



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
AND CIVIC ARTS COMMISSION JOINT
MEETING AGENDA**

**Thursday, July 10, 2025
6:00 PM**

**City Council Chamber
200 Old Bernal Avenue
Pleasanton, CA 94566**

The meeting will be held in-person and will be streamed at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheCityofPleasanton>.

Public participation: It is requested that members of the public wishing to address the Commission submit a speaker card. When public comment is opened on an agenda item, individuals may speak once per agenda item.

In Person:

- Submit a physical speaker card at the meeting. When your name is called, please provide comment at the podium.
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CALL TO ORDER

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call

MATTERS FOR THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW/ACTION/INFORMATION

1. Recommend the City Council approve the Don Lewis Harmonic Symphony public art project conceptual design, proposed location, and budget amendments for art acquisition and installation

ADJOURNMENT

Notice

Under Government Code §54957.5, any writings/documents regarding an open session item on this agenda provided to a majority of the Commission after distribution of the agenda packet will be available for public inspection at the Library and Recreation department located at 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton, CA 94566.

Accessible Public Meetings

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**JOINT MEETING OF THE CIVIC ARTS AND PARKS AND
RECREATION COMMISSIONS AGENDA REPORT**

July 10, 2025
Library and Recreation

**TITLE: RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE DON LEWIS HARMONIC
SYMPHONY PUBLIC ART PROJECT CONCEPTUAL DESIGN, PROPOSED
LOCATION, AND BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR ART ACQUISITION AND
INSTALLATION**

SUMMARY

The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council (PCAC), in collaboration with Nancy and Gary Harrington, has proposed the development and installation of the *Don Lewis Harmonic Symphony* public art project. The ensemble consists of six musical pieces and one commissioned piece designed to honor Don Lewis, an innovator in electronic music, advocate for youth music education, and long-time Pleasanton resident. The artwork is intended to be installed at Delucchi Park. The funding for the acquisition is included in the H.A.P.P.Y. fund, compiled mainly of donations from Nancy and Gary Harrington. Funding for the art installation is available through park dedication fees.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend the City Council approve the Don Lewis Harmonic Symphony public art project conceptual design, proposed location, and budget amendments for art acquisition and installation.

BACKGROUND

The Pleasanton Municipal Code, Chapter 13.16 Art in Public Places outlines the process for gifts and loans of public art displayed in public places.

This project was first introduced to the Civic Arts Commission at its August 5, 2024 meeting and formally added to the Commission's Short-Term Work Plan at that time. As part of the approved work plan for fiscal year (FY) 2024/25, staff collaborated with the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council (PCAC) and Nancy and Gary Harrington to research potential artworks and locations, convened the Public Art Selection Subcommittee (PASS), and prepared a report for the Commission's review.

PASS convened virtually on November 15, 2024. Participants included representatives from the Civic Arts Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and staff from the Library and Recreation and Public Works Departments. The president of PCAC also attended and shared details about the proposed project being led by PCAC in collaboration with Nancy and Gary Harrington. PASS reviewed the proposal in accordance with the criteria outlined in the municipal code, including artistic merit, proposed location, installation requirements, and long-term maintenance considerations.

Information about the Piece

PCAC shared the concept honoring Don Lewis, an influential figure in youth music education, founder of the "Say Yes to Music" program, renowned inventor of the electronic synthesizer, and long-time Pleasanton resident. Known for his ability to inspire audiences of all ages, Don Lewis's legacy would be commemorated through an ensemble of six musical pieces and a commissioned artwork designed to be displayed together. The proposed artwork would be commissioned from Mountain Forge in Truckee and is envisioned as a dynamic representation of Don conducting an orchestra of instruments, a tribute to both his innovation and passion for music education.

Artistic Merit

PASS members expressed strong support for the proposal's artistic merit. The design was noted to be reminiscent of interactive, sound-based public art seen in other cities, visually striking, playful, and likely to encourage public engagement. While the conductor concept is familiar, its execution in this project was viewed as offering a distinctive and meaningful artistic experience specific to Pleasanton. The abstract form of the conductor, paired with sculptural instrument elements, was described as both inviting and thought-provoking, aligning with the City's goal of enhancing public spaces through accessible and inspiring artwork.

The harmonically tuned instruments are thoughtfully designed to ensure that anyone, regardless of age or musical ability, can participate and produce pleasing sounds. This inclusive approach supports creativity, self-expression, and shared experiences, fostering social connection through music and reinforcing the City's vision for public art that engages and unites the community.

Location

The proposed location at Delucchi Park was viewed favorably, as it would help activate a different area of the park without interfering with the existing bandstand. Some concerns were raised about visibility due to nearby trees, but staff confirmed that the selected site would be open and will allow for clear views from the sidewalk. The goal for the placement is that it will strike a balance between visibility, shade, and compatibility with other park uses.

Sound

The instruments in the Free Notes Harmony Park Sculptural Ensemble are precision-tuned to specific musical scales, ensuring harmonious sound regardless of the player's skill level. They are also designed for outdoor use and produce pleasant, resonant tones that are audible without being disruptive.

DISCUSSION

The Don Lewis Harmonic Symphony is designed to be inclusive, inviting people of all ages and abilities to explore and enjoy music together. Because the instruments are tuned to always produce harmonic tones, the experience will be both accessible and rewarding for users with no prior musical training. The installation will encourage shared participation, spontaneous collaboration, and intergenerational interaction, creating a unique opportunity for community bonding through the arts. The location at Delucchi Park will tie into the musical theme of Concerts in the Park. Attachment 1 shows the proposed location and conceptual design for the art installation.

Staff is requesting that the City Council approve the Don Lewis Harmonic Symphony Public Art Project conceptual design, proposed location, and budget amendment for art acquisition and installation. The total price of the art acquisition is unknown at this time, as the artist will not provide a quote until the project is approved. Staff anticipate that the purchase of all pieces for this artwork will be approximately \$110,000, and funding is available in the H.A.P.P.Y. Fund. Funding for installation is available in the park dedication fees the City received from the County in FY 2024/25, specifically for Lions Wayside Park. Per the letter dated March 17, 2025, these funds were dedicated specifically for lawn conversion for concert viewing, musical public art piece, and electrical upgrades.

EQUITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

The public art program strives to align art projects with funding and staffing resources, as well as to identify projects that celebrate diversity and would be enjoyed by all residents and visitors in Pleasanton.

OUTREACH

A meeting of the PASS Committee was held on November 15, 2024.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

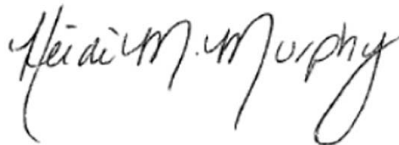
This action advances the ONE Pleasanton Citywide Strategic Plan goal of *Investing in Our Environment*: Infrastructure, Public Facilities and Sustainability, Strategy 7 – Continue to invest in parks, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure, and public art.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fund balance in the H.A.P.P.Y Fund (Fund 108) is approximately \$127,000. \$10,000 is budgeted in account 10850103-440109 for art acquisition in FY 2025/26. Staff request that the City Council approve a budget amendment to increase the budget in account 10850103-440109 by \$100,000 to \$110,000. This would provide a total funding source of \$110,000 for the project. The total price of the art acquisition is unknown at this time, as the artist will not provide a quote until the project is approved by the City Council. Staff anticipate that the purchase of all pieces for this installation will be approximately \$110,000. Staff also request that the City Council approve a budget amendment to appropriate \$60,000 from account 20330112-430107 for art installation.

Prepared by:

Submitted by:

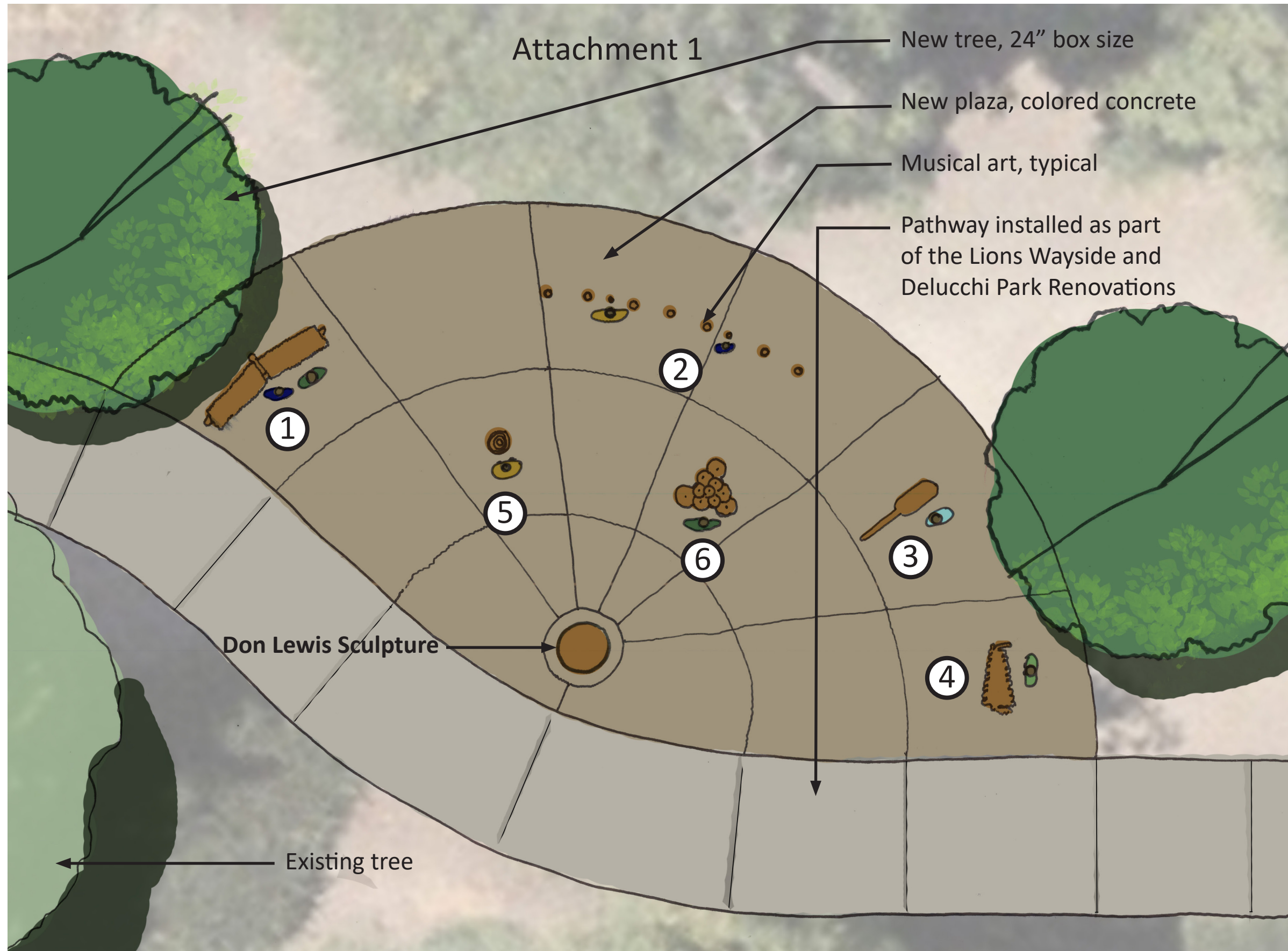


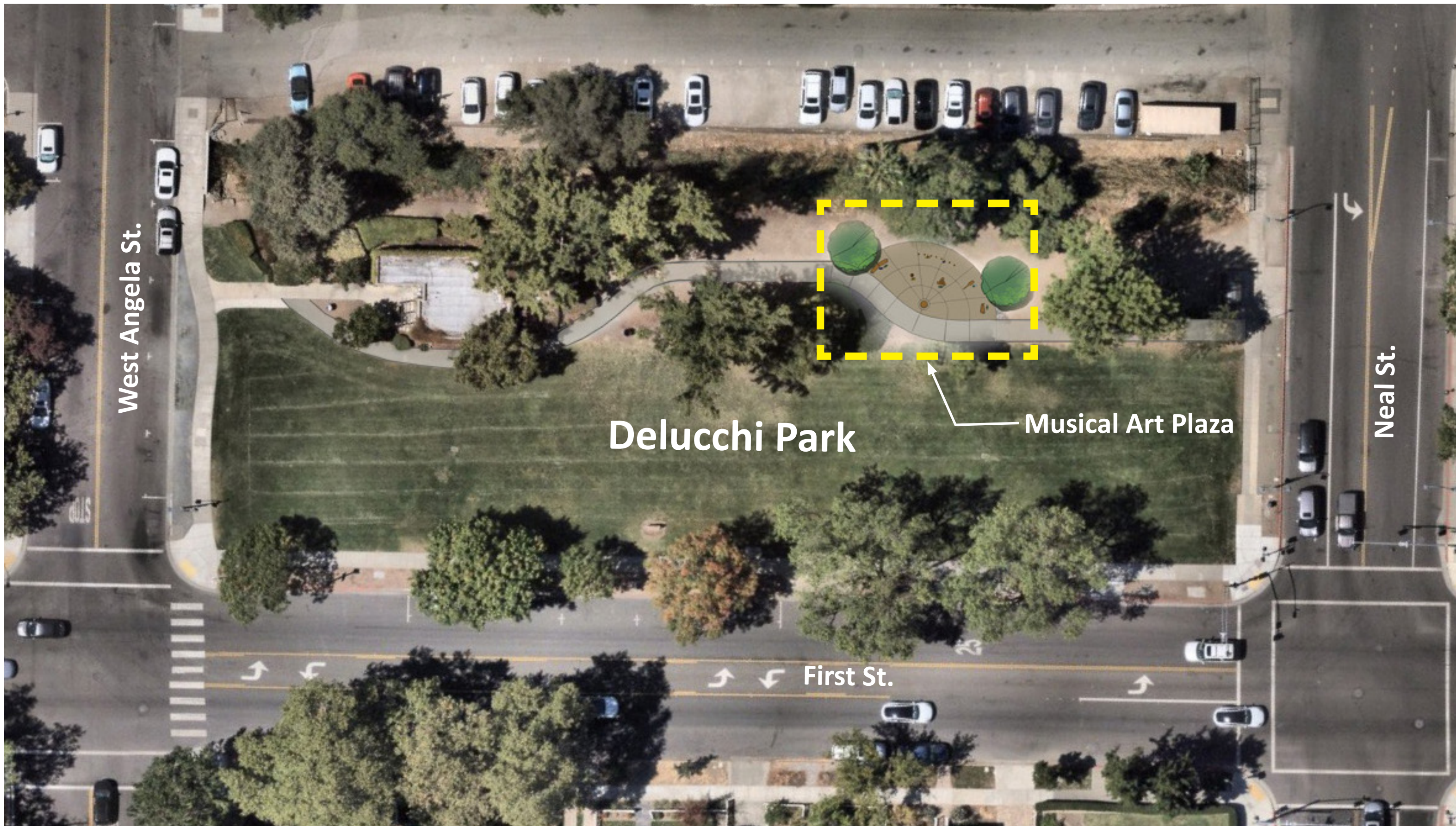
Rachel Prater,
Recreation Manager

Heidi Murphy, Director of
Library and Recreation

Attachments:

1. Delucchi Park Musical Art Plaza - Conceptual Plan





West Angela St.

Neal St.

First St.

Delucchi Park

Musical Art Plaza