




PO Box 608, Coloma CA 95613 530•303•2404

To: Supervisor Parlin, EDC District 4

From: Howard Penn, President 

Date: May 8, 2020

Re: Hwy 49 Coloma/Lotus Artwork Project Permit Proposal

I would first like to thank you for helping usher the Cal Tran permit application through the Board of Supervisors for their preliminary approval of the process. I would like to update you and the county staff on the history of the project and the current status.

This project evolved out of the Coloma Lotus Business Council's work for several years on gateway signs. As that project developed, many stakeholders including the State Parks and community members thought it would be better to have something more unique than just a "Welcome to Coloma and Lotus" sign. Collaborating with community members and eventually Cal Trans during the Hwy 49 bridge project brought us to where we are now — a community artwork project that will definitely be unique, will hopefully exemplify the community and its personality, and will be more timeless than a welcome sign.

We developed a design team of about 8-10 volunteers from the community who wanted to help design and coordinate the artwork. The draft designs went through 7-8 revisions including multiple outreach and feedback sessions with the community. Here is an outline of the timeline:

2017

- Initiated community design team meetings and concept review
- outreach to community for design team members
- identified 6-10 team members for monthly meetings and review (involvement depending on timing and schedule)

2018

- released draft design ideas at 2 community meetings (in conjunction with other subject matter as well)
- collected feedback on the design at several community events including Bridgefest (a fundraiser for the artwork materials and costs)

2019

- Continued editing the design and installation requirements
- released updated design concept at annual fundraiser now called RiverFest and solicited feedback

2020

- compiled application package
- awaiting Coloma Lotus Advisory Committee meeting for public comment.

In short, we have reached out to the community on 4-5 occasions for feedback and for the most part have significant support for the project. The CLAC meeting on the 26th would have been our first “formal” county meeting, and we will attempt to make that happen as soon as advisory committees can meet with the public again.

We know we will receive feedback from Cal Trans that will alter our design and we will continue to involve the community during the process as we navigate the permit application process with the County and Cal Trans.

Information on our organization:

South Fork Arts and Recreation (SoFAR) - [www.So-FAR.org](http://www.So-FAR.org)

A 501c3 non-profit

Mission - SoFAR seeks to inspire and teach music and art, advocate for and help provide recreational opportunities and promote community involvement in Coloma, Lotus, and the surrounding area.

Let me know if you need anything else at this time.