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**MOSAIC STAIRWAY**

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#Subway Sandwiches 2675 Geary Blvd.Suite E103 San Francisco, CA  
94121**

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## **1.0 SFAC Information Form**

# Mural Design Information Form

LEAD ARTIST

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

EMAIL

PHONE

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---

PROJECT  
COORDINATOR

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

EMAIL

PHONE

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SPONSORING  
ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

EMAIL

PHONE

FUNDING SOURCES

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PROPOSED SITE  
(address, cross  
street )

DISTRICT

District numbers can be found at <http://sfgov.org/elections/district-citywide-maps>

MURAL TITLE

DIMENSIONS

ESTIMATED  
SCHEDULE (start and  
completion dates)

1. Proposal (describe proposed design, site and theme. Attach a separate document if needed).

2. Materials and processes to be used for wall preparation, mural creation and anti-graffiti treatment.

3. List individuals and groups involved in the mural design, preparation and implementation.

**Attach the following documents to this form:**

1. Lead artist's resume/qualifications and examples of previous work
2. Three (3) letters of community support
3. Letter or resolution approving proposal from city department **or**;
4. Letter of approval from private property owner along with Property Owner Authorization Form
5. Signed Artist Waiver of Property Rights for artwork placed upon city property **or**;
6. Signed Artist Waiver of Proprietary Rights financed in whole or in part by city funds for artwork placed upon private property
7. Maintenance Plan (including parties responsible for maintenance)
8. Color image of design
9. One image of the proposed site and indicate mural dimensions

**\* Please note: all the documents above must be combined into one pdf packet that is under 20mb.**

## **2.0 Biographies and Samples of Artist Works**

## **BIOGRAPHY AND WORK SAMPLES OF MOSAIC ARTISTS SARAH SISKIN and THITIWAT PHROMRATANAPONGSE**

### **Artist Biographies**

Mural artist and educator **SARAH SISKIN** explores how landscape and place shape the evolving relationships among people and their environments. A founding member of Los Pobres Artistas, she is a resident with La Peña Cultural Center, and an artist with Precita Eyes Muralists. Siskin founded the Bay Area Mural Festival (2016–2018) and has worked on solo and collaborative projects across the Bay Area, Brooklyn, Chile, Argentina, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. She contributed to Caleb Duarte’s collective exhibition *The Monument as Living Memory* at San Francisco’s Yerba Buena Center For The Arts (YBCA). Siskin also works in the Art Department on film productions responsible for designing and building sets for the camera.

**THITIWAT PHROMRATANAPONGSE** studied fine art and received a B.A. in Asian American Studies from UCLA; he moved to Oakland a decade ago to work for the Estria Foundation, a non-profit organization centered around social issues and environmental awareness through mural art. He continues to work in community-driven projects with artist and educator Brett Cook and the Bay Area collective Trust Your Struggle. In addition to large-scale mural work, he works in drawing, painting, and even culinary arts. Thi has recently worked as a preparator for the SF Arts Commission doing the install and uninstall for their various shows.

### **Examples of public events and projects.**

[Thitiwat Phromratanapongse. Wat Walls - Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture](#)

<https://ybca.org/event/caleb-duarte-the-monument-as-living-memory/>

Work samples for Sarah:  
Grocery Outlet mural, South Van Ness





Philz Coffee, 24th St. in collaboration with Precita Eyes, 2015:





Verde Elementary School, 2020 with Fred Alvarado and Keena Romano:



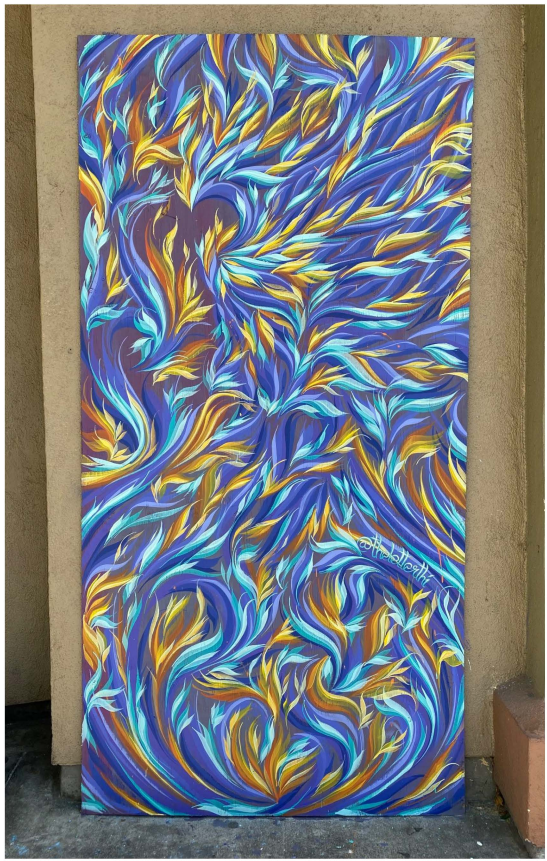
Plywood pandemic pieces 2020:



Thi mural samples (he can add more)







## **LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

**3.0 Letter of support: Letter of support: Anza Vista Resident House #41 Fortuna Avenue SF CA 94115 owner**

**3.1 Letter of support: Anza Vista Neighborhood business owner #Subway Sandwiches 2675 Geary Blvd.Suite E103 San Francisco, CA 94121**

**3.2 Letter of support: DPW (Community Engagement Division)**

**3.3 Letter of support: President Anza Vista Neighborhood Association.**



Operations | Community Engagement Division  
T. 415.641.2600 | 2323 Cesar Chavez St. San Francisco, CA 94124

January 31, 2024

RE: Support for the Vicha Ratanapakdee Mosaic Staircase

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express our department's strong support for the Vicha Ratanapakdee Mosaic Staircase project. We believe will artistically enhance the beauty of the stairway that rises from Vicha Ratanapakdee Way from Terra Vista Avenue to O'Farrell Street, located in the Anza Vista neighborhood.

The Vicha Ratanapakdee mosaic staircase aims to visually immortalize and honor the life of Uncle Vicha in the form of symbols and patterns over three sets of stairs.

Vicha Ratanapakdee, an 84-year-old immigrant from Thailand, was a beloved member of the Anza Vista community in District 2. Tragically, on January 28, 2021, he was violently attacked on one of his daily walks, leading to his death. Supervisor Stefani led a legislative effort at the Board of Supervisors to rename a stairway in Anza Vista in his honor.

The flow and story being told through the art of mosaic tiles will start with focusing on Uncle Vicha's origin story through the struggles, happiness, and contributions found within the support of family and community. Completing the stairway with how his life continues to be a beacon and a cornerstone for the Stop Asian Hate movement with imagery that encapsulates the love for Uncle Vicha by having something dark and tragic—a life being taken, lead to something beautiful—a loving, compassionate art piece made of mosaic tiles for community to enjoy for many years.

At Public Works we are supportive of beautifying the city with public art. This project not only fulfills that purpose of beautifying the stairway, but it also commemorates the life of a San Francisco resident who's legacy and story will be told through this artwork for generations to come.

Yours sincerely,

Ramses Alvarez

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ramses Alvarez".

Manager, Community Engagement

SF Arts Commission

401 Van Ness Avenue #325

San Francisco, CA 94102

December 23, 2023

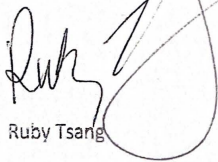
Dear SF Arts Commission,

I am writing to request your support for the Vicha Ratanapakdee Mosaic Stairway Project. I am a true 3rd generation San Franciscan living here all my life and an Anza Vista resident for the past 30 years. I am also a public servant doing work as a special education paraprofessional with the most frail students in the district of SFUSD.

During the pandemic I was working daily. I remember the terribly tragic day that Vicha was attacked. I had just finished walking my dog and was on zoom. Just hearing about the news caused years of fear and anxiety. It took months for me to feel safe again and be able to leave my home. Everything in the news was about AAPI hate of people being murdered, mugged, or beaten! Many were middle aged or elderly. I am now in that same age category. It still scares me today!

I would welcome a beautiful mosaic stairway in my neighborhood! Currently I see empty houses, apartments, and people moving. I need some positive change! I need good news! I hope it will bring people back to the neighborhood and uplift my spirit. A visual beautification project would be a lasting appropriate tribute that will ease the painful past.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruby Tsang', is written over a large, light-colored circular scribble or stamp.

Ruby Tsang

41 Fortuna Avenue

San Francisco, Ca 94115

415-225-9073

[rubytsang1227@yahoo.com](mailto:rubytsang1227@yahoo.com)



Joan Odena  
Subway Sandwiches  
2675 Geary Blvd. Suite E103  
San Francisco, Ca 94121

January 11, 2024

To Whom it May concern,

Hello, my name is Joan Odena and I am writing to you regarding the proposed Vicha Ratanapakdee Mosaic Stairway Project in the Anza Vista area. I am a proud San Franciscan born and raised, raising family with three children, and currently running two businesses in SF. I have seen the many changes, good and bad that San Francisco has and is going through.

The attack on Vicha Ratanapakdee has left many of us feeling very vulnerable to the bad elements that are currently rampant in San Francisco. I sense we are at a crossroad in San Francisco where the good must shine and defeat the bad in society.

I believe that the Vicha Ratanapakdee Mosaic Stairway Project will be a positive addition to the neighborhood and its impact will provide a constant reminder for future generations that the good will overcome the bad, and Vicha's righteous morals will radiate through all of us.

Please consider this project with utmost urgency and consideration for all us San Franciscans that need every bit of positivity which reassures us that brighter days are ahead. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Joan Odena  
Owner of the Subway Sandwiches

**SF Arts Commission**

**401 Van Ness Avenue # 325**

**San Francisco, CA 94103**

**February 24,2024**

**Dear SF Arts Commission,**

**On behalf of myself, our Board and all the neighbors in Anza Vista, I would like to convey our extremely enthusiastic support for the Vicha Ratanapakdee Mosaic Staircase project and to thank you for shepherding this through.**

**Monthanus shared both the Design Information Data and the artist's mock-up of the finished staircase with us. It's going to be stunning. That staircase has been an eyesore for years and we've been wrestling with how to clean it up and turn it into something that the neighborhood would be proud of. This project certainly satisfies that desire well past our wildest dreams.**

**It's a pity that it took such a heartbreaking incident to create something so beautiful and appealing but that staircase will never let us forget Vicha. The Ratanapakdee family themselves have been a big plus for our neighborhood and we're very fortunate to have them.**

**Regards,**

**Al Sodini**

**President**

**Anza Vista Neighborhood Association.**

## **4.0 Artist Waiver: Sarah Siskin**

## Waiver of Proprietary Rights

### for Artwork Placed Upon CITY PROPERTY under VARA and CAPA

Artist has designed a work of visual art, described as follows:

DESCRIPTION: [type, mural, medium]:

Hand fabricated tiles

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TITLE, DATE: Working title: Vicha Ratanapakdee Steps

DIMENSIONS: 66 steps (dimentions average 6.5 riser, 10 inches tread, 3 flights, 2 landings)

ADDRESS/LOCATION: Vicha Ratanapakdee Way between 100 Encanto Ave and 90 Terra Vista Ave

("the Work"). In consideration of the City's approval to place the Work on City property, the Artist agrees to waive and does hereby waive voluntarily all rights to attribution and integrity with respect to the Work and any and all claims as may arise under the Visual Artists Rights Act of 1990, 17 U.S.C. §§106A and 113(d) ("VARA"), the California Art Preservation Act (Cal. Civ. Code §§987 and 989) ("CAPA"), and/or any other local, state, foreign or international law, as currently drafted or as may be hereafter amended, that conveys the same or similar rights ("Moral Rights Laws"), with respect to the Work, its display, removal from display, exhibition, installation, conservation, storage, study, alteration and any other activities conducted by the City, its officers, employees, agents, contractors, licensees, successors or assigns. If the Work is incorporated into a building such that the Work cannot be removed from the building without physical defacement, mutilation, alternation, distortion, destruction, or other modification (collectively, "Modification") of the Work, Artist waives any and all such claims under any Moral Rights Laws arising out of or against any current or future owners of the site, and its agents, officers and employees, for Modification of the Work.

The City has the absolute right to change, modify, destroy, remove, relocate, move, replace, transport, repair or restore the Work, in whole or in part, in City's sole discretion.

The City has no obligation to pursue claims against third parties for modifications or damage to the Work done without the City's authorization. However, the City may pursue claims against third parties for modifications or damage or to restore the Work if the work has been modified without the City's authorization. If the City pursues such a claim, it shall notify the Artist, and Artist shall cooperate with the City's efforts to prosecute such claims.

If the City modifies the Work without the Artist's consent in a manner that is prejudicial to Artist's reputation, Artist retains the right to disclaim authorship of the Work in accordance with 17 U.S.C. § 106A (a) (2).

**Artist bears the sole responsibility for providing the City with any changes to the Artist's Address for Notice.** Notice of changes must be mailed to the Arts Commission, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 325, San Francisco, CA 94102 **AND to the City Agency with jurisdiction over the property.**

CITY AGENCY

Agency: San Francisco Public Works - Operations Authorized Agent: Yes  
Address: 2323 Cesar Chaves  
San Francisco, CA 94124  
Email: ramses.alvarez@sfdpw.org  
Phone: 415-641-2349  
SIGNATURE: Ramses Alvarez - Manger, Community Engagement  
DATE: 3 / 1 / 2024

ARTIST

ARTIST understands the effect of this waiver and hereby acknowledges that ARTIST is surrendering the rights described herein with respect to the Work.

Artist: Sarah Siskin  
Address: 745 Hyde St. #40  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
Email: smsiskin@gmail.com  
Phone: 415-407-2678  
SIGNATURE:   
DATE: 12 / 20 / 23

SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION

Authorized Agent: Craig Corpora  
Address: San Francisco Arts Commission  
401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 325  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Email: [craig.corpora@sfgov.org](mailto:craig.corpora@sfgov.org)  
Phone: 415-252-2249  
SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

For more information regarding VARA and CAPA:

<http://www.sfartscommission.org/our-role-impact/about-commission/policies-guidelines/visual-artists-rights-act>

<http://www.sfartscommission.org/our-role-impact/about-commission/policies-guidelines/california-art-preservation-act>

## **Vicha Ratanapakdee Mosaic Stairway Project**

### Design proposal

The Vicha Ratanapakdee staircase mosaic aims to visually immortalize and honor the life of Uncle Vicha in the form of symbols and patterns. Since the staircase has 3 sets of 22 stairs, we broke the design down into 3 chapters of Vicha's story.

The journey begins with the bottom third of the stairs where a mermaid swims with a mouse over an ocean wave with fish. This imagery is an homage to Songkhla, a province in southern Thailand near the ocean where Vicha Ratanapakdee was born. There is a statue in Songkhla of this mermaid along with local legends based on ancient poetry.

The middle section transitions from the bottom with the theme of ocean and fish. The wheel is not only a nautical symbol but a Buddhist symbol—the primary religion in Thailand. The eight spokes of the wheel represent the eightfold path, one of the foundations of the religion. The center of the wheel with the three sections represents the Buddha (teacher), Dharma (teachings), and the Sangha (community). Golden fish are also Buddhist symbols and meant to represent happiness, prosperity, safety, balance, fertility, abundance, and freedom of the water. They are also associated with the sacred rivers Yamuna and Ganges in India.

The top third of the staircase imagery will mainly consist of lotus flowers to continue building off the Buddhism theme from the middle section. The lotus is a flower that grows from murky, muddy water and has to grow through all this dirt and darkness in order to get to the sunlight. Once it does it can reach its full potential and bloom. It symbolizes the need for all of us to remain resilient during turmoil and times when we feel the weight is too much to bear. There will also be a nod to lady justice and her scale in this section, imagery that has grown to represent the legacy of Vicha and his family's ongoing fight against the behavior and world views that took his life.

The flow and story being told will start at the bottom section one focusing on Uncle Vicha's origin story and using the theme of water and the ocean to bring that to the middle section 2. This represents Uncle Vicha's struggles and happiness in the United States, having to find his own way in a foreign land but also having the support of his family and community. The final top section 3 may be the most important in telling his story because it has to do with how his life continues to be a beacon and a cornerstone for the Stop Asian Hate movement. The imagery of a lotus perfectly encapsulates our love for Uncle Vicha by having something dark and tragic—a life being taken, lead to something beautiful—a loving, compassionate community in our future.

VICHA RATANAPAKDEE MOSAIC STAIRWAY PROJECT

12/20/2023

SAMPLE BUDGET  
Artists: Sarah Siskin & Thitiwat Phromratanapongse

66 STAIRS TOTAL (3 SETS OF 22 STAIRS) + TREAD

ITEMIZED BUDGET **Target:** \$ 350,000.00

ITEM	%	TOTAL	NOTES
<b>Labor and Design</b>			
Artist fees (including assistants)	40.00%	\$ 140,000.00	(Split between 2 lead artists + assistants)
Preliminary sketch	2.00%	\$ 7,000.00	Already completed
Finalized full color design	3.00%	\$ 10,500.00	
Project Coordinator	4.99%	\$ 17,465.00	Monthanus+ Justice For Vicha Ratanapakdee Foundation
Administrator	4.99%	\$ 17,465.00	Sarah + accountant +business license fees
Architect	1.48%	\$ 5,180.00	Need quote
Contractor (stairs preparation: labor and materials)	4.75%	\$ 16,625.00	For stair repairs before project start, including materials
Labor for installation/ tile setter	4.75%	\$ 16,625.00	Need quote
<b>Materials</b>			
Materials: artisenal tiles, grout, installation materials etc.	8.60%	\$ 30,100.00	
Fabrication of custom tiles	3.97%	\$ 13,895.00	In studio
Tread tiles	0.49%	\$ 1,715.00	If we add tile to the tread between stair sets
Rentals: scaffold, storage shed, porta potty etc.	0.69%	\$ 2,415.00	On site - during install
Printing and copy costs (large format)	0.61%	\$ 2,135.00	
Plywood (4'x8')	0.11%	\$ 385.00	x10 (est \$30-\$40 each + tax)
Kiln and saw rental	0.87%	\$ 3,045.00	
<b>Administrative and logistics</b>			
Studio Fee (including tools, kiln etc.)	10.29%	\$ 36,015.00	\$3,000 / mo (will sign 1 year lease) will need 15'x20'
Inspection fees	1.49%	\$ 5,215.00	
Permits	1.72%	\$ 6,020.00	Need quote / get in touch with district rep
Contingency	1.00%	\$ 3,500.00	
Insurance (1 year including workers comp)	3.75%	\$ 13,125.00	Need quote
Transportation including truck rental	0.45%	\$ 1,575.00	Set up and breakdown/ install
Maintenance fund			10k? Set up by Justice for Vicha Ratanapakdee Foundation
Other			TBD
	100.00%	\$ 350,000.00	

**Notes:**

- Studio fee will require a 1 year lease likely in Fruitvale area
- Artist payment is 40-50% of entire project budget, split 50/50 between x2 lead artists. We plan to hire assistants as needed @ \$30/hour
- We generally charge 12% of project budget for our design but due to the scale of this project we have lowered this to 5%.
- Plywood: 9-10 pieces for laying out/ setting the tiles
- Custom tiles are very time consuming but will be fabricated in studio outside of the artist fee, calculated based on design needs
- Need to check the DPW fees
- All of the above are just estimates and need further research and refinement
- Budget is for the rise of 66 steps, any additional tilework on the tread or side will require adjustments

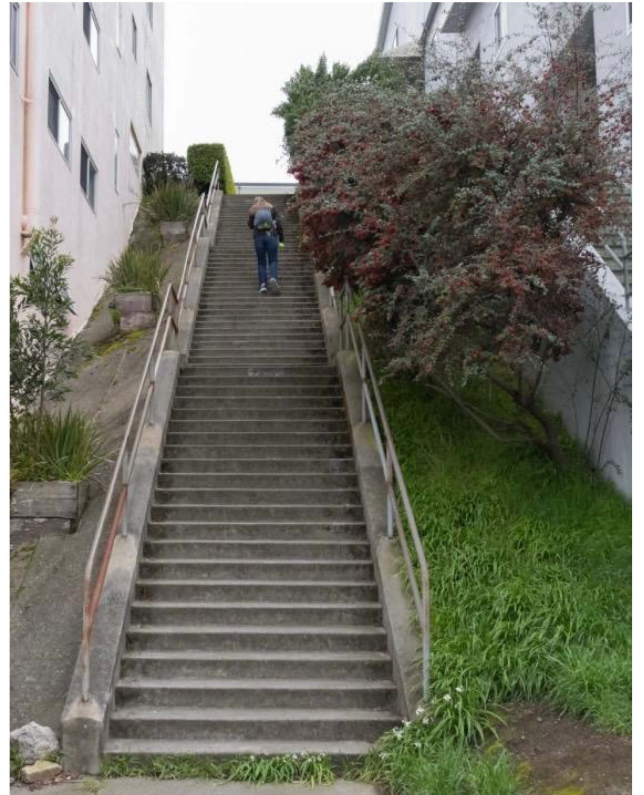
[16th St Mosaic Staircase - Reference](#)

**6.0 Design on Mosaic Stairway**



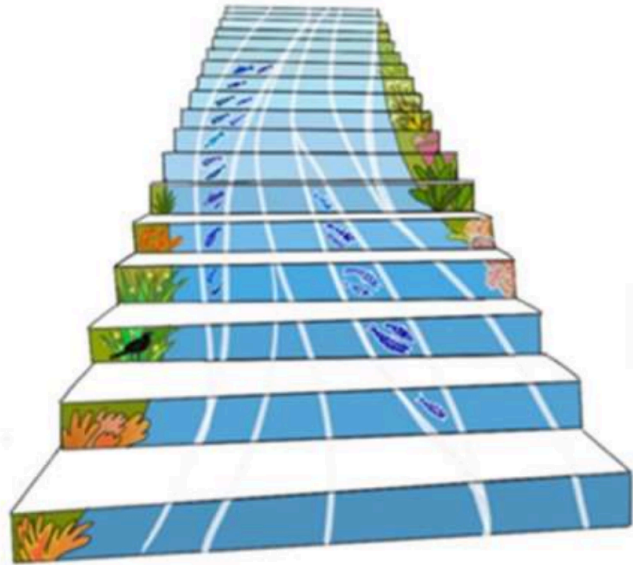


## 7.0 Photo of Location



## **7.1 Each Flight with Design in Context**

## Flight 1

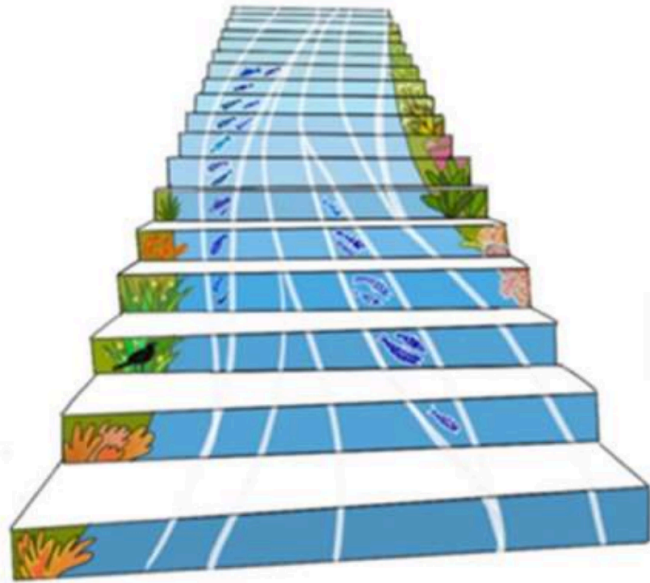


### Stairway details:

- 22 risers, 6.5" by 10 "

-Image of lotus flowers basking in sunlight symbolizes Vicha's Legacy and the ongoing struggle against racism

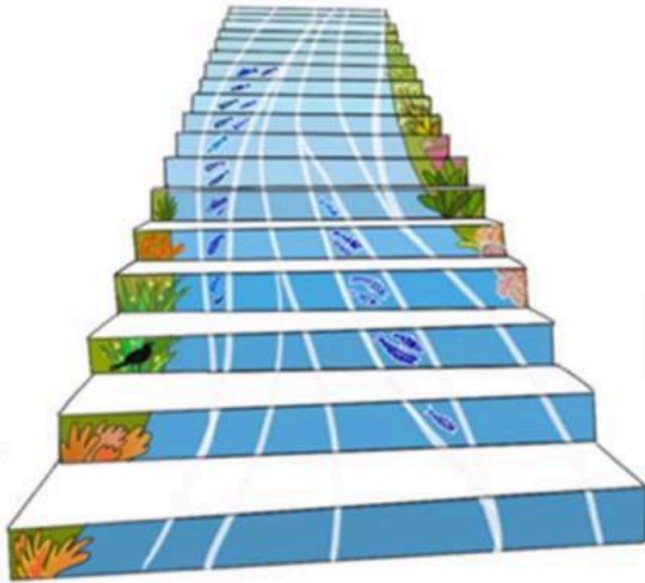
## Flight 2



### Stairway details:

- 22 risers, 6.5" by 10 "
- Image of the ocean merges with Buddhist symbols, highlighting Thailand's spiritual and maritime essence. An eight-spoked wheel represents the Eightfold Path. Golden fish symbolize prosperity and freedom, echoing India's sacred rivers.

## Flight 3



### Stairway details:

- 22 risers, 6.5" by 10 "

-Image features water and ocean themes from his hometown, including mermaids.

**5.0 Maintenance Plan**



## Maintenance Plan: Vicha Ratanapakdee Mosaic Stairways

Mosaic stairways require minimal maintenance. Nevertheless, our plan includes a community of volunteers to sweep and pick up debris around the areas of the wall and along the stairway. This will begin just after the dedication of the Vicha Ratanapakdee Stairway project. They will provide "clean-up" volunteer hours about once a month. A reserve of \$5,000 has been set aside to cover costs for repairs, should the need arise.