



**1500 Capitola Road
Request for Qualifications for Local Artist
May 4, 2020 ****New Deadline Below******

MidPen Housing, in collaboration with Santa Cruz Community Health (SCCH) and Dientes Community Dental (Dientes), is building a mixed-use community development which includes 57 units of affordable housing, 19,000-square-foot community medical clinic to be run by SCCH, with additional 1,200 square-foot retail pharmacy space, and an 5,000-square-foot community dental clinic to be run by Dientes.

The 1500 Capitola Way development will re-invigorate an historic site, formerly home to Robert Merriman, commander of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. This was the brigade of American fighters who contributed to the Spanish Civil War leading up to World War II. Merriman became the inspiration for Robert Hemmingway's novel "For Whom The Bell Tolls". In addition, the former Live Oak ranchette sub-division, has an important agricultural economic history for the Santa Cruz County unincorporated area.

As a way of linking the new development to the multiple historical narratives attached to the site, the aforementioned development partners are commissioning two art features which will highlight the compelling Live Oak Neighborhood legacy for both the new residents, the existing neighbors and visitors to the clinics. We have planned a set of permanent display panels featuring a narrative and visual illustration of Robert Merriman and the Abraham Lincoln Brigade story. This feature is intended to highlight themes of volunteerism, social justice and community service which are evident in the biography of Robert Merriman and align closely with the missions of each of the three non-profit development partners. The partners envision an installation that will connect the shared values of both past and present:

- SCCH: To improve the health of our patients and the community, and advocate the feminist goals of social, political, and economic equality;
- Dientes: To create lasting oral health for the underserved children and adults of Santa Cruz County and neighboring communities.
- MidPen: To provide safe, affordable housing of high quality to those in need and to establish stability and opportunity in the lives of our residents.

Historic Narrative - The Storyteller:

For hire: a visual artist residing in Santa Cruz County, who can represent the story of Robert Merriman and the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, as well as the rural Live Oak neighborhood of Santa Cruz County that fostered this community. Per the County's land use requirements, this interpretive historical installation should honor the history of the Robert Merriman, including references to his role as Commander of the Lincoln Brigade, the historical importance of the Brigade in fighting fascism in Spain, and the use of Merriman as the inspiration for Robert



Jordan in Hemmingway’s “For Whom the Bell Tolls.” Further, to make a connection between his work and the use of the space to ensure access to essential needs (health and housing) as a human right, not a privilege.

The artist will be asked to distill this biographical and historic legacy to create a set of visuals that will animate permanent the display panels. The artist will consult with the development partners, local historians, photographs, books, etc. to generate the imagery and visual narrative content to honor the historical importance of the site as it lends itself to present day use. The artist may specialize in illustration, printmaking, painting, photo collage, digital design, or combinations thereof, with the goal of integrating historic data with the character and function of the renewed site functions. The design will be presented to the County Historical Resources Commission (HRC) for final approval.

In both the public plaza and along proposed Merriman Way, we will mount panels that feature elements of this historical narrative of the former Robert Merriman home and neighborhood, which will be displayed in a “wayfinding” configuration throughout the site.

Who We Are:

MidPen Housing is one of the nation’s leading non-profit developers, owners and managers of high-quality affordable housing. In the fifty years since MidPen was founded, it has developed over 100 communities and 8,900 homes for low-income families, seniors and special needs individuals throughout Northern California. www.midpen-housing.org

Santa Cruz Community Health Center provides comprehensive primary care, pediatrics, prenatal, behavioral health, acupuncture, chiropractic services plus enrollment into food stamps, health insurance, and weekly food distribution services. As a Federally Qualified Health Center, and Health Care for the Homeless site, we serve all people regardless of their ability to pay. We believe health care is a human right and as such, should be delivered based on the best of what science and human compassion dictate. <https://www.schealthcenters.org/>

Dientes Community Dental is on a mission to create lasting oral health for the low-income children, adults and seniors of Santa Cruz County and neighboring communities. For over 25 years, Dientes has worked to ensure that cost, insurance, income, language, and transportation don’t prevent people from visiting the dentist. We do this by providing affordable, high-quality, and comprehensive dental care through our clinics and Outreach Program for 11,500 patients who are on public insurance or are uninsured. Dientes offers three programs that help combat the two biggest barriers to care: transportation and cost. <https://dientes.org/>

We also have a website where you can learn more about the 1500 Capitola Road project: <https://1500capitolaroad.org/>



Due to the unique history of the site and the public service-oriented nature of the new development, we are looking to fulfill this commission by hiring **Santa Cruz County Artists only**.

Application Requirements:

- 1) Resume;
- 2) Artist Statement: connect your previous experience with this opportunity: 500 word maximum;
- 3) No more than 8 and no less than 4 images (JPG) work samples from your portfolio: label with name, date, location, context, commission amount if applicable.

Email applications to: publicart@midpen-housing.org

Application Process: A jury made up of representatives from the three partners, a local historian, a member of the Santa Cruz County Arts Council (or a local artist), with the art consultant, will select two to three candidates from the pool of applicants for (online) interviews. Based on the artists’ past accomplishments as well as their ability to address the history of the site, a finalist will be selected.

For further questions about the art plan, or the application process, please call the Art Consultant: Melissa Smedley 831-737-5360. For questions regarding the development, please call Project Manager: Ashley Schweickart, 831-707-2133.

Project Timeline: Historical Signage Designer

Submissions Deadline	June 23, 2020
Interviews	June 29 - July 10, 2020
Selection	Late July 2020
Design Review	August 2020
Materials Submitted to County	September 2020
HRC Presentation	October 2020
Production	TBD (No earlier than Late 2021)
Installation	TBD (No earlier than Early 2022)





Ernest Hemingway's FORGOTTEN SANTA CRUZ HERO

Featured in "For Whom the Bell Tolls"



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by Ross Eric Gibson

