

## Zach Tusinger

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**From:** Molly Hill <mwhill16@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 8, 2021 11:01 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** public comment about Dr. Wilkonson's mural

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Dear Planning Commission-

I am a married white woman, slightly over 40, who has lived in Calistoga since 2006. I have two children. I have seen the town change much over the past several years, from an under-the-radar community of family-run healing spas and home-town artists to a more commercial town where much is owned by corporations. Although I'm saddened by much of the direction the town is taking, this mural represents a POSITIVE direction and I'm writing to give my full support of the mural as is. Alas, I was not able to give my support sooner, before the changes were made, but I will outline the reasons for my support below.

I firmly believe in artistic expression. The artists should have not been censored in their artistic expression by what is 'preferred' by a commissioner or an individual. Art is made to make us think, to expand our view points. Although I was saddened by some of the feedback from the commissioners about changes needed, I do like how the imaging now ties us more closely to what makes our town truly unique (alas, grape vines are not unique to Calistoga). The facts about the local flowers are something that we can share with all visitors. A suggestion to write the name of the local flower in a subtle place on the mural so we can all become more educated about it (and not forget the name! 😊).

Additionally, as a white woman slightly over 40, I'm more aware of racism, white privilege, and how racism can hide deeply within an individual's beliefs and judgments. As you collect comments and make your own judgements, please keep in mind how they may be skewed through the eyes of the beholder. When someone says they truly do not like the mural, what are they actually saying? I happen to see what could be considered a black women's profile on this mural. I applaud this image of diversity and perhaps it is a first step in making black and brown people feel more welcome in this predominately white-run town.

I also applaud the choice of muralist as supportive of local artisans that have been highly involved in our community and have chosen to raise their families here (no easy feat!). This is a great symbol, because we need to attract more young families with children, from varied economic backgrounds, if we are going to continue to be a vibrant town.

I love that this mural is exciting and energizing our town to get involved. That is a part of what art is.

Please also weigh my voice (a busy working mother of two) with the voices of the retired community. We working parents often do not have as much time to weigh into matters, and there may be others that feel the same, that are just too busy to take the time to write.

Most sincerely,



## Zach Tusinger

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**From:** Michelle Hickman <jellybeanmichelle@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 8, 2021 8:31 AM  
**To:** Zach Tusinger  
**Subject:** Mural

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Hello Mr. Zach Tusinger,

I like the proposed mural at the corner of Fairway and Lincoln, that will go on the building of Dr. Wilkinson's.

Thank you for your time,  
Michelle H.  
Happiness Will Never End

## Zach Tusinger

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**From:** Stephen Isaacs <sisaacs@me.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 4:28 PM  
**To:** Zach Tusinger  
**Cc:** Stephen Isaacs; Donald Williams  
**Subject:** Doc Wilkerson's mural

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Zach,

First of all, happy new year.

I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed mural. Ordinarily, I wouldn't weigh in on something that appears at first to be so insignificant in the life of Calistoga. But in this case, I find the proposed mural to be so inappropriate and in such bad taste for our city that I hope it will be rejected and the owners sent back to the drawing board. The design of the mural should have *something* that reflects Calistoga and the Napa Valley. It should not be a vacation poster for a Hawaiian vacation. As it stands, it is an eyesore.

Thank you.

Stephen Isaacs  
1717 Michael Way  
Calistoga, CA 94515  
(415) 425-1265  
[sisaacs@me.com](mailto:sisaacs@me.com)

## Zach Tusinger

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**From:** Sara Kozel <stk@maacama.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 6, 2021 9:53 AM  
**To:** Zach Tusinger  
**Cc:** Sara Tietz Kozel  
**Subject:** Mural on Fair Way  
**Attachments:** IMG\_4263.HEIC

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Hi Zach,

I hope I'm not too late to give my thoughts about the proposed mural across from CalMart. I finally got over there to look at the poster.

I really think this image is completely wrong for Calistoga. It looks like it belongs in a 12 year old girl's room. Who lives in Hawaii or something! It has no connection to the town of Calistoga, the Napa Valley, or even the historic Wilkinson's spa and its upcoming renovation. I would be disappointed and actually disturbed if this mural were put up in this location.

My 10 cents!

Thanks,

Sara Kozel

## Zach Tusinger

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**From:** Charlotte Williams <cdevorak@sonic.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 6, 2021 11:39 AM  
**To:** Zach Tusinger  
**Subject:** Mural on Wilkinson's

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Zach,

Who cares if I like it or not?

It's their building, their art. Isn't this a First Amendment issue? I sure hope the personal views and preferences that I express on my property aren't going to be up for public comment or consideration of approval by any government body. And I hope the same for my fellow residents of this country.

Even opening this mural up for public comment sounds like the approach of fascism to me; groupthink, conformism, rigid control of personal expression.

People are struggling to keep a roof over their heads, food on the table, to stay healthy and alive and our government spends even a minute of its time on this? Sigh.

Happy New Year!

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Charlotte Helen Williams  
707-889-1788  
cdevorak@sonic.net

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This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.  
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

## Zach Tusinger

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**From:** Bruce Dill <bruce.dill@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 8, 2021 9:56 AM  
**To:** Zach Tusinger  
**Subject:** Murual

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Don't like

Sent from my iPhone

January 7, 2021

Dear Planning Commissioner

After watching the December 9<sup>th</sup> Planning Committee meeting, I am disappointed in the negative vote cast regarding the mural proposed by the private property owners of Dr. Wilkinson's Spa.

Every letter of the municipal code was followed, and alterations were made by the artist as suggested in the previous meetings yet, the mural was again denied.

You are now requesting a banner be erected for public viewing because you need the assurance the project be "accepted by the community as a whole." Again, asking the applicants to make more concessions to approve the project. It seems to me there is a bias against this artwork that cannot be overlooked.

To demand the artwork, reflect what Calistoga is, is so arbitrary. No one at the December 9, 2020 meeting could define exactly what the historical view of Calistoga is. The job of the Planning Commission is to uphold the city Municipal Code. If you are to hold all murals as showing a historical view of Calistoga, I am not sure how the decision to allow the "Heart" Calistoga mural was approved because I fail to see its historical significance.

There will be as many different opinions as there are people viewing any creative work and liking or disliking the art is of no significance in decision making regarding the Municipal Code. Is the work offensive, inflammatory or anything construed as objectionable to moral standards? No.

On one hand we accept the large international and local projects that will forever change the landscape of Calistoga, but we are not forward thinking in allowing the display of creative expression. Does all mural art need to fill the arbitrary constraints that it be historical in nature?

Your overreaching concern about negative comments once the project is executed is very telling. You will not be blamed if you approve the project and it does not sit well with some members of the community. You as Planning Commissioners should look at the proposal by the applicant to see if it meets the Municipal Code, not if it bothers someone's sense of artistic expression.

Sincerely,

Donna Higgins

CC: Commissioner McNair  
Commissioner Allan  
Commissioner Berquist