Tiffany Schmierer
Artist’s Proposal

I am excited and honored to be a semi-finalist for the Acute Tower Project at Highland Hospital. I am invigorated by the thought of creating work to inspire, transport, and calm patients and their families, as well as the staff at the hospital. My goal in art is to capture moments, feelings, and fragments of experience that can trigger others to remember and discover anew their own relationships with our vibrant and complex surroundings. I hope my unique approach using clay to combine printmaking, painting, and sculpture will be intriguing to viewers and make them curious about the materials and process. I would like to create 6 frameable, low-relief wall pieces which are inspired by events and places in Alameda County. The scenes will be familiar to many of Highland’s patients, visitors, and staff. This series will be an extension of my recent body of work called Patternscapes. “Patternscape” is a word that I developed to capture the theme of the series, which encapsulates the connections, imagery, and details of an environment.

The artistic style of my work is a colorful clay collage of imagery, pattern, texture, and shapes that are informed and inspired by a place that I have been. I start my process with a camera and sketchbook, taking urban hikes through the city and landscape. I am looking for details, colors, and likenesses that represent the essence of the location. I then print, carve, sculpt, and paint the designs into the clay. The pieces are fired to high strength and color permanence in the ceramics kiln, and then fired more times as I build up color to bring the pieces to life. The pieces combine abstracted with realistic imagery, which gives the viewer an opportunity to find familiar sights and form new associations as they experience the work. Below are three examples of wall pieces in the assembled clay collage style that I would like to create for the commission. They demonstrate my love of color, nature, architectural structures, and intricacy.

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The six subjects I would like to use for this series of Patternscapes are:

1. Patternscape: Alameda County Fair
The county fair is a favorite event for thousands of people in the area. The carnival rides and games provide a fun escape that holds a place in many people’s memories.

2. Patternscape: East Bay Hills
The East Bay Hills rise beautifully from the Bay and from a distance display a quilt of diverse imagery. Nature and architecture combine to make the hills a thing of beauty and a distinct part of the landscape.

3. Patternscape: Regional Parks Botanic Garden at Tilden
The Tilden Park Botanic Garden celebrates the native Californian plants and landscape. Green spaces are a valued part of the East Bay culture, where the urban landscape is balanced with nature.

4. Patternscape: Alameda Island
Alameda Island is an oasis full of cruiser bikes, ice cream parlors, bowling alleys, vintage shops, and waterfront fun. There is a timeless quality that only a beach town can invoke.

5. Patternscape: Bay Views
The East Bay waterfront is alive with ships, boats, cranes, bridges, birds, people, kites, and inspiring scenery. The water is a metaphor for travel, adventure, discovery, and life.

6. Patternscape: Urban Succulent
East Bay residents have beautiful gardens, many of which are filled with succulents and cacti that survive the urban setting and thrive in the sunny weather. Succulents are varied and unique, and they invoke the diversity and artistic spirit of the Bay Area. They are often seen in beautiful contrast to the urban architecture.

Each piece for the commission will be approximately 22” x 20” and be within the 2” depth requirement. Retail price including materials and expenses is $1650.00 per work, for a total proposed budget of $9,900. I am flexible on the size and number of pieces to provide, if selected for this project. Each piece will be fired to high strength for durability, and the ceramic colors permanently sealed with glaze. Ceramic glazes and pigments have remained colorful for thousands of years.

I am an artist and teacher who has lived and worked in San Francisco, Richmond, Oakland, and Berkeley. I have taught at local community centers, colleges, and universities including the Richmond Art Center, Merritt College, the Art Studio at UC Berkeley, and San Francisco State University. I am currently an Associate Professor of Art at Skyline College in San Bruno, where I teach ceramics and 3-D Design. I have exhibited my ceramic pieces in galleries and museums both locally and nationally, and have also worked with youth to create outdoor community art tile pieces in several Oakland communities. My experiences as an artist working in the Bay Area for the last 14 years make me a good match to create work for this project.

Thank you for your consideration; I think that my pieces will reflect and celebrate the splendor and diversity of the East Bay landscape. It is my hope that through this project, I can bring these wonderful places into the hospital and transport the viewer to a place of exploration.

Examples of Past Artwork
All artists were asked to refer to examples of their past artwork that are similar to the new artwork they are proposing to create for Acute Care Tower. Refer to the artist’s written proposal for a description of how the new artwork relates to the images below.

Patternscape: Green, 2013, Ceramic Wall Relief Tile, 16” x 14” x 2”
Surrounding Facets, 2012, Ceramic Wall Relief Tile, 19” x 16” x 4”
Patternscape: Bay View, 2013, Ceramic Wall Relief Tile, 18” x 14” x 3”