

Fair Way Mural

General Inspirations:

Dr. Wilkinson's Backyard Resort and Mineral Springs is centered around its natural mineral spring waters, the mud baths featuring a mixture of volcanic ash and peat, and the rejuvenation from these elements. This mural is inspired by the concept of mother earth and that we are all from the universe and the stars. The images in this mural invoke feelings of "planting" a better future, experiencing a sense of discovery, wonder, awe, celebration of nature, vitality, beauty, transformation, metamorphoses, spirituality, peacefulness, inspiration, celebration of Calistoga, and growth. The woman in this image is a representation of "rebirth" from the waters of life. She is making a wish. The dandelion pods that carry her wish wraps around the building leading to the front door of the Wilkinson Spa. Here, one will also find a wishing well where people from the community will have the opportunity to write down and post their wish. They can also throw a coin into the wishing well which will be multiplied by the property and donated to a local cause (i.e. fire victims, first responders, etc.).

Here are some of the images in the mural and reason they were chosen to be part of the art:

Water/River:

- Water is at the core of the resort – the natural mineral spring waters provide the facility with unique health and relaxation benefits for the guest.
- A river is an ever-changing journey.
- Water is life – represented by the woman that emerges from it.

"Star"-Shaped Background:

- This shape is the original masonry found throughout the architecture of the resort. It was prevalent during the mid-century era, when the property was first built. It is our intention to celebrate the property's history through this architectural element, while enhancing the spaces surrounding it.

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Butterflies:

- Featuring the California Pipevine Swallowtails & Swallowtails, which are local to the Bay Area - For centuries, the California pipevine swallowtail — or, *Battus philenor hirsuta* — called San Francisco home. As development increased in the early 20th century, the butterfly slowly began to disappear. Today it is a rare sight.
- They symbolize transformation, metamorphosis and beauty - It begins its life as a tiny red egg, hatches into an enormous orange-speckled caterpillar, and then — after a gestation period of up to two years — emerges as an iridescent blue beauty. Brimming with oceanic tones, the creature's wings are considered to be some of the most magnificent in North America.
- Butterfly gardens are becoming popular in Napa, according to Van Winden Nursery Manager Becky Horne. People enjoy the same colorful plants butterflies need, so it is easy to attract them into a yard.

Calistoga “Popcorn Flower”:

- *Calistoga allocarya*, also known as “Calistoga Popcorn Flower” is a local flower and can be found across the street from the property.
- Calistoga Popcorn Flower grows in pools and swales adjacent to hot springs and geysers in annual grassland habitats. This species grows on clay soils containing high concentrations of boron, arsenic, and sulfates. Calistoga Popcorn Flower is only known from two locations near the town of Calistoga in Napa County, where it co-occurs with the California endangered Napa bluegrass (*Poa napensis*).
- Calistoga Popcorn Flower is a California threatened plant species, which means that killing or possessing this plant is prohibited by the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). This species is also listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- It symbolizes rare beauty, local to Calistoga.

Calistoga Yarrow - Botanical Name: *Achillea millefolium* Calistoga:

- Yarrow has been a healing, protective herb since ancient times and is one of the most versatile herbs/plant. It’s Latin name, *Achillea* is from the Greek Hero Achilles and Greek Mythology that said that Yarrow gave Achilles his protective powers and made him invincible. When young his mother bathed him in yarrow waters but held him by the ankle and therefore the yarrow did not touch his heels so when he was injured it was only on his heel, hence Achilles heel. In addition, it is a great wound plant and was used by Achilles on the battlefield to help his warriors.
- Yarrow is an amazing plant and provides those who plant it, and sites that use it, with protection.
- The mural depicts a ‘Calistoga’ variety, which is a native yarrow that grows in the Palisades above the Napa Valley.
- It is a great pollinator plant.
- We will give away Calistoga Yarrow seeds by the wishing well for people to take home with them or spread on their way home to “heal the Valley” from the impact of the fires.

Queen Palm trees:

- This is species of Palm trees that have been a part of Dr. Wilkinson’s resort for many decades.
- Queen palms (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*) are tall, beautiful trees that also produce large plumes of miniature blossoms in summer. These flowers mature into bright orange fruits by winter.

Grape Vines:

- Cabernet Sauvignon leaves and vines are featured in this mural. It represents one of Calistoga’s main industries – wine agriculture – which is also a staple to the beauty of Calistoga’s landscape.