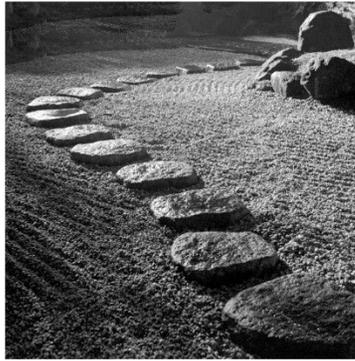


Oakland Watershed Art Markers:  
Final Design by Wowhaus

Presented June, 2010 & July 2010

inspiration: stepping stones across a creek



## INTRODUCTION

- The Oakland Watershed Art Markers are iconic, vibrant art forms that celebrate the vital ecology of Oakland's watershed and creeks.
- Cast in durable bronze with a contrasting dark patina, these low-relief pieces inset in sidewalks feature detailed naturalistic imagery that conjures the ecosystems of the watershed.
- The artwork is inspired by the artists' dialogue with community members who shared their own memories and knowledge of Oakland's creeks and watershed. These exchanges revealed a series of beloved, universal symbols; images that evoke a healthy watershed for people from a spectrum of cultural backgrounds and ages.
- In our design, these symbols are integrated into sculptural forms that evoke "stepping stones". The five stones invite the public to interact with the artwork by walking across a symbolic creek or waterway, just as if crossing an actual body of water. The stones (whose surface is cast from real rocks) are surrounded by dynamic, undulating lines that evoke water in motion.
- In addition to these elements, the markers will be accompanied by text stamped into the concrete that will indicate the name of the creek and watershed associated with each site; a slogan or saying such as "Creeks Beneath Our Feet" may accompany the artwork as well. A "North Marker" consisting of an arrow and the letter "N" marking North will orient the viewer to their place in the landscape.

#### INSTALLATION

- To install the artwork, a portion of the sidewalk will be removed with the artwork inset flush into newly poured concrete using J bolts to secure the artwork in the concrete. We propose incorporating "glitter grit", an industrial strength aggregate that has the effect of glitter. Subtly catching the light as people pass by, the glitter will draw viewers to the art and mimic the effect of light sparkling on water. (This simple, permanent finish is commonly used by hotels in their sidewalks.)

#### LOCATIONS

- 3-5 locations are yet to be selected pending final budget calculations.

Material examples: Cast Bronze with Patina:  
Textural Details are accentuated when patina is applied.





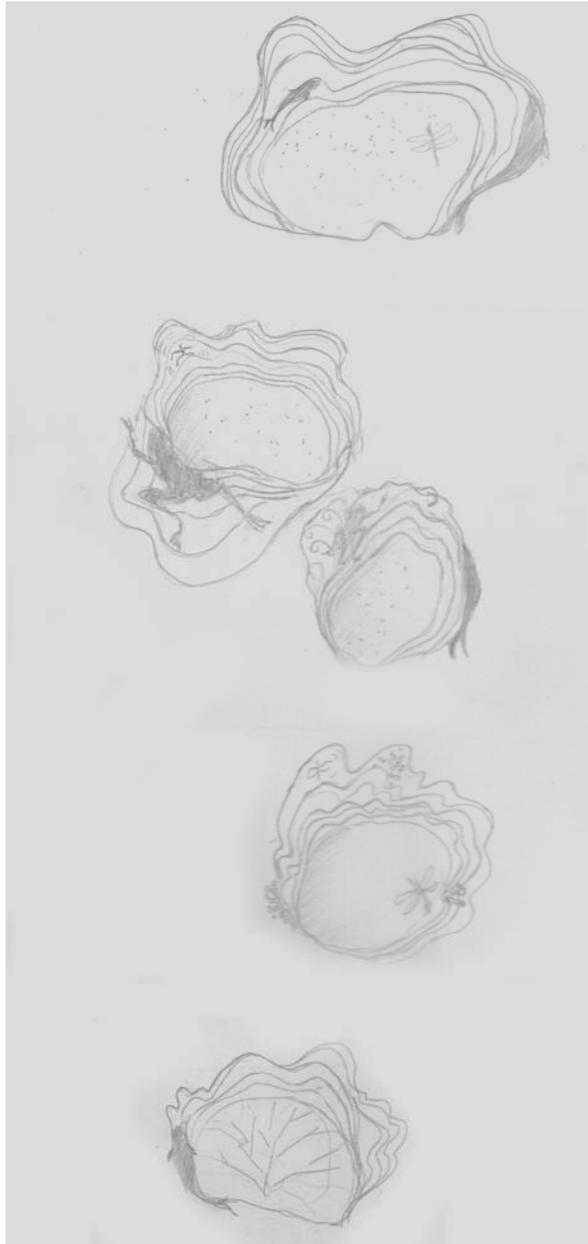




Examples of two cast bronze pieces by Wowhaus, commissioned by The San Francisco Arts Commission for Sunnyside Conservatory, SF



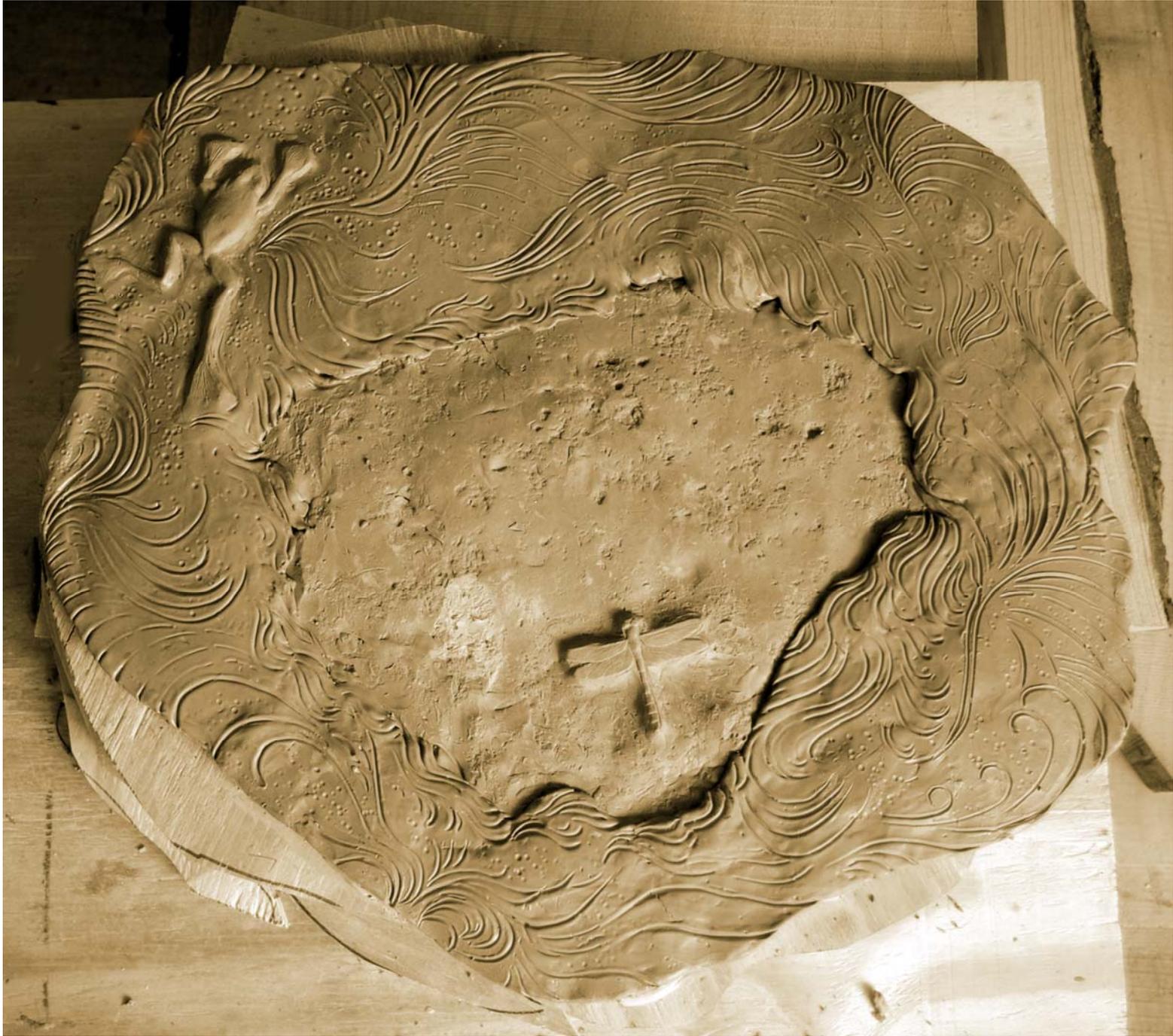
During wax phase of fabrication, Watershed Art Markers will be cast in wax. The wax castings will be set in plaster to simulate the artwork being set in the concrete sidewalk. Final adjustments to leveling can be made at this phase as needed.



Concept drawing: 5 "stepping stones" create a sequential composition at each site.

- The following images shows each of the five "stepping stones" individually, rendered in clay. All five pieces, which comprise a set, will be installed at each site, flush with the concrete sidewalk, as shown in the preceding concept drawing.
- Both the stone in the center and the surrounding clay imagery will be cast in bronze.
- (All imagery meets 1/4" depth ADA requirements. Final design has been reviewed and approved by a City of Oakland ADA Administrator.













Example of text stamped in  
concrete



## SPECIES DEPICTED IN WATERSHED ART MARKERS

- California Tiger Salamander
- Whitetail Skimmer (thick bodied dragonfly)
- Pacific Spiketail (narrow body)
- Northern Pacific Treefrog
- Trout