ANSON BURLINGAME TRIBUTE ART WORK

Conceptual Design / Phase IV / Portal Variations A-C

Presentation to the Burlingame City Council / Post-presentation Update
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Artist: John Roloff

Anson Burlingame Subcommittee Committee:

Mayor Brownrigg, Councilmember Beach,
Lance Fung and John Talley of Fung Collaboratives,
Ruth Waters, Russ Cohen, Leslie Holzman, Janet Martin, David Chai and Andra Norris
This document presents a group of updated options for an artwork to pay tribute to the spirit of the City of Burlingame’s name sake, Anson Burlingame. The images herein are a distillation of a design process conducted in concert with the members of the Anson Burlingame Subcommittee Committee and feedback from the Burlingame City Council and members of the public.

Initial, numerous, visits to greater Burlingame, time spent in and around the project site of Washington Park, both night and day, as well as research into the life and contribution of Anson Burlingame as a man and political leader generated a wide range of potential symbolic representations, explored visually and conceptually in Phase I and II studies, further developed and edited in Phase III, presented to the City Council, and leading to refinement in Phase IV, presented in this document.

The impressions of the project site in the park and the park itself were one of density, variable use, architectural structure and semi-pastoral maturity. The many, large, impressive trees of the park along with very large arena lights for the sports fields form an upper-level canopy and columnar structure. The integration of Burlingame High School and related sports and activity elements suggested an extended garden/campus/gymnasium analogous to ancient academies of systemic learning, practice and physical well-being. Anson Burlingame’s tenure as Ambassador to Qing dynasty China, his advocacy for social justice and his role as principal architect in the creation of the groundbreaking 1858 Burlingame-Seward Treaty, seemed very much in-step with this interpretation of the site.

The catalyst for the design of this project is the text of the Burlingame Treaty between the US and China as well as his writings and speeches as an ardent abolitionist. Salient selections about social justice from the treaty in English, Chinese and potentially Spanish and Ohlone make reference to specific episodes in California history. Extending Anson Burlingame’s spirit and concern for the treatment of humanity and the environment into present and future time are the inclusion of selected text by women, people of color and environmental thinkers.

Two portals placed along a major path through the wooded area of the park connecting Carolan Avenue with Burlingame High School enclose a space of mindful transit as well as viewer engagement and contemplation. The portal at the Carolan Avenue end of this space, visible from the Burlingame train station, in wood, is reminiscent of the sensibility of Bernard Maybeck or Julia Morgan, in structure and proportion or alternatively a portal in stone inspired by ancient Greek architecture, found gracing many historical buildings of American government and representative of the integrity of Anson Burlingame’s political life. at the end closest to the High School is a classic Chinese garden entrance.

Within the space created by the portals is imagined an inlaid square knot of white and green stone, interwoven materials that symbolize the American/China relationship of the Burlingame Treaty, larger concepts of unity and purpose Anson Burlingame stood for, and a subtle infinity-like symbol standing for an expansive future of justice, human dignity and environmental stewardship. As series of benches on either side of the path and inlaid knot have inscribed on their surface the selected aforementioned text that has inspired the entire project.

The placement of the project containing salient text and symbolic cross-cultural resonance of human dignity, unity and the environment along the prominent Carolan Avenue/Burlingame High School path highlights the relationship of education, ethics and the model of a holistic mind/body/nature ethos as a fitting interpretation of Anson Burlingame’s spirit and legacy.
PEACE TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE TRIBES OF INDIANS LIVING WITHIN ITS TERRITORY

Article I
The United States of America and the tribes of Indians living within its territory agree to peace with each other and to establish friendly relations between them.

Article II
The United States of America and the tribes of Indians living within its territory agree to respect the boundaries of each other's territory and to refrain from any acts of aggression or hostility against each other.

Article III
The United States of America and the tribes of Indians living within its territory agree to respect each other's rights and freedoms, including the right to free trade and navigation on the rivers and lakes which lie within the boundaries of each other's territory.

Article IV
The United States of America and the tribes of Indians living within its territory agree to respect each other's religious and cultural traditions and to promote understanding and cooperation between them.

Article V
The United States of America and the tribes of Indians living within its territory agree to cooperate in the development of economic and social programs that will benefit both parties.

Article VI
The United States of America and the tribes of Indians living within its territory agree to respect each other's legal systems and to cooperate in the enforcement of laws and regulations.

Article VII
The United States of America and the tribes of Indians living within its territory agree to respect each other's right to self-determination and to support their efforts to achieve this goal.

Article VIII
The United States of America and the tribes of Indians living within its territory agree to cooperate in the protection of the environment and to promote sustainable development.

Article IX
The United States of America and the tribes of Indians living within its territory agree to respect each other's cultural heritage and to promote the preservation and transmission of this heritage for future generations.

Article X
The United States of America and the tribes of Indians living within its territory agree to cooperate in the resolution of any disputes that may arise between them, including disputes related to the implementation of this treaty.

Done at Washington the twentieth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four.

William S.eward
H. A. Burchard
Josephine C. A. Michael
Charles B. Fairman
N. C. S. B. A.

BURLINGAME TREATY / ENGLISH/CHINESE TRANSLATIONS

BEIJING, February 25, 1983

The United States of America and the People's Republic of China agree to establish diplomatic relations.

The United States of America and the People's Republic of China agree to respect each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

The United States of America and the People's Republic of China agree to promote economic and cultural exchange and cooperation.

The United States of America and the People's Republic of China agree to respect each other's cultural heritage and to promote the preservation and transmission of this heritage.

The United States of America and the People's Republic of China agree to cooperate in the resolution of any disputes that may arise between them, including disputes related to the implementation of this treaty.

Done at Beijing the twentieth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty-three.
Option A-C Layout - Six wood (option A & B) or stone (option C) benches with selections from the Burlingame Treaty in four languages: English/Chinese/Spanish/Ohlone, Burlingame’s writings/speeches, and statements from women, people of color and environmental thinkers, etched into the top surfaces.
Six wooden benches with selections from the Burlingame Treaty in four languages: English/Chinese/Spanish/Ohlone, Burlingame’s writings/speeches, and statements from women, people of color, and environmental thinkers, etched into metal top surfaces.
Six wooden benches with selections from the Burlingame Treaty in four languages: English/Chinese/Spanish/Ohlone, Burlingame’s writings/speeches, and statements from women, people of color and environmental thinkers, etched into metal top surfaces.
Six wooden benches with selections from the Burlingame Treaty in four languages: English/Chinese/Spanish/Ohlone, Burlingame’s writings/speeches, and statements from women, people of color and environmental thinkers, etched into metal top surfaces.
PORTAL OPTION B / WASHINGTON PARK / CAROLAN AVENUE ENTRANCE

Six wooden benches with selections from the Burlingame Treaty in four languages: English/Chinese/Spanish/Ohlone. Burlingame’s writings/speeches, and statements from women, people of color and environmental thinkers, etched into metal top surfaces.

Portal Ship / 19th century sails metal

Portal Ship / Chinese sails metal

A/B Portal wood/metal

Chinese Garden Portal wood/metal

Square Knot path inlay white/green stone
PORTAL OPTION B / WASHINGTON PARK / SIDE VIEW

Square Knot path inlay
white/green stone

A/B Portal
wood / metal

Six wooden benches with selections from the Burligame Treaty in four languages: English/Chinese/Spanish/Ohlsone. Burligame’s writings/speeches, and statements from women, people of color and environmental thinkers, etched into metal top surfaces.

Portal Ship / 19th century sails metal

Portal Ship / Chinese sails metal

Portal Ship / Chinese Garden Portal
wood/metal
PORTAL OPTION B (DETAIL) / WASHINGTON PARK / SIDE VIEW

Portal Ship / 19th century sails
metal

A/B Portal
wood / metal

Square Knot path inlay
white/green stone

Six wooden benches with selections from the Burlingame Treaty in four languages: English/
Chinese/Spanish/Ohlone. Burlingame’s writings/
speeches, and statements from women, peo-
ple of color and environmental thinkers, etched
into metal top surfaces.
Greek Inspired Front Portal
white stone

Chinese Garden Gate Portal
green stone

PORTAL OPTION C / WASHINGTON PARK / CAROLAN AVENUE ENTRANCE

Three green stone/three white stone benches with selections from the Burlingame Treaty in four languages: English/Chinese/Spanish/Olhone. Burlingame’s writings/speeches, and statements from women, people of color, and environmental thinkers, etched into metal top surfaces.
PORTAL OPTION C / WASHINGTON PARK / SIDE VIEW

Three green stone/three white stone benches with selections from the Burlingame Treaty in four languages: English/Chinese/Spanish/Ohlone. Burlingame’s writings/speeches, and statements from women, people of color and environmental thinkers, etched into metal topper surfaces.
Two of six green/white stone benches with selections from the Burlingame Treaty in four languages: English/Chinese/Spanish/Ohlone, Burlingame’s writings/speeches, and statements from women, people of color and environmental thinkers, etched into metal top surfaces.