

**ALAMEDA CREEK WATERSHED CENTER
SUNOL, CA**

PROJECT CLIENT: SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Muwekma Ohlone Tribe
of the
San Francisco Bay Area



ARTWORK OPPORTUNITY

- Large outdoor sculpture located on a 30' diameter plaza at the entrance to the Center's gardens
- Artwork integrated into the Center's gardens, which may consist of sculpture(s).

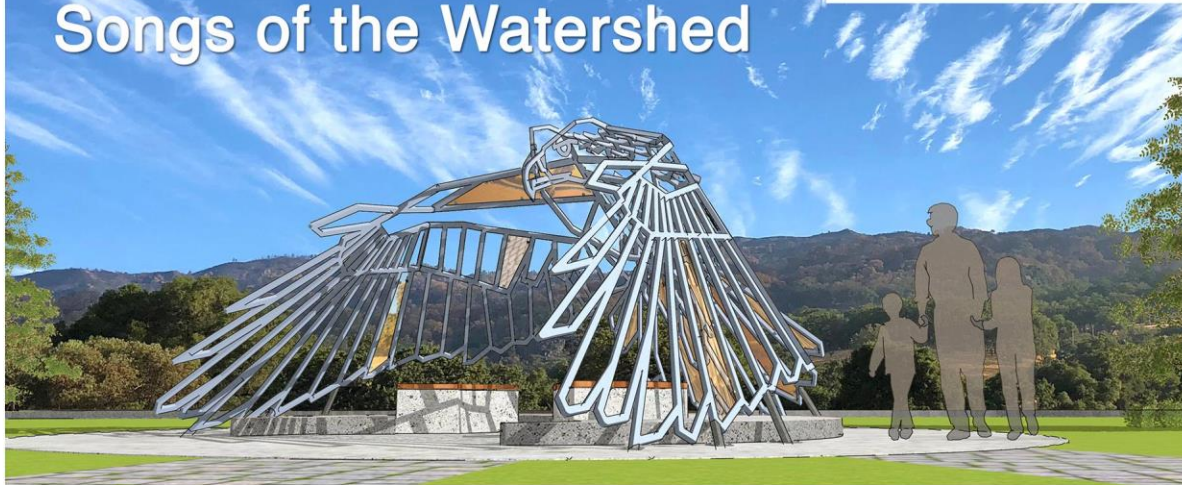
Project Goals

- Acknowledges the historical and contemporary presence of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe in the Alameda Creek Watershed.
- Highlights the Watershed's diverse natural resources and role in the SFPUC water supply system.
- Serves as a focal point, yet is integrated with the site and surroundings.

RUUPAYWA

Songs of the Watershed

A PROPOSAL FOR THE ALAMEDA CREEK WATERSHED CENTER



WALTER KITUNDU

The Alameda Creek Watershed Center in Sunol is just 16 miles from one of the most significant Golden Eagle breeding areas in the world. These birds are powerful residents of the watershed and surrounding areas. **Ruupaywa** (the eagle) is a chief, protector, and a creator in the Muwekma Ohlone creation story. This sculpture represents a protector spirit, a guardian of spaces above and below ground. This eagle is a framework, an invitation to the Muwekma Ohlone community to generate imagery and song in a collaborative partnership.

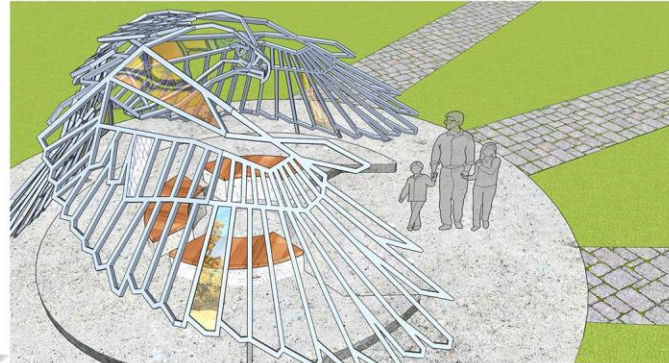


COMMUNITY

Guided walks with the Muwekma community will take place along Alameda Creek and images we collect will appear in the glass panels. We will conduct several "Song Sharing Circles" where bird and animal calls will be reinterpreted through song using the Chochoyeno language. The collected sounds, images, and documentation of community workshops will be made into a book and album to be shared with the Muwekma Ohlone tribe and project participants.

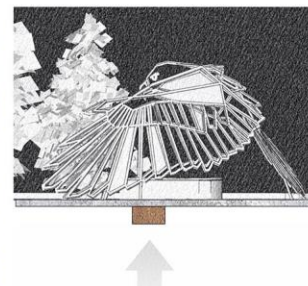
SCULPTURE

The Golden Eagle is made from painted square steel tubing and faces Mt. Diablo to the north. All corners and edges will be rounded and smooth to the touch. Its wings wrap around 3 benches oriented to the cardinal directions. Glass panels are printed with translucent images photographed by members of the tribe during "watershed walks." Shadows of the sculpture will be rich with color and texture projected from the glass on sunny days.



SOUND

The sound installation asserts the tribe's continued presence and survival despite centuries of erasure and oppression. Slowed bird and animal calls from the watershed are learned by participants. The melodies are then sung using Chochoyeno phrases. When sped up, the voices of the Muwekma people will ring out as the calls of Sandhill Cranes, White-crowned Sparrows, or frogs in the night. The recordings will be played from speakers hidden in the gardens, and located in the specific watershed habitat where the animals can be found.



ARCHIVE

The Muwekma community will be invited to ceremonially place artifacts and contemporary items in the soil below the sculpture in this place where so many relatives and objects were so recently removed. This is a small gesture to acknowledge indigenous survival and land rights amidst erasure and displacement. Objects placed in the archive will be protected, and the earth beneath the artwork will remain undisturbed.



Walter Kitundu
Ruupaywa: Songs of the Watershed (2023)
Steel, glass, sound

Photo: Ethan Kaplan Photography



Photo: Ethan Kaplan Photography



Photo: Ethan Kaplan Photography

A GUIDE TO THE IMAGES OF RUUPAYWA

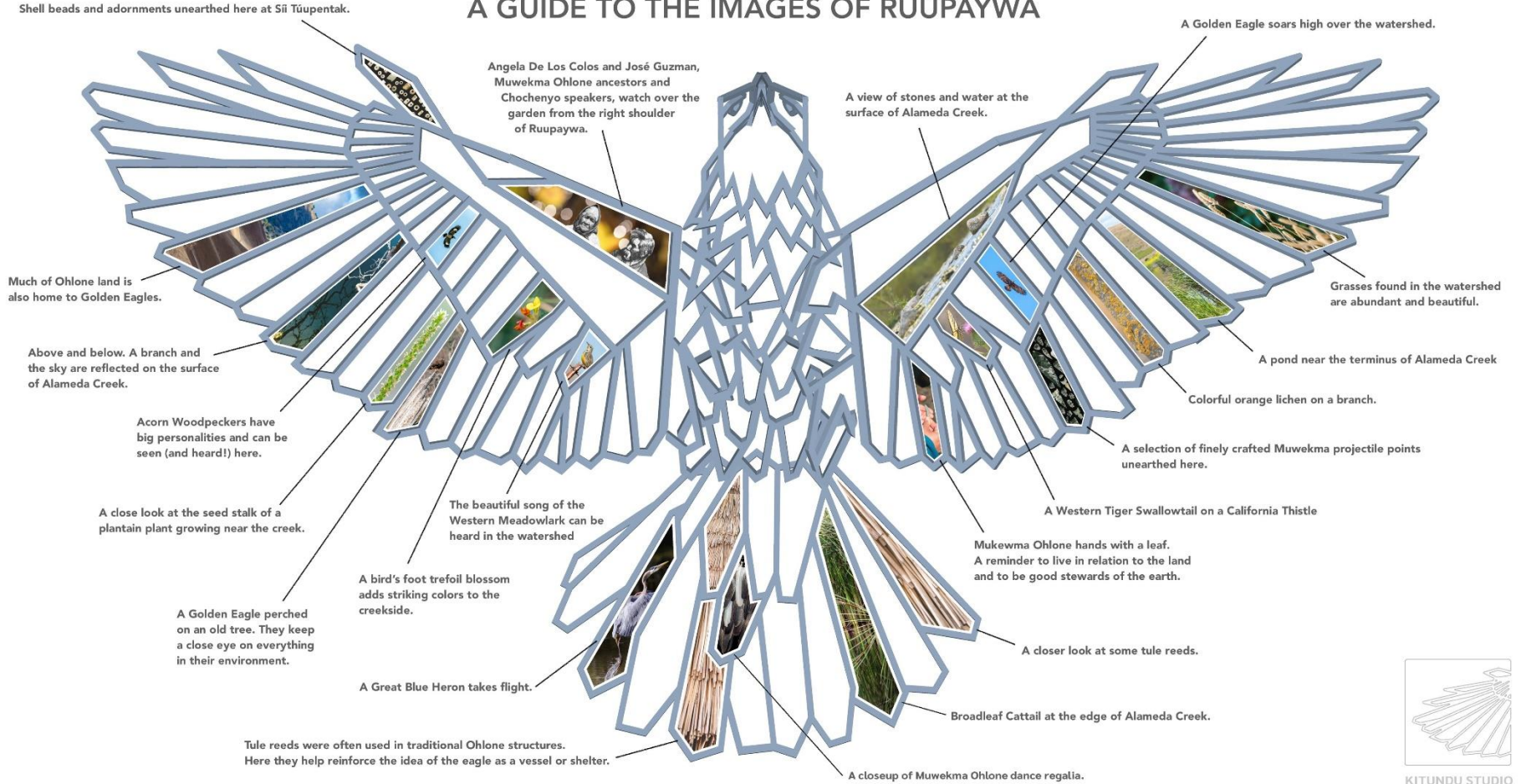




Photo: Ethan Kaplan Photography



Photo: Walter Kitundu



Photos: Walter Kitundu



Photo: Ethan Kaplan Photography



Photo: Ethan Kaplan Photography



Photo: Ethan Kaplan Photography





Adrian Arias
Traveler (2022)
Mixed media on paper

Photo: Ethan Kaplan Photography



Adrian Arias
Traveler (2022)
Mixed media on paper

Photo: Ethan Kaplan Photography