

RISING PHOENIX 鳳凰涅槃

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Art Proposal for the Portsmouth Square Club House Art Walls

The Chinatown and Manilatown neighborhoods surrounding Portsmouth Square are historic communities of resilience and rebirth. My design for ceramic tile murals on the clubhouse interior and exterior walls foregrounds the acts of heroism and love that turns crises into transformation.

Bamboo and Anahaw leaves, which appear throughout, are symbols of resilience in Chinese and Filipino culture, respectively.

The exterior art wall is composed of three comic panels that show scenes of everyday acts of heroism and kindness

The phoenix is a symbol of rebirth in Western culture, and in Chinese culture it stands for abundance, harmony, peace, and prosperity.

Monarch butterflies symbolize transformation, rebirth, and the beauty of migration.



Exterior Wall 外牆



Interior Wall 內牆

The maps of historic Chinatown and Manilatown recall the history of segregation that created ethnic enclaves, but also community-building that created strong attachments to place.

These comic panels depict the 1974 Jung Sai strike for workers' rights, the 1968-1977 International Hotel struggle for housing, and mutual aid efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. We can look to our predecessors for strength and lessons as we face crises of our own.

The artwork will first be created as watercolor and ink paintings, which will then be edited digitally and printed onto 12" square ceramic tiles. The tiles will be laid out by professionals as a grid to compose the image in mural form.



View of the walls from inside the clubhouse.



Architectural drawings of both walls.