



REGULAR MEETING – ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION AGENDA

AUGUST 5, 2025, 6:00 PM
BY ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone and/or Zoom, or a recording in the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at norwalkct.gov/meetings.



Members of the public may call in to participate. Callers will not be able to see the meeting participants. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, dial *9 on the phone and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" may also use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be included into the record, they must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Please email Sabrina Godeski at sgodeski@norwalkct.gov with the subject line "Public Comment" to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **ROLL CALL**
- III. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
 - A. **Special Meeting: July 8, 2025**
- IV. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- V. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Approve the inclusion of Oksana Tanasiv's Proposal for the Ely Avenue Fence in the public survey for consideration.**
 - B. **Approve the inclusion of Jahmane West's Proposal for the Ely Avenue Fence in the public survey for consideration.**

- C. Approve the inclusion of Raf Santella (Five Fingaz)'s Proposal for the Ely Avenue Fence in the public survey for consideration.
- D. Authorize the adoption and use of the Arts and Cultural District Logo.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. WSHU Partnership Proposal

VII. DISCUSSION

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**CITY OF NORWALK
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
JULY 8, 2025
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Brian Kaspr called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

ATTENDANCE: Brian Kaspr (Chair), Bob Abriola, Melissa Matuska, Steven Rust, Nori Grudin, Naomi Clark, Kevin Huffman - Ex Officio

STAFF: Sabrina Godeski

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

**** MR. ABRIOLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**

****MS. MATUSKA SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public comment at this time.

V. OLD BUSINESS

There were no old business items formally listed or brought forward for discussion.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Authorize a payment of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to Ash Nichols for the creation of the Cultural District logo.

Mr. Kaspr advised that Ash Nichols has been prepared to continue the work pending this approval. The \$1,000 covers development of two revised versions, selection, and final logo completion. It was clarified that there should not be additional charges for final revisions beyond this scope.

**** MS. MATSUKA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**

****MR. RUST SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Authorize the inclusion of the three submitted proposals to be released in a public survey for the Ely Avenue Fencing Project.

Mr. Kaspr opened the floor so the three artists can briefly walk the Commission through their projects.

Five Fingaz: Described a historically-themed timeline mural, including QR codes linking to oral histories and local documentaries, and a plan for community painting sessions at his studio. Commission members requested artistic style closer to the artist’s recognizable public work but applauded community engagement elements. The artist agreed to stylistic revisions within two days but maintained concept structure.

Jahmane West: Presented a patchwork “fabric of the city” concept inspired by community quilting traditions, to be developed collaboratively with library-based community workshops. Patchwork panels would include references to local icons/events identified by public input. Panel installation would avoid direct ground contact for weather durability.

Oksana Tanasiv: Detailed a landscape-style mural incorporating city landmarks and scenes of daily Norwalk life, painted on durable metal panels. Emphasized final details painted by local schoolchildren for community connection. Confirmed materials and process would be adjusted for budget compliance.

Following discussion, the Commission supported allowing each artist one week for optional revisions based on feedback before a public survey release.

The Commission proceeded to vote on each artist individually.

**** MR. ABRIOLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE ARTIST FIVE FINGAZ.**

****MR. RUST SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MS. CLARK MOVED TO APPROVE THE ARTIST JAHMANE WEST.**

**** MR. ABRIOLA SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MS. CLARK MOVED TO APPROVE THE ARTIST OKSANA TANASIV.**

**** MS. GRUDIN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. DISCUSSION

A. Event Updates

ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 8, 2025
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING
PAGE 2

Ms. Godeski reported they had participated in the international Make Music Day initiative, hosting performances at four locations across Norwalk. In doing so, they received a \$1,500 grant enabling direct artist compensation for performances. The event was considered highly successful, with future participation and growth anticipated.

Ms. Godeski updated the Commission on the resident meeting on July 29th for the Cultural Plan. The consultants are still gathering information to ensure their recommendations are aligned with the community's desires. On July 31st there will be an artist mixer at Space67, where participants can partake in interactive stations.

B. Arts and Cultural Plan Updates

Ms. Godeski advised the consultants for the Cultural Plan will present a progress report at the Commission's August or September meeting. From July 29–31 the consultants will be in Norwalk, conducting focus groups with residents, artists, business owners, and faith-based organizations, as well as specific outreach to the Hispanic community.

C. 2025-2026 Operating and Capital Budgets

Ms. Godeski reported that the operating budget increased by \$20,000, bringing the total to approximately \$32,000, which will go towards special events. The Common Council approved \$100,000 allocation for Art in Public Places, intended primarily for public art initiatives such as the Route 1, Connecticut Ave. underpass. Funding through NEA grants is currently uncertain; the City will proceed with prioritized projects using committed capital funds.

Further discussion took place regarding expanding the display of student artwork around City Hall. Ms. Grudin led the discussion, advising on specific areas. Ms. Matsuka discussed potential improvements to art installations and placards in SoNo, especially recognizing original artworks altered over time.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. GRUDIN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. MATSUKA SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney Baldwin

NORWALK Mural “Town Scape” featuring remarkable places of Norwalk historical buildings, streets, parks, beach.

Address: Ely Street Mural Project Norwalk, Connecticut

Project Idea, Description, Mission

Norwalk Town Landscape Mural

Featuring Historical Buildings of Norwalk, townscape scenes in parks, beach, business district, seascapes.



“Norwalk City Scape” is a project that presents a view of the cityscape of Norwalk and historical buildings of the city.

These are also the moments from everyday life of citizens of Norwalk on the beach, in parks, on the streets, in cafes, captured scenes in the process of shopping, and the life of the city's business people.

The mural will be done in the style of silhouettes (people, trees, and other objects), by using monochromatic colors technique (several shades of blue, grey from light-blue sky to the darkest blue front line objects as peoples' silhouettes etc). The adds of the objects in bright colors will make the art more vivid and unique.

The mission of the mural is to capture the most characteristic moments from the life of the residents and to decorate Norwalk City (Ely street) with unique art.

Project Size Estimate:

1. Mural Fence Size: Length 445ft

Height 8' ft _____

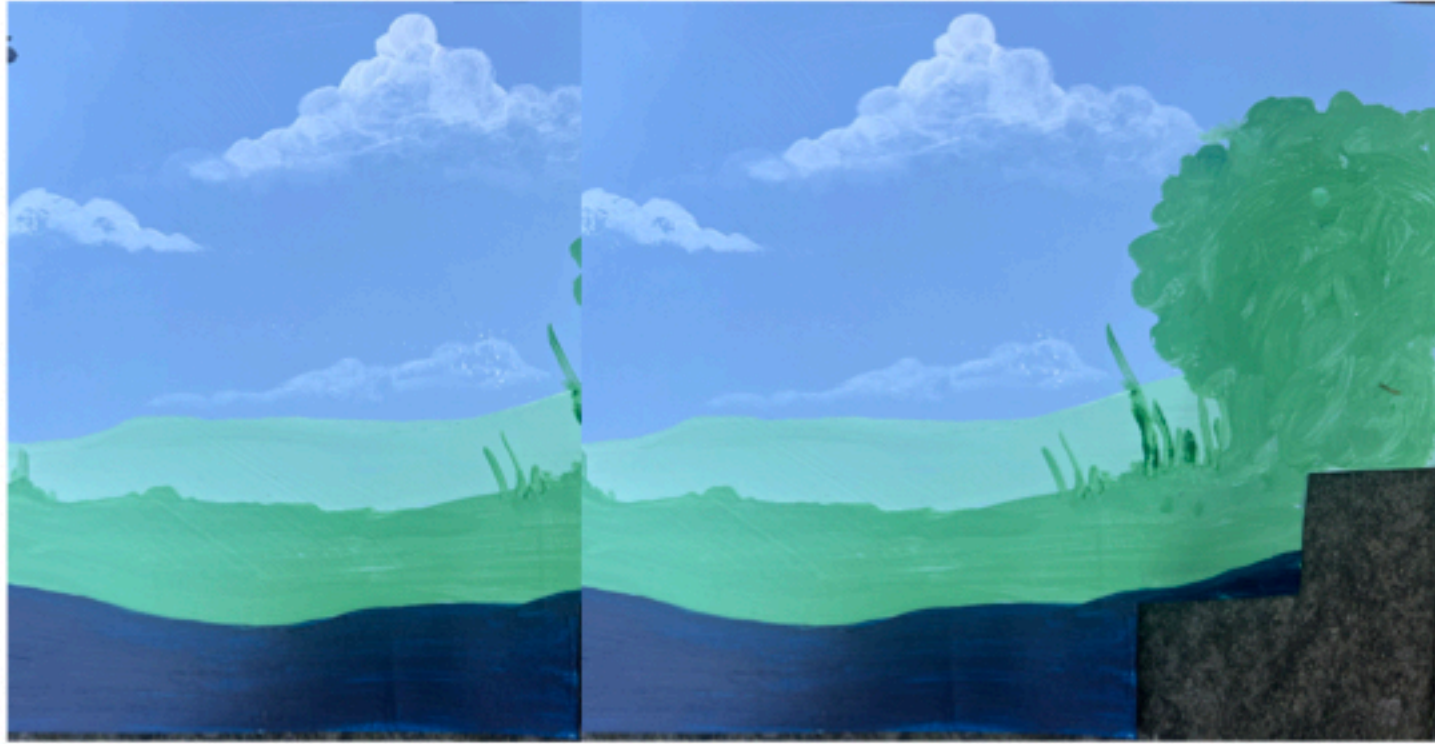
3,560 sq ft. - mural size







**Top Corner (next to bridge)
21'**



**Lower Corner Next to Bridge
Landscape Abstract Area (approximately
. 15')**



JAHMANE: Fabric of the City Ely Ave. Mural Installation Details

Mural Inspiration and Concept.

The inspiration for this mural installation is derived from a series of public art I call "Fabric of the City". The artwork draws from the deep history of Gee's Bend quilt makers and the communal connection of quilt-making societies. The use of bright, bold colors, abstract patterns, recycled elements, and historic references represents the diverse soul of the neighborhoods in which my murals are displayed. As a Norwalk native and past resident of the Roodner Court Housing apartments, I would often travel down Ely Avenue to this neighborhood to visit family in the area, play, buy penny candies, fresh fruit, and watch the trains go by. The Concept for my mural captures the essence of those times and hopefully will inspire current and future residents to cherish the community.

Key Elements:

Mural will be installed using up to 40 4x4ft weatherproof wood panels in a patchwork quilt style pattern. This will allow heavy winds to pass through more easily with less stress on the fencing

Community engagement:

I plan to partner with the Norwalk Library and use the South Norwalk Library to hold a series of workshops for public input. These workshops will allow the community to suggest names of respected individuals and historic references that may be added to the mural, as well as paint selective mural panels. I also plan to use the front of the library to temporarily display a few panels, bringing attention to the newly remodeled library and project.

Estimated Supply List:

- 30 sheets of KLEER 1/2 inch 4x8 panels from Rings End
- Paint supplies *see attached
- 5 roller handles / 20 medium nap roller covers
- 5 buckets w lids / small paint containers
- 20 large rolls of green frog tape
- 1 20 ft POD container
- Custom fabricated hanging brackets and hardware

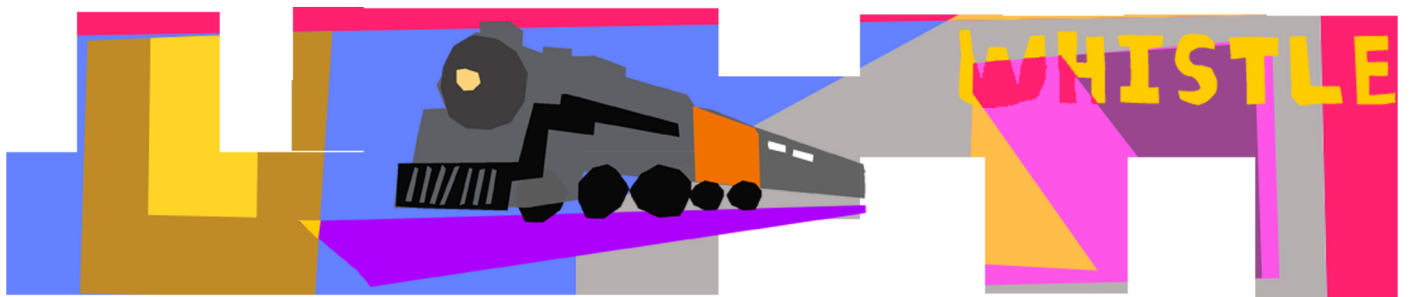
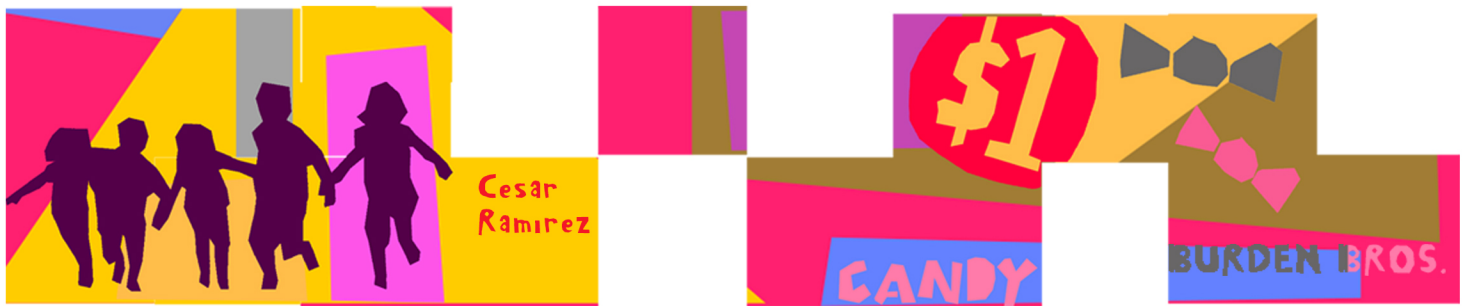
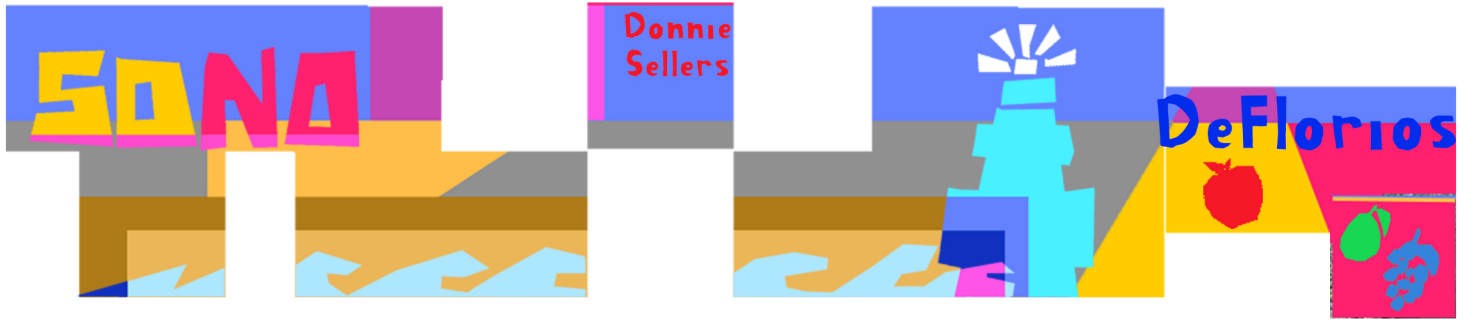
Approximate Budget / Cost Breakdown: \$70,000.00

| | |
|--|------------------|
| 30 sheets of KLEER 1/2 inch 4x8 panels from Rings End | |
| 30 x \$181 plus cutting and delivery | \$7,000.00 |
| Paint cost TBD / Approx with discount..... | \$2,500.00 |
| Misc supplies, rollers, buckets, tape etc..... | \$500 to \$1000 |
| Pod container for panel storage during project..... | \$500.00 |
| Bracket fabrication for panel hanging 30-35 set ups..... | ,\$2,000.00 |
| Project assistant budget..... | \$5 - \$8,000.00 |
| Lead Artist fee..... | \$50,000.00 |

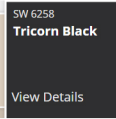
JAHMANE: Fabric of the City - Ely Avenue Mural Installation



JAHMANE: Fabric of the City - Ely Avenue Mural Installation (Isolated sections)



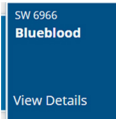
SHERWIN WILLIAMS EXTERIOR PAINT



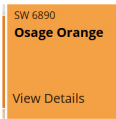
1 GALLON



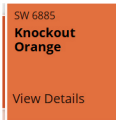
3 GALLONS



3 GALLONS



3 GALLONS



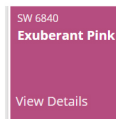
3 GALLONS



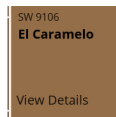
3 GALLONS



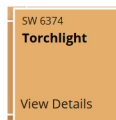
3 GALLONS



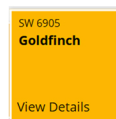
2 GALLONS



2 GALLONS



3 GALLONS



3 GALLONS

MONTANA GOLD SPRAY PAINT



6 CANS



6 CANS



6 CANS



6 CANS



6 CANS



6 CANS



3 CANS



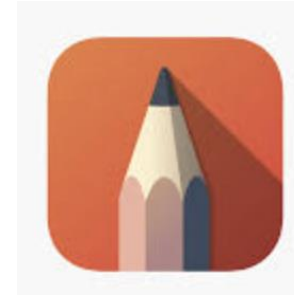
6 CANS



FIVEFINGAZ – Illustration Process and Working files

Ely Ave Illustration Digital Work Process And Work-Flow

- 10% - Sketchbook App
- 30% - Illustrator
- 60% - Photoshop



Hardware work setup

- Mac Book Pro
- Ipad
- Wacom Cintiq Pro 24



Original Ely Ave Illustration File Layers and build steps



Physical sketch
book drawing



Digitize Sketch
In Sketchbook App



Refine black lines and
prep for color in
Illustrator



Add color in Photoshop
and retouch

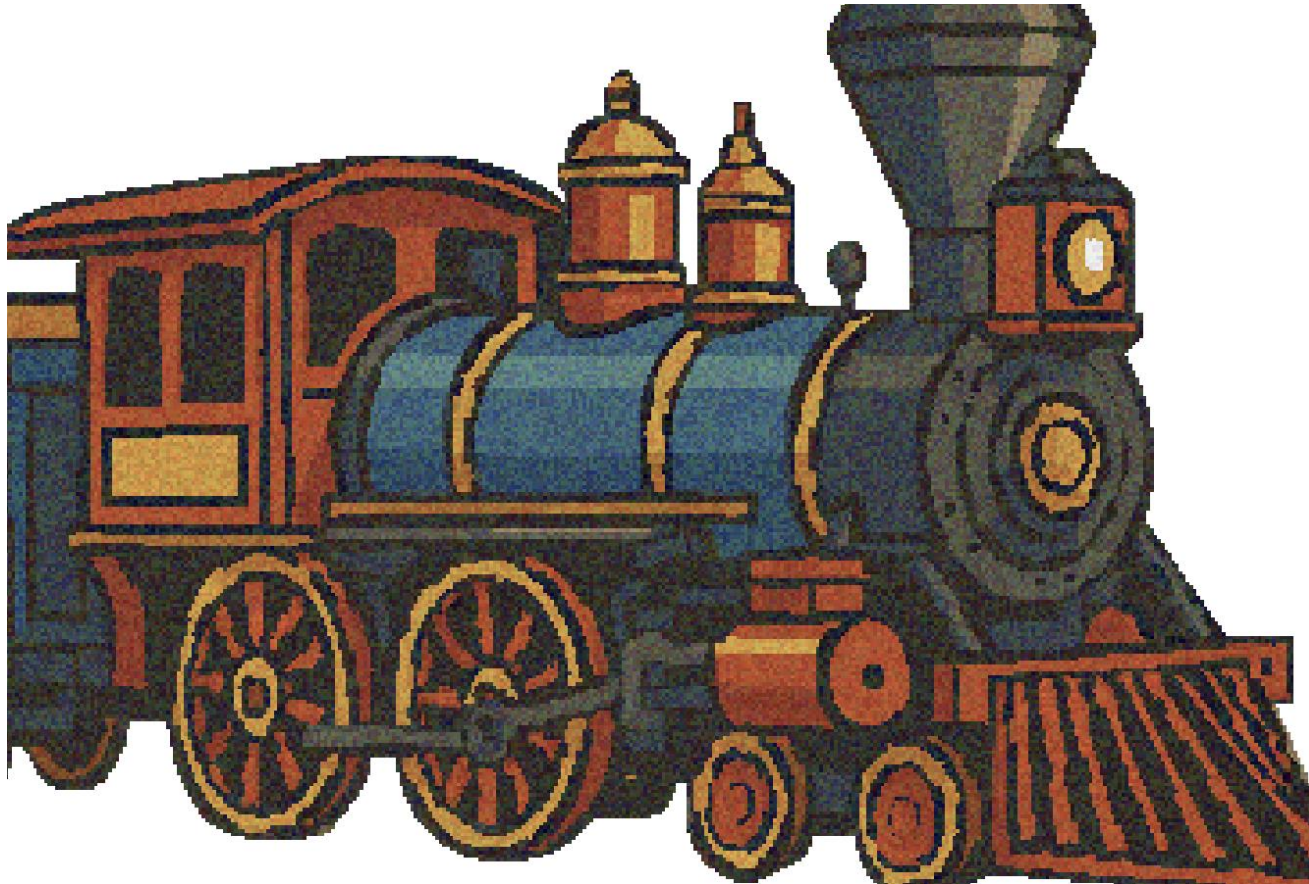
Original Ely Ave Illustration File Layers and build steps

Work in progress



Original watermarked layered files are [here](#)

Repurposed train



I created this train (and 4 others) in illustrator years ago for a video game I was hired to create. This one was not selected and never used.

Vector file [here](#)

Background Art

2 Sketches mashed together



Background I sketched for
the gaming train visual

Illustrated a basic
brown wall as
background for the
factory

My Illustration History and career



Patch and assemble mural style



I have used the patch work and assemble style for years in my illustration career – This style is useful for separating key images in the digital space to use for social media and/or print

New Proposed Version



Will supply layered file upon request

New Version 3



FIVEFINGAZ – INSPIRATION & SKETCH WORK

Inspo





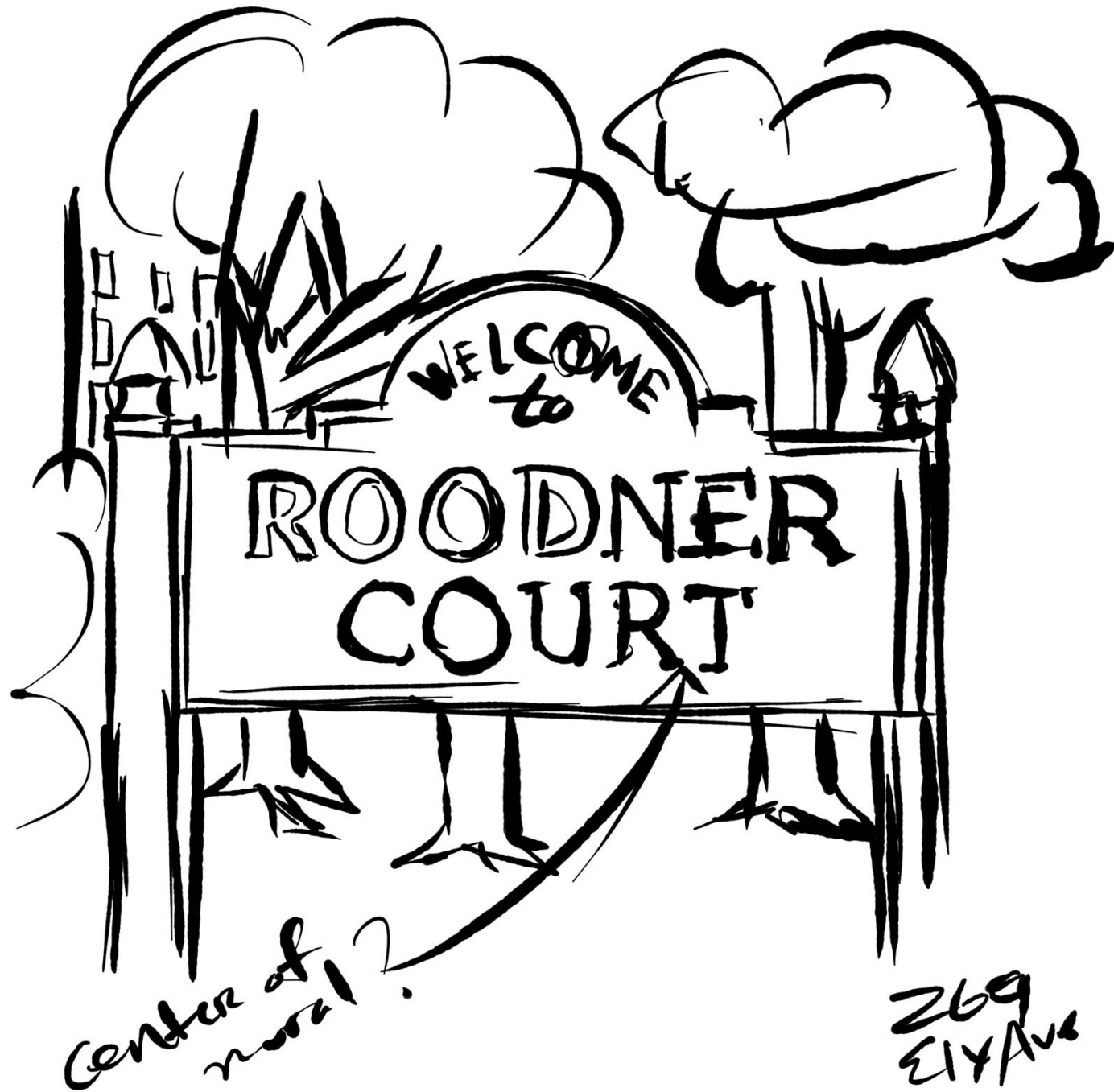
Building 23
Porch

people
in front
cars?

Show
Humanity?

Grill?
center?





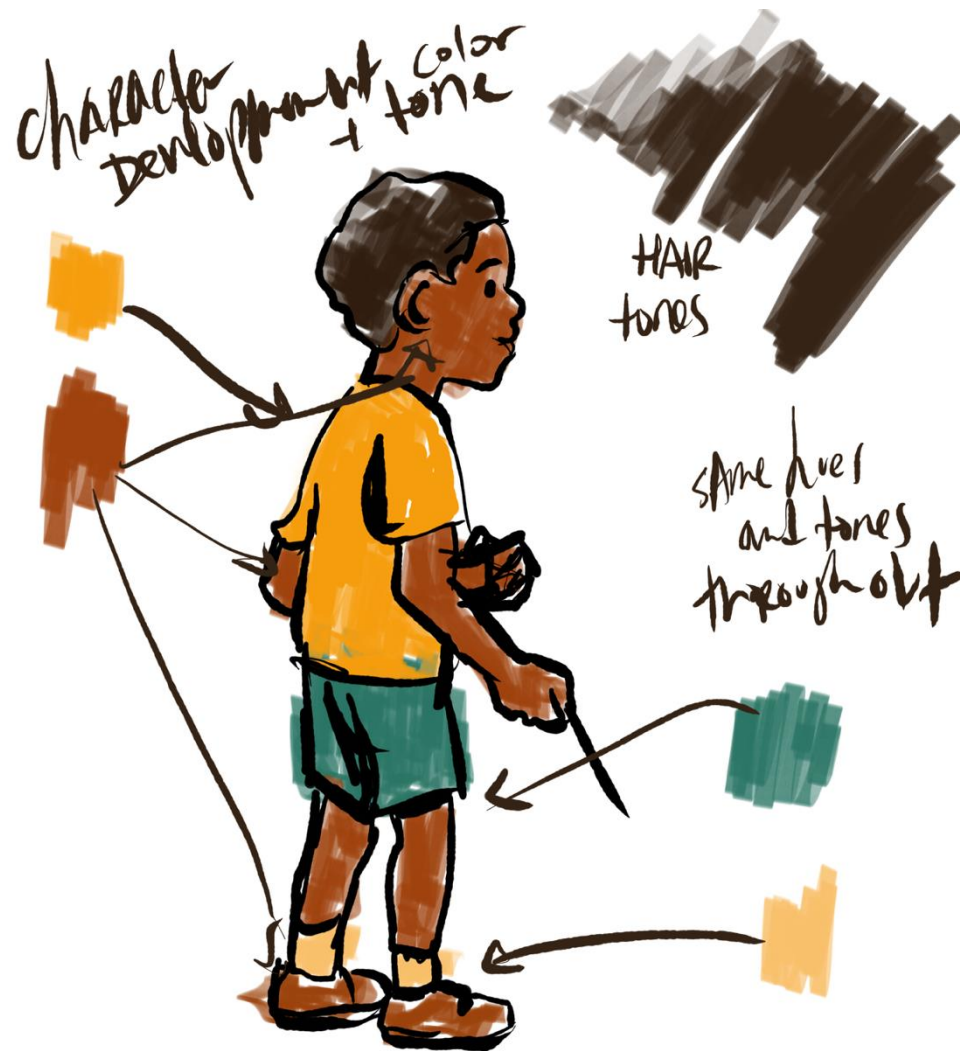




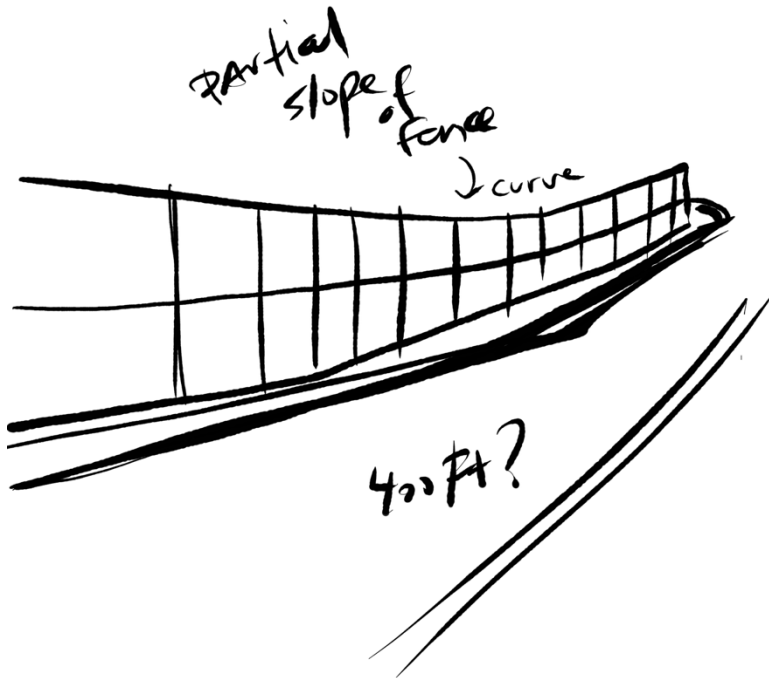




Color exploration







Locations



"GENERATIONS"
AN HISTORIC
TIMELINE
OF ELY AVE



THANK YOU!



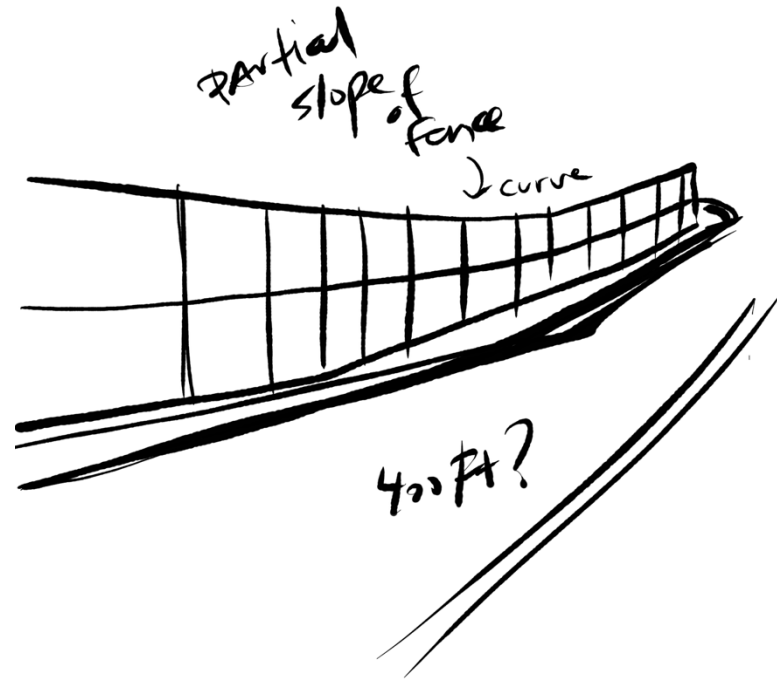
FIVEFINGAZ – INSPIRATION & SKETCH WORK

New Version – work in progress



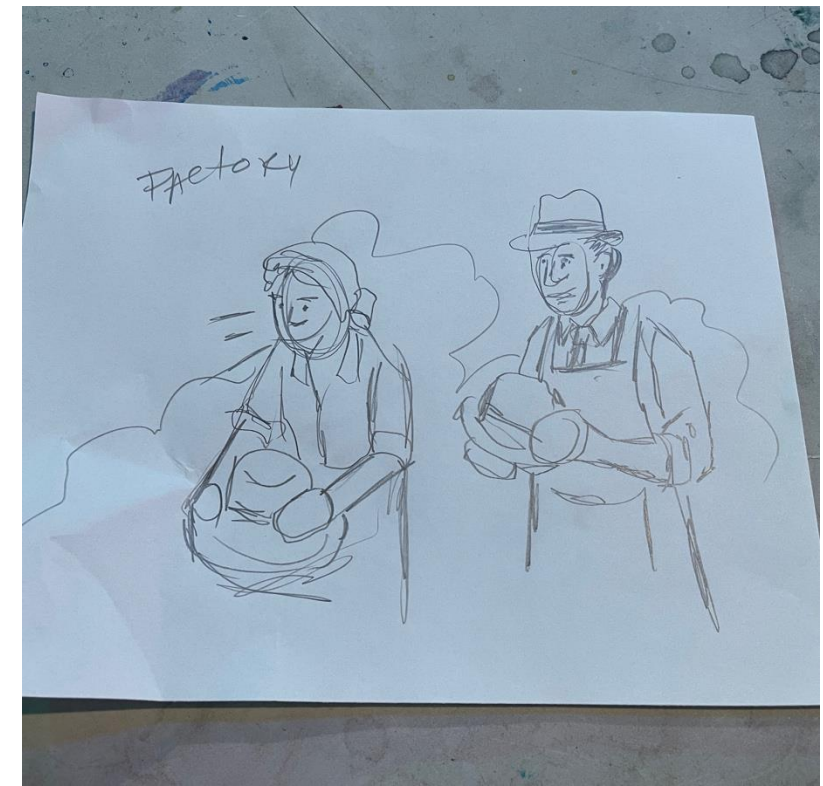
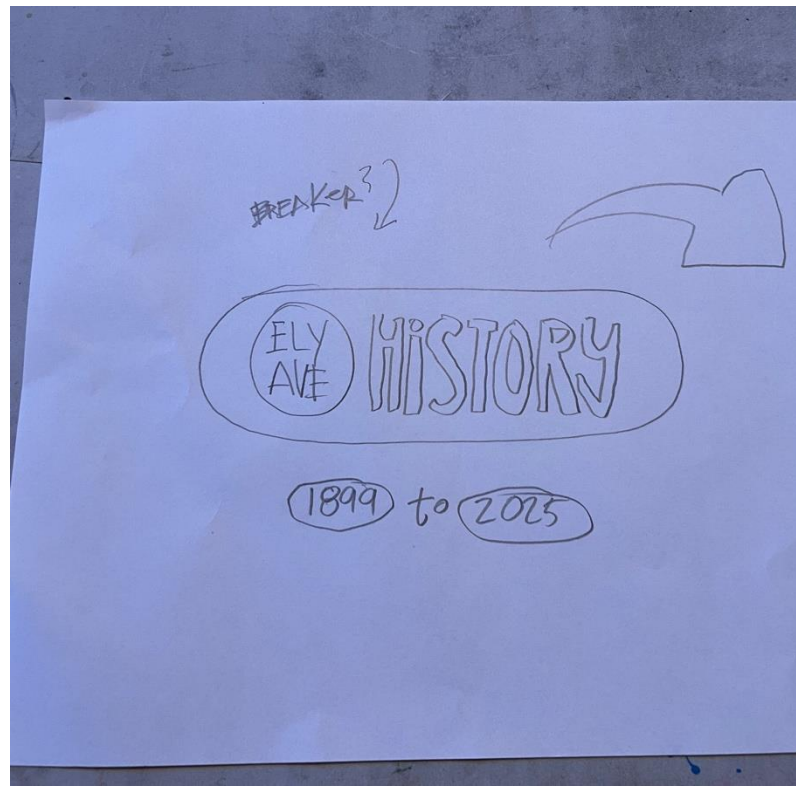
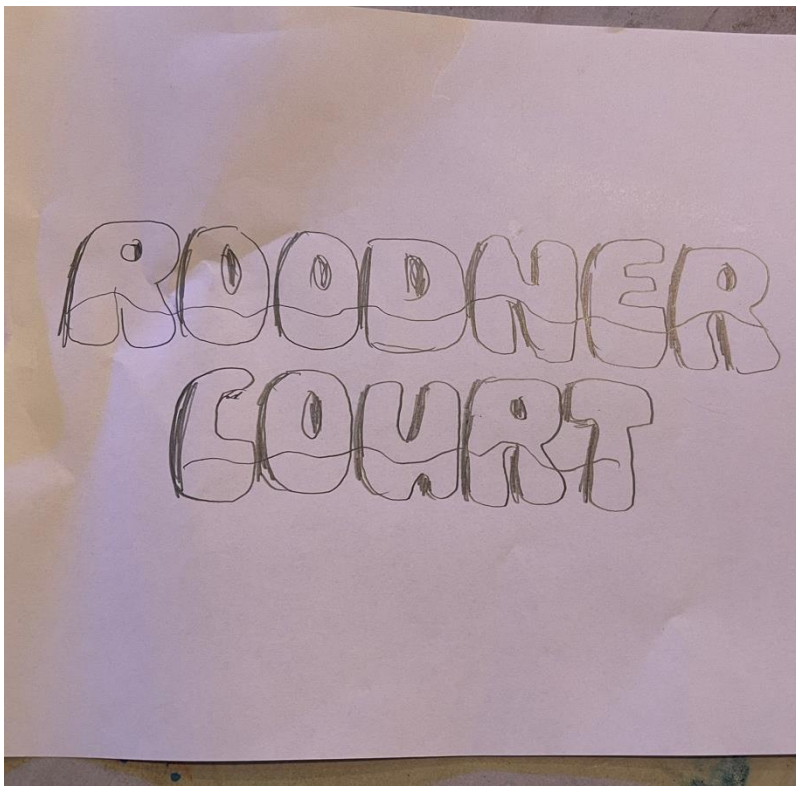
New Version 2 – work in progress





Locations

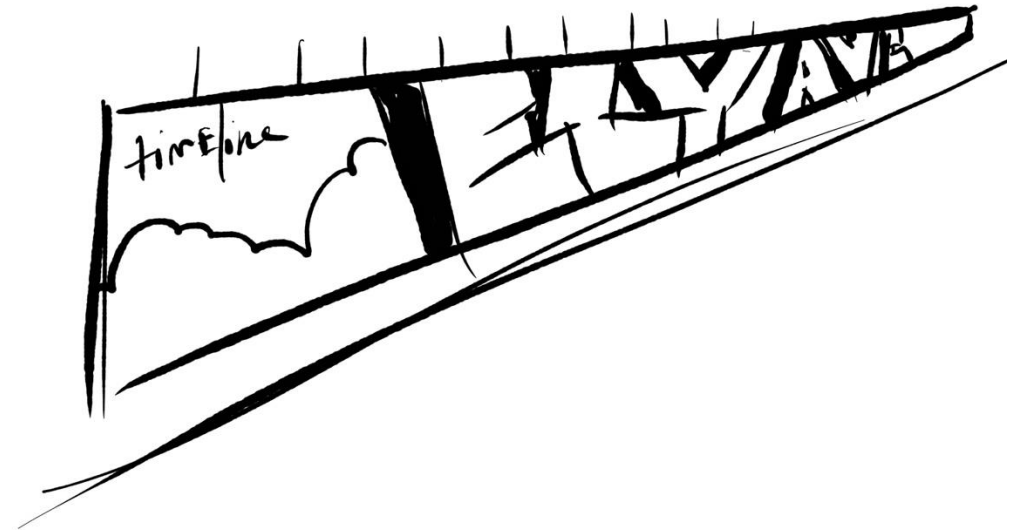




Initial sketch book ideas

More than happy to supply more if needed

Thought Starters



center piece?



Inspo





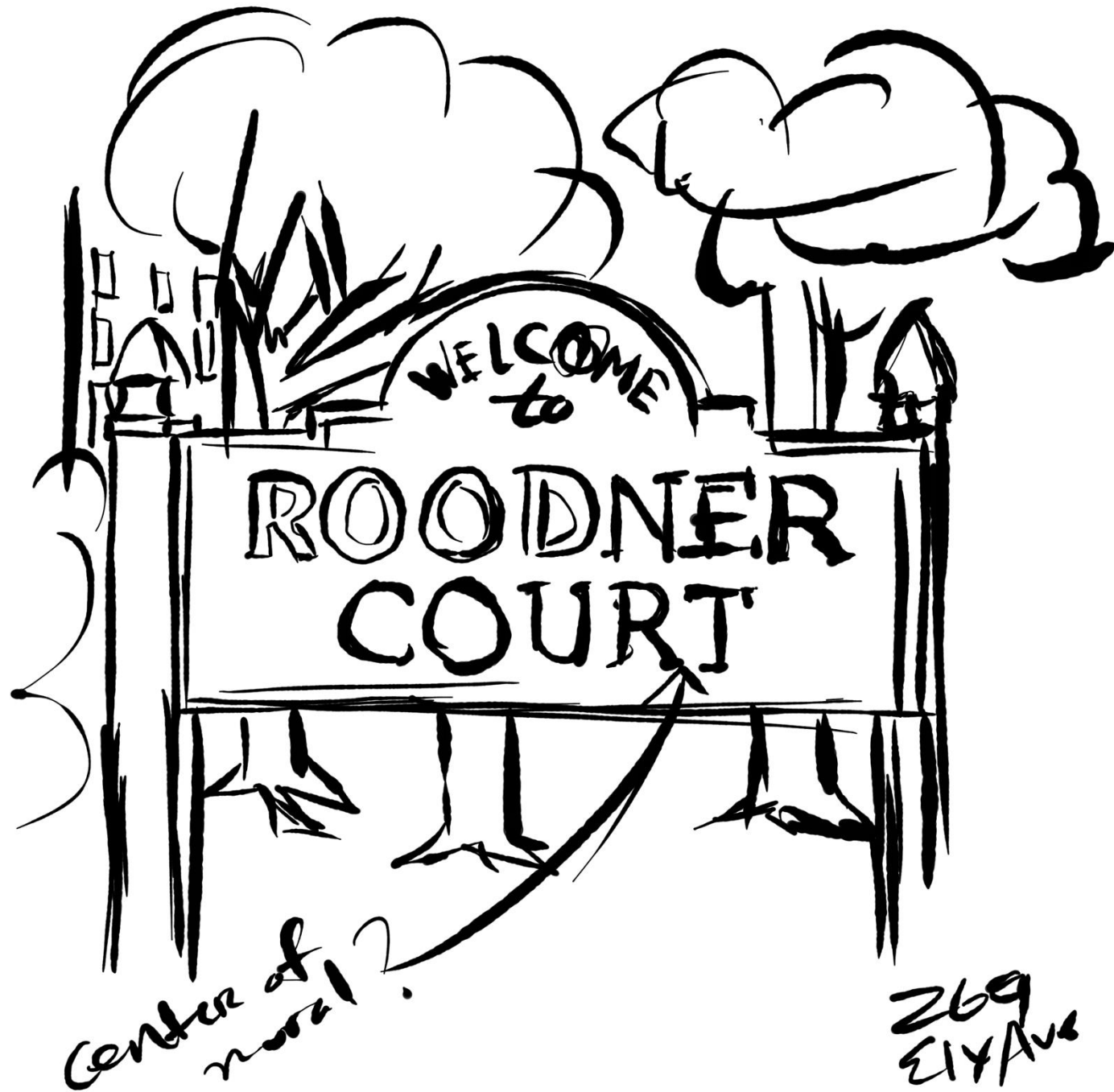
Building 23
Porch

people
in front
cars?

Show
Humanity?

Grill?
center?











Color exploration



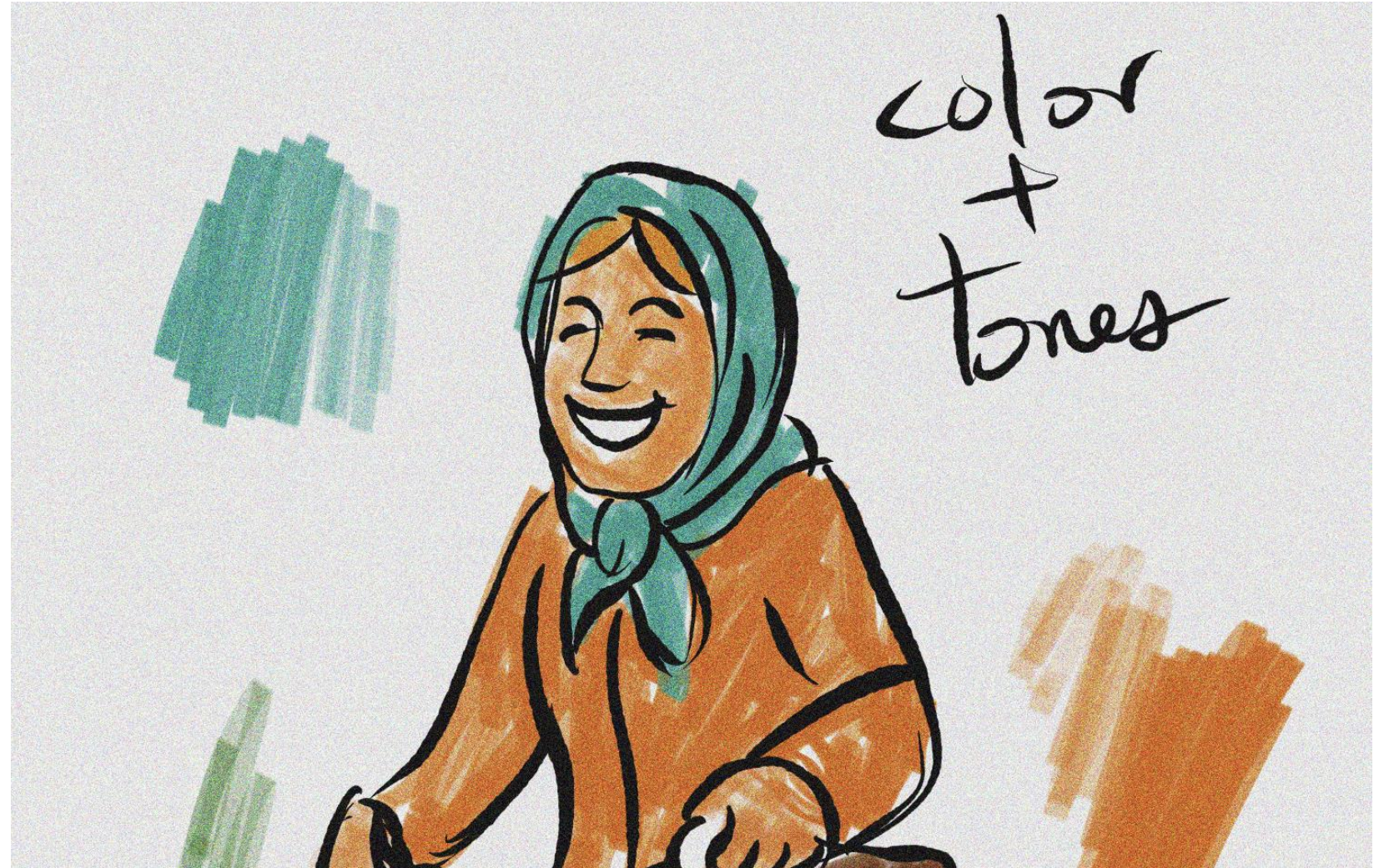




Figure exploration





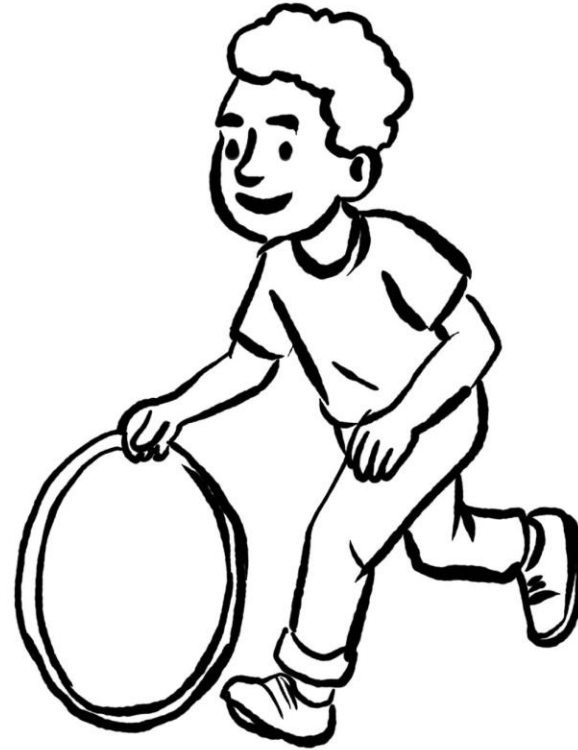


Basic Details

Simple
eyes + nose



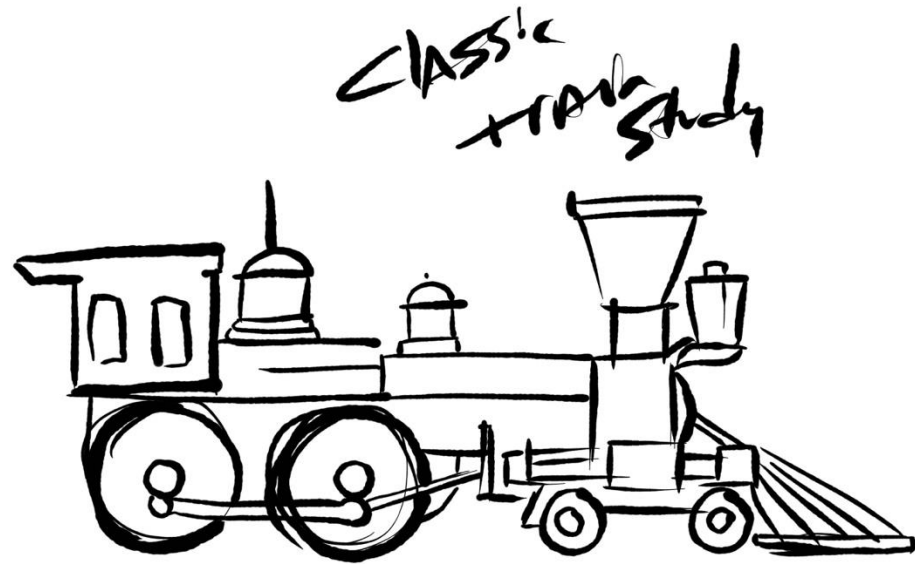
1960's
kids ?





WELCOME
Si yan?

Train sketch







THANK YOU!



FIVEFINGAZ – Round 2 iterations

New Version 1



New Version 1 Breakdown



New Version 1 Breakdown



New Version 1 Breakdown



New Version 2

New Version 2



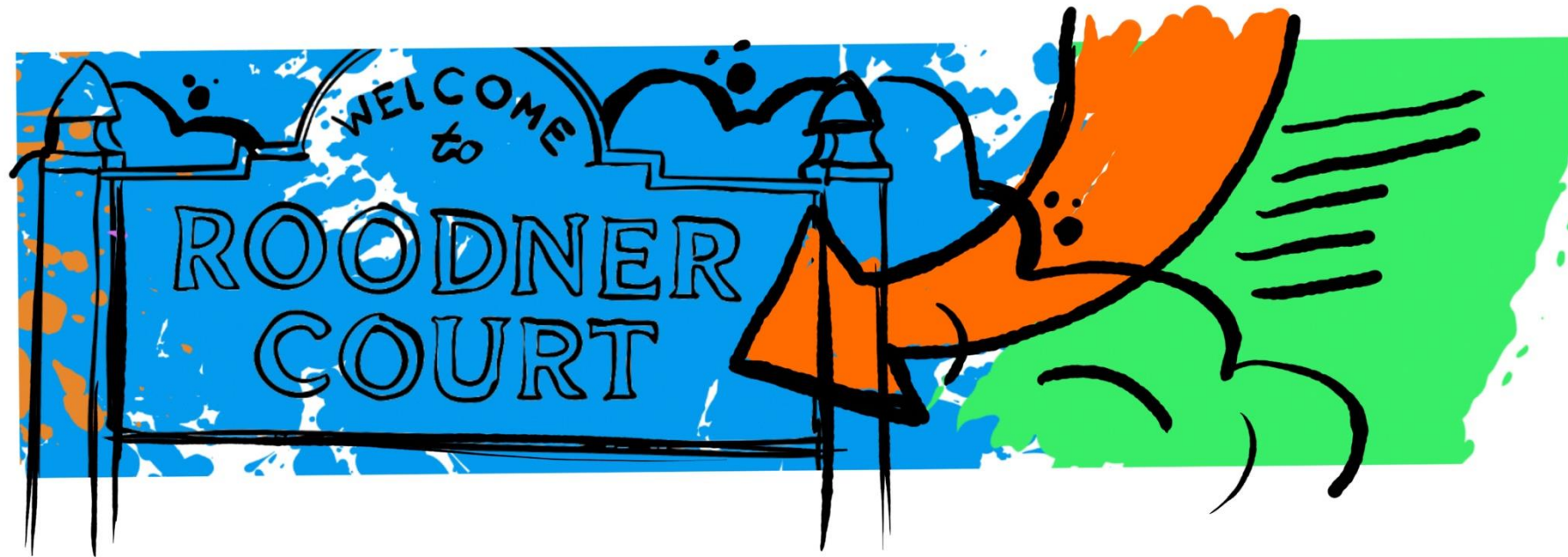
New Version 2 Breakdown



New Version 2 Breakdown



New Version 2 Breakdown



New Version 3

New Version 3 – work in progress



Proposal to Norwalk Arts & Culture Commission

From: Brad Dancer, General Manager, WSHU Public Radio

Subject: Commissioning Local CT Artists for WSHU Sticker Design Project

Overview:

WSHU Public Radio seeks to collaborate with the Norwalk Arts & Culture Commission to commission original artwork from two local Connecticut artists for use in a limited-edition sticker series for WSHU.

Project Details:

We are looking to award *two* unique sticker designs to be created by local CT artists. These designs will be used as promotional materials to engage listeners and supporters, celebrate the arts in our region, and brand collateral.

- **Design Parameters:**
 - Stickers will likely be printed at approximately 4 to 6 inches
 - Designs may be any shape or layout, as they will be cut to shape.
 - Artwork should reflect the values of public radio: curiosity, community, diversity, and creativity. We are looking for fun, memorable and unique stickers that reflect WSHU & area we cover (CT & Long Island - Long Island Sound Region for the most part). visit WSHU.org for more background on our offerings/brand.
 - We welcome both illustrative and abstract approaches.
 - For submission, simple sketches and ideas will suffice
- **Compensation:**
 - Up to *two* designs will be selected.
 - Each selected artist will be awarded \$250 for their design from WSHU
 - WSHU will own the rights to the final design. We will promote the artists on our social media and potentially interview for air/podcasts
- **Eligibility:**
 - Open to artists residing in Connecticut.
 - Artists from Norwalk and the surrounding region are strongly encouraged to apply.

Timeline:

Upon approval, WSHU will launch a call for submissions in collaboration with the Commission, with the goal of finalizing artwork and artist selections quickly (3-4 weeks)