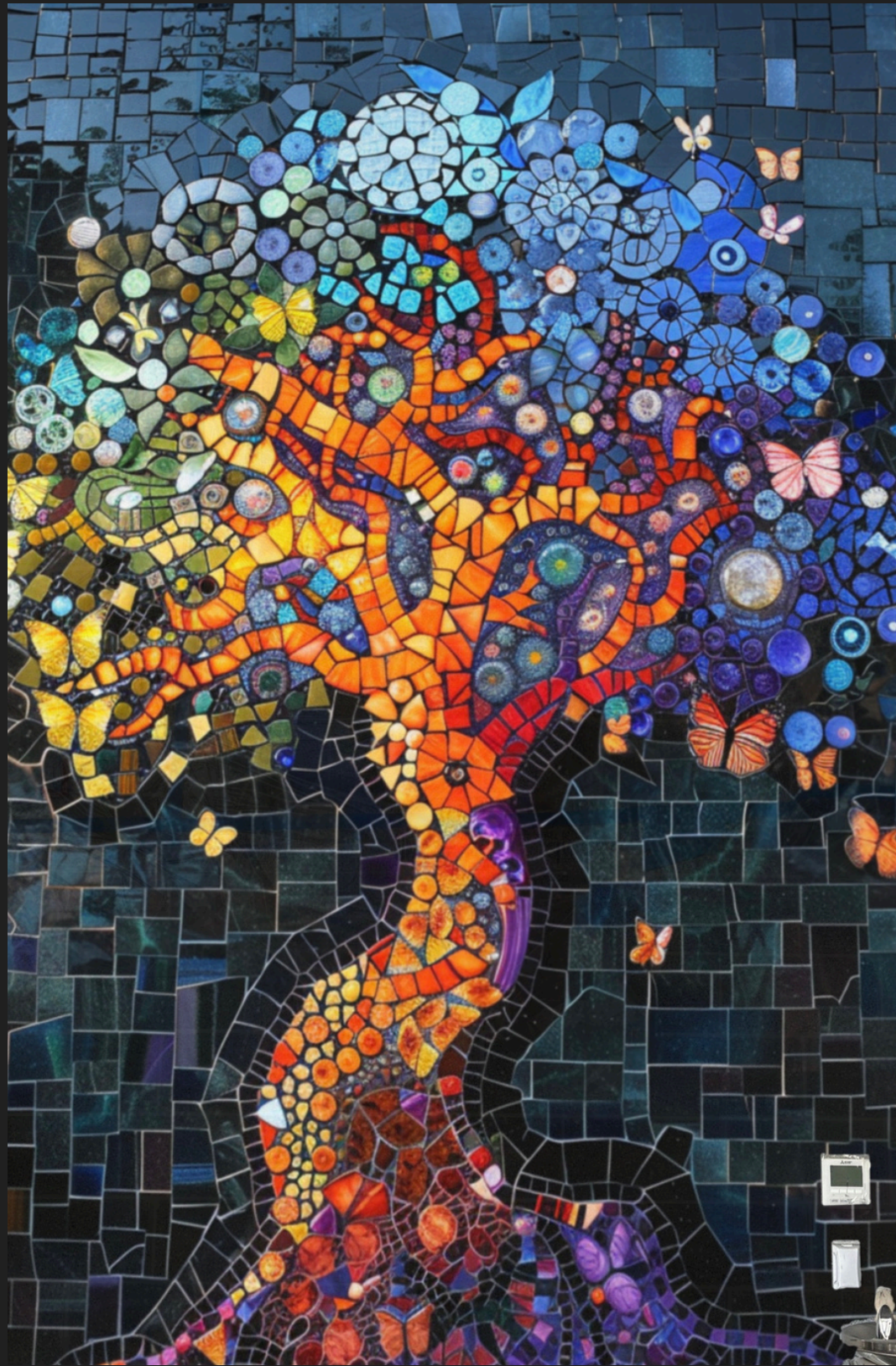
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Community Engagement

As part of the **We Are Stronger Together** mosaic mural project, lead artist Reginald Adams began his learning journey with a site visit to the FJ Meyer Recreation Center in the winter of 2025 to receive feedback and input from local community members who shared their vision for what the project should reflect. As part of the next phase of his process he will facilitate a series of (2) consecutive 3-hour hands-on community workshops at the FJ Meyer Recreation Center. These sessions will actively involve local youth, adults, and elders in the fabrication of portions of the mural, offering meaningful opportunities for creative expression, stewardship, and shared ownership of the final work. Participants recruited from the local community through the FJ Meyers Recreation Center and area schools will work alongside Reginald and his team to co-create a portion of the mosaic mural that will be incorporated into the final work. This collaborative process ensures the murals reflect the diverse spirit of Kissessing while celebrating the power of community and collaboration through public art.



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Creative Process

Reginald Adams' fabrication approach for large-scale glass and porcelain tile mosaic murals like "**We Are Stronger Together**" and "**The Tree of Life**" begins with immersive community research and collaborative design development.

He translates community stories into powerful visual narratives, rendered through hand-cut glass and porcelain tiles. The fabrication phase involves community workshops, where participants contribute to the mural's creation. Fabrication and production of the mural is meticulously executed by skilled artisans within Reginald's Houston-based art studio, integrating sustainable practices and site-specific details. Site visits and video check-ins are welcomed throughout the duration of the fabrication phase.

The completed artwork will be crated, shipped and delivered to the FJ Meyer Recreation Center by experienced and trained art handlers.

The installation of the mural is facilitated by Reginald's team of experienced artisans, with direct oversight by Reginald Adams, providing a seamless and professional installation that embodies best practices for site specific mosaic installations. The entire design, fabrication and installation processes will occur within the recommended timeline.

The result is a bold and vibrant mosaic mural and cultural landmark rooted in collective identity and shared vision.

Glass & Porcelain Tile Mosaic Texture

We Are Stronger Together

Materials & Supplies

Our mosaic murals are meticulously crafted using high-quality, low-maintenance materials that offer exceptional durability and resistance to the elements, ensuring the artwork's integrity is preserved for generations. We primarily use glass and porcelain tiles, chosen for their vibrant color, longevity, and superior weather resistance. As a proud corporate sponsor and supplier, DaTile, one of the world's largest tile manufacturers, provides us with full access to their premium tile collections, enhancing both the quality and creative potential of our work. Each mosaic mural is assembled using fiberglass mesh backing, the industry standard for transport and installation, which offers both flexibility and structural support. This technique enables us to pre-assemble the mural in a controlled studio setting, ensuring precise craftsmanship and seamless on-site installation.



Glass & Porcelain Tile Mosaic Texture



Glass & Porcelain Tile Mosaic Color Range



Glass & Porcelain Tile Mosaic Installation

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Installation

The mosaic mural will be installed by Reginald Adams and his team of experienced artisans, with a strong track record in public art installations. His team of experienced mosaic artists work to ensure the highest standards of craftsmanship. The process will include thorough surface preparation by the building contractor, and application of high-strength adhesive thin set mortar, and precise mounting of the pre-fabricated mosaic panels. The seams of the panels will be in-filled onsite for a seamless installation.

Once in place, the mural will be expertly grouted, sealed, and inspected to ensure structural integrity, aesthetic quality, and full compliance with city codes and public art guidelines.

Notably, glass tile mosaics are renowned for their low maintenance, high durability, and exceptional resistance to graffiti, making them an ideal medium for long-lasting public artworks. A comprehensive materials list and manufacturer specifications will be provided for review and approval.





Maintenance

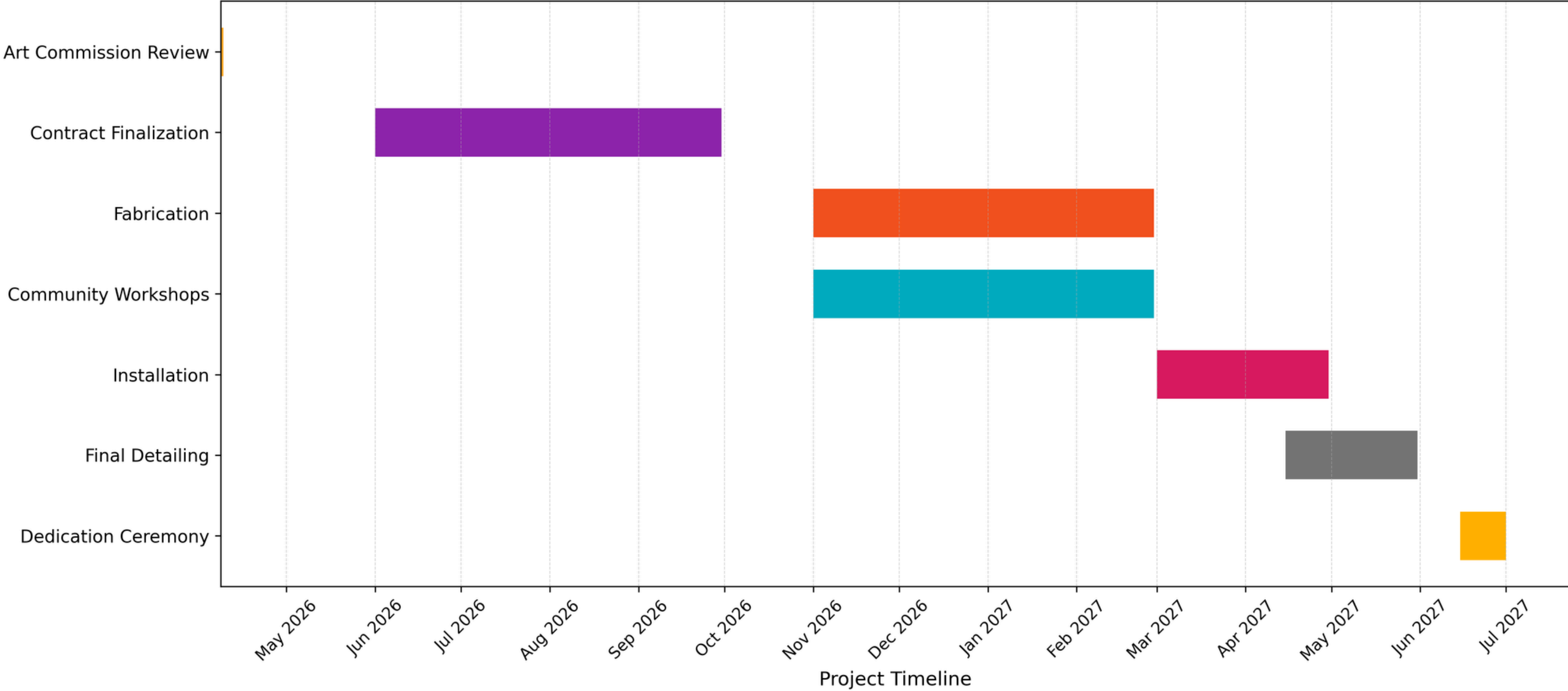
To preserve the beauty and longevity of our glass and porcelain tile mosaic murals, we recommend cleaning the surface annually using a soft cloth or sponge with a mild, pH-neutral detergent. Rinse with clean water and dry with a soft towel to prevent water spots. For grout lines or textured areas, use a soft-bristle brush. Avoid harsh chemicals, abrasive scrubbers, or high-pressure washing, as they can damage the surface and compromise the integrity of the grout.

As part of an annual maintenance routine, conduct a thorough inspection to check for cracked or missing tiles, grout erosion, or signs of water intrusion. We recommend sealing the grout at installation, and reapply a penetrating grout sealer every 2–3 years, or more frequently in high-exposure environments.

For graffiti vandalism, use a non-abrasive remover made for tile surfaces and always spot test first. For any significant repairs or restoration, consult Reginald Adams or installer to ensure the mural maintains its structural and artistic integrity.

Timeline

We Are Stronger Together
FJ Meyer Recreation Center Mosaic Project Timeline



Budget Estimate

Line Item	Amount (\$USD)
Artist Fee (18%)	28,800
Insurance (1%)	1,600
Contingency/Miscellaneous (10%)	16,000
Plaque Fabrication and Installation	3,000
Research Costs	2,500
Community Engagement	3,100
Materials	59,000
Engineering Costs (if needed)	2,500
Fabrication	27,000
Site Preparation	3,000
Installation	9,000
Anti-Graffiti Coatings	500
Delivery	4,000
Total	160,000



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About Reginald C. Adams

Reginald C. Adams is an acclaimed public artist, social entrepreneur, and community builder known for his transformative, community-driven public art projects. Based in Houston, Texas, Adams has spent over three decades creating award winning public art that celebrates cultural heritage, fosters connection, and inspires social change.

His work encompasses large-scale murals, mosaics, labyrinths, and immersive sound meditation experiences, all designed to engage communities in meaningful, healthy and participatory ways.



Public Art



Community Engagement



Sound Meditation



Sacred Spaces

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Thank You

FJ Meyer Recreation Center

Based on 30 years of professional experience in designing and co-creating site specific public art we are confident that we will produce, manage, and complete this project within budget and on schedule.

We look forward to answering your questions and working together to make this public art project a transformative experience for everyone involved.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Let's make art history together!



 832.208.1549

 Reginaldcadams@gmail.com

 www.reginaldadams.com



Reginald Adams

Francis J. Meyers Recreation Center: Public Art Proposal

Reginald C. Adams

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This mosaic mural will be a vibrant and uplifting artwork installed on the north-facing exterior wall and interior of the Francis J. Myers Recreation Center. The exterior design features six tall mosaic panels, each telling a different story rooted in the Kingsessing community, highlighting themes of heritage, youth, family, health and wellness, nature, and unity. Above these panels, a radiant sunburst or mandala will stretch across the top of the mural, symbolizing warmth, resilience, and a shared source of strength for the entire community.

The murals will be created using hand-cut glass and ceramic tiles, selected for their durability and vibrant color range. We will also integrate mirror, iridescent accents, and community-sourced objects when possible, such as tiles painted by local youth or elders, which will be incorporated into the panels to create a deeper sense of connection and belonging.

Visually, the mural will be colorful, bold, and highly detailed, with patterns and imagery inspired by African, Caribbean, and Indigenous design traditions. Each panel will stand on its own but also connect with the others through a flowing, radiant composition similar to stained glass in its luminosity.

Community engagement will be central to this project. We plan to host design workshops, storytelling circles, and tile-making sessions with local schools, youth programs, and community members. These sessions will inform the content of each panel, ensuring that the mural truly reflects the people who live, work, and gather in Kingsessing.

Ultimately, this artwork is meant to serve as a mirror, a celebration, and a gift. It will be a permanent tribute to the spirit of this neighborhood and the power of art to bring people together



FJ Meyers Recreation Center: Exterior Perspective



FJ Meyers Recreation Center: Public Art Commission



Mock-Up of Glass Tile Mosaic