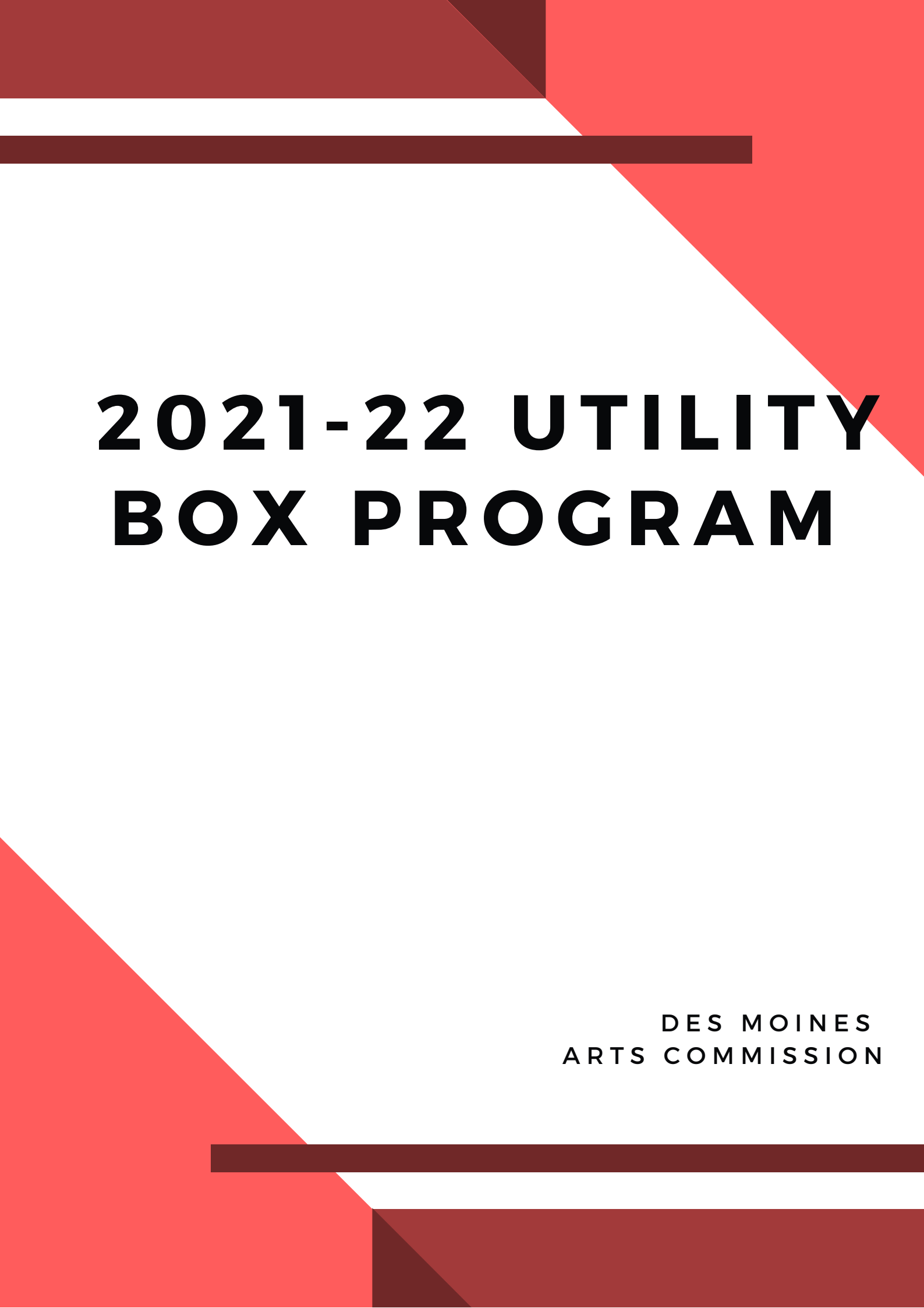




2021-22 UTILITY BOX PROGRAM

DES MOINES
ARTS COMMISSION

BLANCA SANTANDER

SEATTLE, WA

TITLE: OCTOPUS

LOCATION: 22600 BLK PACIFIC HWY S; EAST SIDE



This piece is meant to bring out the spirit of the waterfront by showing us the dreamy and alien essence of the sea. A Pacific Giant Octopus swims through the air with sprawling arms, surrounded by jellyfish and sea stars. The air around them is cloudy, but the presence of sea creatures reminds us of deep waters. The blend of the nature of air and water sustains that dreamy sense, reminding passerby's of how close, yet far away, the sea and its creatures are.

BIO

My work as a community-oriented artist has its origins in my home country of Peru, working with indigenous communities through organizations like UNICEF illustrating materials for educational purposes. But it wasn't until after I moved to Seattle that I continued to be more community-oriented in my work. Within each of my projects, I have always strived to promote positivity, healing, strength, and heritage. One of my first projects whilst curating artwork at the Washington State Convention Center was working with at-risk children in the Youth Eastside Services program. In more recent years I have focused on public artwork, wanting to share more positive themes that emphasize togetherness and restoration in the area surrounding the installation. For instance, "Park Your Thoughts" was an interactive installation that I created that allowed for passerby's and people who lived in the vicinity to rearrange word tiles that only had positive and community-oriented words into poetry. Another example is the mural I created for Cal Anderson Park, which was designed to reflect the surrounding neighborhood and the key attractions of the area. Overall, I try to promote positivity through my artwork in the public and embrace that area's heritage as well as my own.

STATEMENT

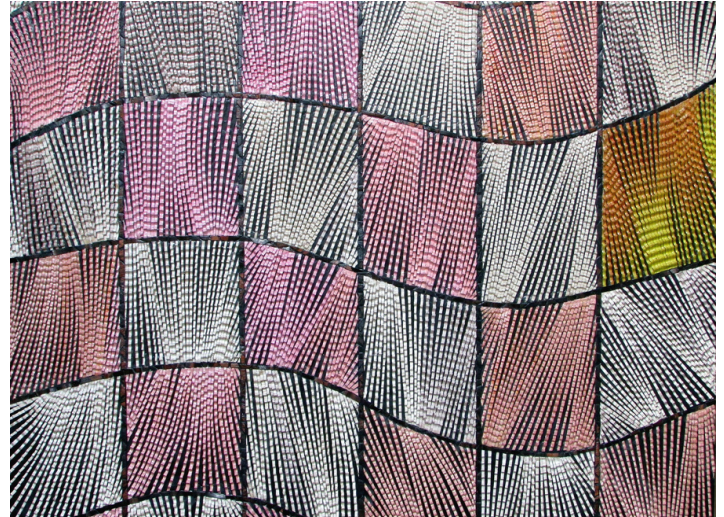
For this project, I chose to indulge in our state's conservationism and Des Moines' status as a waterfront city. This part of the Pacific Northwest is surrounded by the beauty of nature and sea life, so I decided to embrace both themes. Two of my pieces have several sea creatures, one prominently featuring sea turtles and the other our Pacific Giant Octopus. I blend the aspects of floating in the air with swimming through water to create a brighter image, and to add a dream-like feeling to it. The other piece focuses on the land, as we're in a state that promotes the conservation of nature and forests—the Evergreen State, though I wanted to focus on the diverse and colorful characteristics of flowers. I picked the geranium because I see them a lot across the Pacific Northwest and because it's a flower that I remember from my childhood. It also produces a bounty of color that spreads easily across the empty grays of the utility boxes.

NAOKO MORISAWA

LYNNWOOD , WA

TITLE: PINK ICHIMATSU

LOCATION: S KENT-DES MOINES ROAD / PACIFIC
HWY 5; CENTER ISLAND, NE CORNER



My artwork is handmade mosaic painting made of hundreds of small slices of natural, oil-stained or painted wood pieces on wood board. I like to incorporate the grain patterns and enhance the natural beauty with oil-stain. The life of tree and energy of each grain of wood are why I use wood.

BIO

Born in Tokyo, I have been a mosaic artist for decades, currently working in the Greater Seattle area and beyond. I moved from Japan to the Pacific Northwest in the U.S. in 2004. I have exhibited my work across the U.S. in more than 30 states, and in international museums including the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, the Bellingham National at Whatcom Museum, the Dublin Biennale in Ireland etc. Glad to be participating in the PNW community public art project.

STATEMENT

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When seen from a distance, my artwork looks like a painting. The details of the work and mosaic technique slowly emerge when the viewer comes closer. Look closely and see the vibrancy and movements of the wood patterns. By using wood mosaic I can show the life and energy. I can talk about life and the energetic atoms inside my work with wood pieces. I make art that is natural, playful and lifts people's spirits. But I also want my artwork to be about myself, like a diary. Each piece is created with the care one would use writing a letter to a loved one or friend. Mysterious creatures, abstract objects, geometric image, landscape are recurring themes in my work.

I'm currently developing new works using other types of materials such as different kinds of paper and cardboard in addition to the wood mosaic art-form. Paper, cardboard and wood are actually made from wood. Paper and cardboard have been transformed by human/ modern machine. Materials are united once again and becoming one of a kind mosaic art painting with a new life.

MINH CARRICO

EDMONDS, WA

TITLE: SILVER LINING

LOCATION: 21600BLK MARINE VIEW DR. S; EAST
SIDE



The 196 iPhone images represent the countless walks during the summer of 2011 in the Capitol Hill neighborhood to compel my newborn child to take a nap.

BIO

Film photography became the cornerstone of my visual arts career after stepping into the high school black & white photography darkroom in Little Rock, AR. I launched a business as an advertising and editorial photographer prior to graduating college in Austin, Texas. My business model expanded by incorporating graphic design projects while living in New York City. Clients include: Annie Leibovitz, Benjamin Moore Paint, Martha Stewart Living, MTV, and Whole Foods Market.

My work in the commercial arts led my career shift into higher education as a tenure instructor for the Visual Communications department at Edmonds College. My studio practice focuses on producing public art installations and curating gallery exhibitions that examines the issues of citizenship, standardization and the construction of identities. My work has been exhibited in museums and galleries across North America and are held within public collections.

STATEMENT

My public art practice reflects upon the memories and knowledge within a designated location. The site-specific response explores the intersectionality between the history of the area and the folks who will engage with the installation on a daily basis. My inspiration for developing a creative solution is drawn from the unique circumstances and conditions surrounding the location. I seek to create an installation that becomes a focal point and a place maker for generations to come.

CLARE PARFITT

DES MOINES, WA

TITLE: WELL HELLO THERE

LOCATION: S 216TH ST / PACIFIC HWY S; SW CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION



This piece portrays a curious harbor seal. The title expresses what I think the seal might be saying and thinking. I swim year round in Puget Sound in a wetsuit, usually from the beach park, and with other friends from a swim group at Redondo or Saltwater state park. There are often many curious people watching me and asking me questions afterwards.

When swimming, I frequently have encounters with inquisitive and friendly seals, who swim right up to me and often follow me throughout my swim. I love communing with these curious and intelligent animals.

CLARE PARFITT

DES MOINES, WA

TITLE: BEACH PARK SUNSET

LOCATION: KENT-DES MOINES ROAD / MARINE VIEW
DR. S; NORTHEAST CORNER



This piece portrays a sunset as seen from the Des Moines beach park, where the creek runs into the Sound. I love the lone tree that is often silhouetted against the colorful sky. I live 2 blocks from the beach park and walk down there almost every day. I am inspired by this beautiful area of Des Moines in my backyard and have witnessed many amazing sunsets.

BIO

I have always been drawn to nature and colors, as a small child becoming intrigued with the flora and fauna around me, and with crayons and coloring. I started to seriously pursue art at the age of 12 and studied art and graphic design in high school and college. I have been showing and selling my artwork, as well as completing custom commissions,

since 2004. I have worked as a professional graphic designer for over 30 years. I am a passionate outdoor and nature lover. I love to explore the varied terrain of the Pacific Northwest. I take many photos while on hiking and climbing excursions, and use these as the basis for much of my artwork. I also love to draw outside on location in various parks around where I live in Des Moines and in the Greater Seattle area.

STATEMENT

I work in the colored pencil medium, which allows for a great deal of precision and detail. I describe my work as stylized realism. I am inspired by artists including Georgia O'Keefe, Ansel Adams, and Emily Carr.

Some of my favorite subject matters are:

1. Complex rockscapes, in which I often exaggerate the colors and shapes which can form the piece into an abstract composition.
2. Gnarled old-growth Pacific Northwest trees, including big leaf maples, madrones, ponderosa pines, and cedars
3. Sunset silhouettes, of which I find much inspiration living in Des Moines
4. Flowers. I love the varied and beautiful flora in the Northwest, ranging from local gardens containing rhododendrons, roses and hydrangeas, plus wildflowers found in mountain meadows.