



MILLS50.ORG

MILLS 50 URBAN ART MUSEUM

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Mills 50 -- the intersection of creativity + culture -- is becoming more and more well known for its art, whether it be art boxes, wall murals or paintings along the Urban Trail. And now, Mills 50 will embark on yet another art project!

The Mills50 Urban Art Museum is a concept that developed through numerous design studios and the work performed by Process Architecture, one of Mills 50's corporate members.

The idea is simple! Where do you put an art museum in a densely populated commercial district when no funds exist for a structure let alone art? The answer is anywhere you can. The Mills50 Urban Art Museum is not a building but an urban network of commissioned art pieces that will be installed in select areas to restore blighted structures, reduce pollution, deviant activity, increase the attractiveness of the district and promote organized urban art.

The first installation will occur at the congruence of 932 and 934 North Mills Avenue. The blight is a 9' interstitial space that occurs between the two buildings and becomes a dumpster and catchall for unwanted items, including but not limited to 40-ounce bottles, switchblades and fast-food wrappers.

Fund-raising has begun for the creation and installation of the first public art piece. The funds raised will be used to purchase materials (sheet aluminum, conduit, paint and light fixtures) and pay for any permits and subcontracted services required for an urban public art installation. The artist, Marcos Cruz, and the organizers, Process Architecture and Mills 50, have agreed to donate all hours related to the design, fabrication and install of the art piece.

If you wish to donate to the Mills 50 Urban Art Museum, <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/process-architecture/mills-50-urban-art-installation-1>. Any and all donations are accepted and greatly appreciated.

YOU GOTTA WATER GARDEN ...

Continued from page 1

appreciate their flowers. The mosaic plant (*Ludwegia sedoides*), while not a Florida native, is a small plant somewhat like a water lily. Its diamond-shaped leaves float in a beautiful pattern on the water's surface.

Some floating plants to consider are water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*). Both are invasive and should never be used near natural bodies of water, but their suspended root hairs remove nutrients from the water which might otherwise harm fish. The roots also do a good job of protecting little fish from larger ones. There is an abundance of floating plants in most ponds and lakes that could be collected and added to the water garden.

Now it's time for the fish! They are an important component as they will eat any mosquito larvae that would otherwise end up in the water. This may even help to control mosquitoes by luring them to unwittingly lay their eggs that will become the next meal for some lucky guppies! Several types of fish will live in a

low-oxygen environment. Mosquito fish (*Gambusia holbrooki*) can be collected from local ponds and lakes. Fancy guppies, mollies and platties can be purchased at the local fish store. They will intern provide CO2 and 'fertilizer' for the plants in the water. It's a balanced system that just needs to have the evaporated water replenished occasionally. Collected rainwater is best, but tap water is OK if you let it rest a day or two before adding it to the container. It's a complete cycle makes for a great ecology lesson!

There are plenty of other options, like cascading water. The sound is soothing and helps to block out noise from the City. Larger water gardens can be built in the ground as natural looking ponds or streams with liners and rock edges or something more architectural with masonry walls and copings. Filtration systems can be used for larger quantities of specialty fish like Koi. So it's up to you to determine how ambitious you would like to be and get started!

Happy (water) Gardening!

