



Ruth Asawa Lanier, Inc.
4127 23rd Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

June 1, 2021

Ms. Tara Thompson, Arts & Culture Manager
Planning & Economic Development
City of Santa Rosa
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Dear Tara,

We are writing this letter in support of the conservation and reinstallation of the Courthouse Square fountain that our mother, Ruth Asawa, completed in 1987.

First, thank you for including members of our family in the site visit to the storage facility last January where the panels are currently housed. After seeing the work in person and discussing conservation strategies, as well as casting options with Katie Untch and members Artworks Foundry, our family strongly supports the refabrication of the panels in bronze.

We believe that they have become a beloved and important work for the local community, and any plan should aim to create a durable solution so the work can remain in its outdoor setting. Since concrete has degraded over the years, particularly on the panel that had contact with water, we believe a replacement in bronze would create the most lasting and durable option.

While it can be problematic to change the material for an artist's original work, we believe that our mother would support this change. Based on research in the archive at Stanford, performed by the writer Marilyn Chase in preparation for our mother's biography, as well as our personal recollection, our mother initially wanted the panels cast in bronze. However, due to cost constraints at the time, she proposed the alternate material, glass fiber reinforced concrete.

We strongly support the proposal to have the bronze panels recast in bronze so that our mother could finally realize her dream that we all have "a little jewel for Sonoma County & Gaye [LeBaron] will have her bronze."

As part of the restoration plan, we ask that every effort be made to preserve the original concrete and fiberglass panels. Perhaps they could eventually be displayed in a public, and protected indoor space.

Ms. Tara Thompson, Arts & Culture Manager
Re: Ruth Asawa's Old Courthouse Square Fountain
June 1, 2021

Please let us know if there is any way our office can assist in this process. We appreciate the effort you have made on behalf our family to protect and honor this important work. Please keep us informed of developments, and/or problems, on your journey to get the work restored to the square.

Best regards,



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