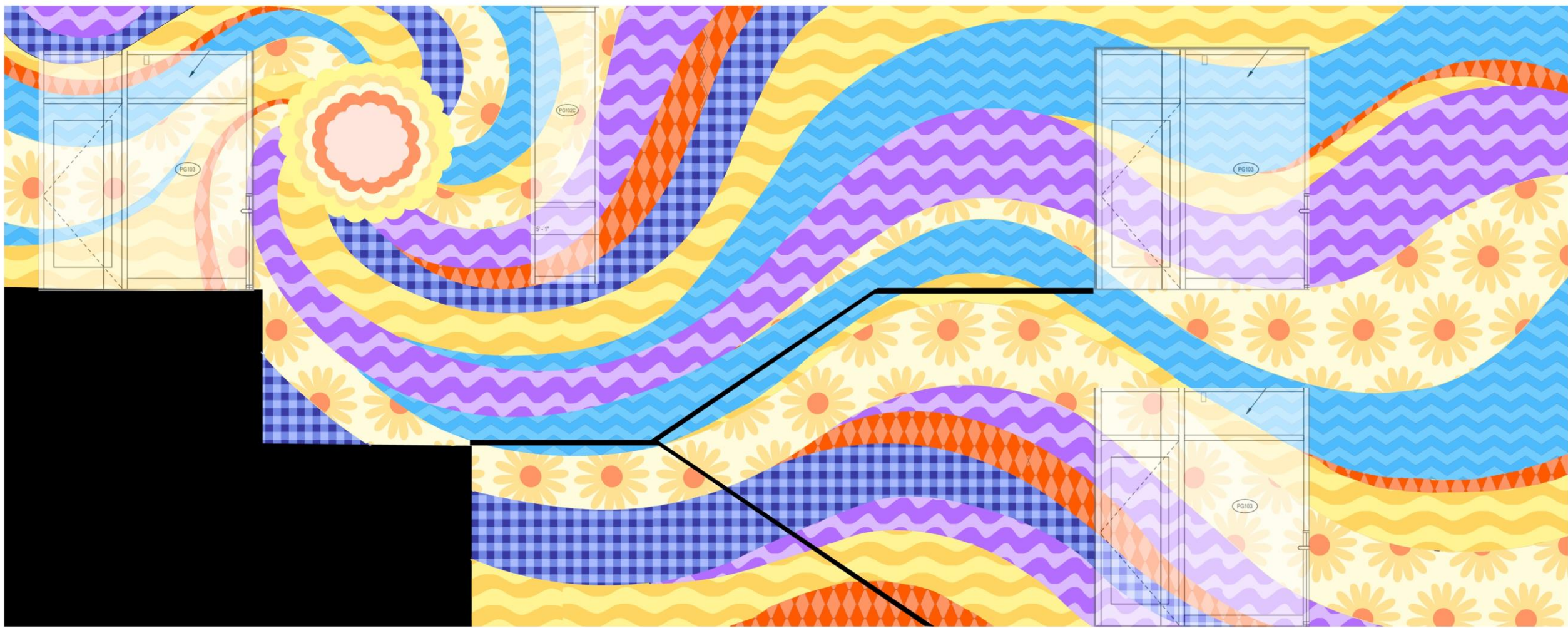# Quilts for Merriam

Artist Statement and Project Narrative

- I have been creating large scale public works for over a decade. These projects incorporate bright colors and patterns arranged in abstract, geometric compositions that completely transform their environment. These works are often inspired by quilting and domestic craft techniques that embrace decoration. I recontextualize these aesthetics to reference notions of the "home" and "community" in public space to emphasize our collective agency and indicate that our public spaces belong to all of us.

- My recent public works embrace Radical Joy in response to the precarity and anxiety we face every day. I create joyful experiences for visitors, residents, and passersby in the locations where I install my work.

- My proposed project for the City of Merriam is a set of two, brightly colored installations that will adorn the interior and exterior staircases of the Merriam Community Center campus. The installations feature patterned "quilts" through paint and elements that interact with color and pattern through natural light. My goal is to create a welcoming and memorable moment that appeals to a wide range of ages and demographics, while creating a sense of beauty, identity, place, and community.

- The design is abstract, geometric, and patterned but relates to nature. The light-based installations will literally interact with natural elements and the interior mural features a swirling sunny sky.

- My project will include a community engagement element where community members are invited to collaborate and participate in the painting of a portion of the interior staircase. The installations will welcome visitors to the campus, beautify the campus, encourage pedestrian exploration, and be highly visible on the community center campus.

Interior Stairwell

- The interior stairwell will feature an expansive mural painted with acrylic paint on polytab that will be transported and installed on site. If fire marshall does not approve the materials, the mural could alternatively be painted on site with exterior grade latex enamel paint. The mural will be a complete installation and totally transform the stairwell space.

- Polytab murals are highly durable. I've created several murals using the material and it is considered the preferred permanent material of NYC Health and Hospitals mural program.

- The mural would be sealed (anti-grafitti coating could be applied if required, but I generally use an acrylic base satin sealer).

- This interior mural would create a joyful experience for visitors and staff to the campus.

- In addition to painted elements, transparent, brightly colored, permanent grade vinyl applique would be applied to the windows in the space. These vinyl elements will continue the mural across the windows, allowing colored light to enter the space and will cast patterns on the staircase and floor.

- Colors and patterns may be altered slightly. This is a proposed design and more fine tuning will occur before installation. I am open to feedback from the committee regarding colors and patterns.

- If desired, the mural could also incorporate the walls around the elevator (removing wood would be a part of this process), but this would likely impact the budget.

Example of Previous Work
(utilizing same techniques and materials)

Patchogue-Medford Library, New York, 2024
(polytab mural)
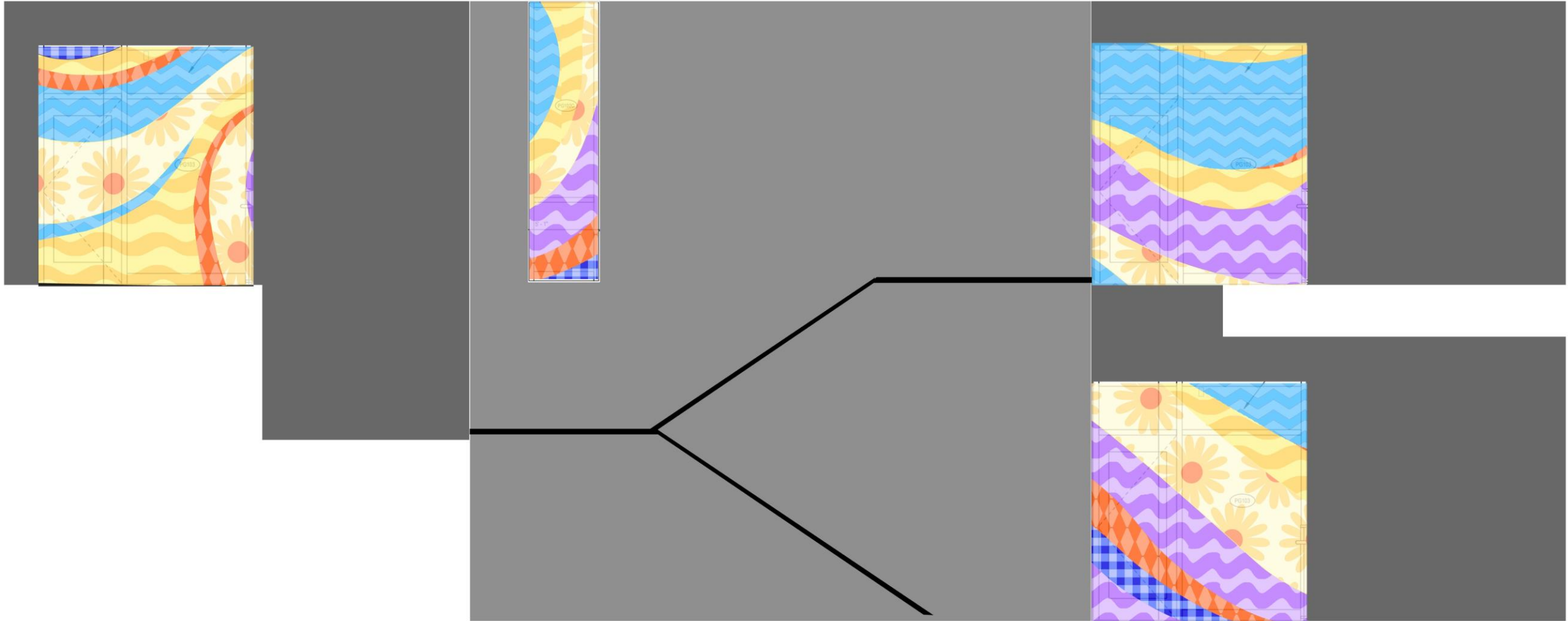Finished work

and

Installation process

Community painting event: a portion of the mural could be painted (paint-by-number) by visitors and staff to facilitate community engagement

Window detail
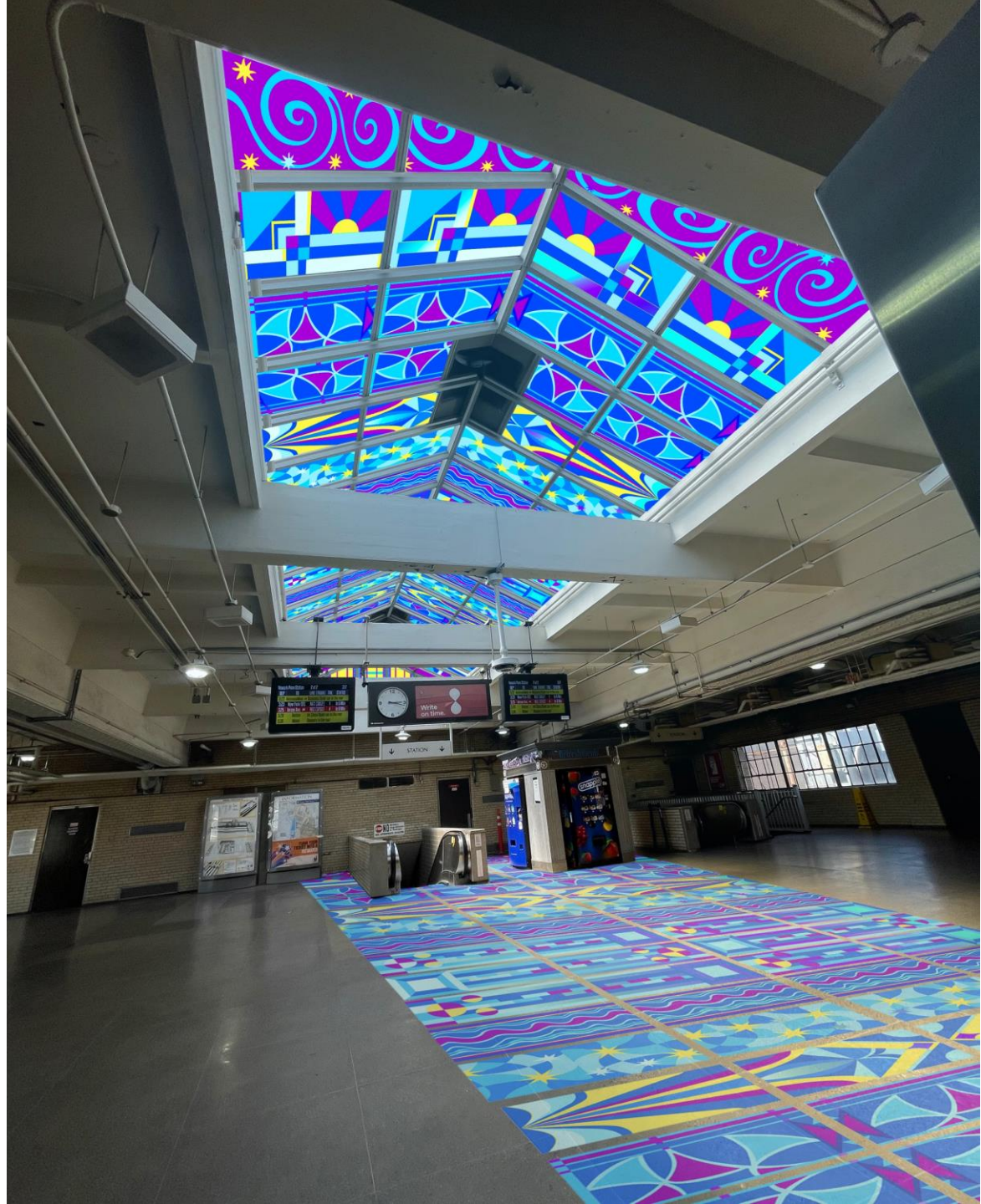(Could include all or some of door/window areas in the stairwell)

Example of Previous (In Progress) Work

(utilizing same techniques and materials)

New Jersey Transit, Penn Station, 2024-2025
Vinyl Installation

Interior Stairwell Budget (Materials and Labor, not including travel or artist fee)

Polytab (mural is approximately 1200 square feet)	$2200
Golden Acrylic Paints	$2500
Painting labor and prepping vinyl	$6000
Vinyl for windows	$800
Scaffold	$5044 (quoted by KC Scaffold)
Miscellaneous Studio Supplies	$1000
Golden Mural Adhesive	$650
On site installation labor (install and touch ups)	$2000
Varnish and/or graffiti coating	$1000
Total	$21,194

Exterior Stairwell

- The exterior stairwell will feature a custom awning with panels of clear polycarbonate sheeting. Transparent, permanent grade, brightly colored vinyl will be attached to the sheeting.

- The awning will be at an angle. The image – mirroring the installation in the stairwell – will be angled so that it is visible from the ground and street (while also allowing rain water and snow to flow off of the awning.

- I will work with a custom awning manufacturer/installer to make sure this is safe, to code, and durable.

- In addition to being visible as an image on the awning itself, the colored patterns will be cast colored light on to the stairwell, ground below, and parking structure depending on the time of day. At other times, it will be a suncatcher that will be illuminated by ambient light. Additional lighting could be added if desired.

- Design is not finalized, but will be similar to the interior stairwell mural for a cohesive experience across the campus.

Example of Previous Work
(utilizing similar techniques and materials)

Nashville International Airport, Nashville, TN, 2022
Vinyl Installation

RADIATE POSITIVITY ✴ Cara Lynch
caralynchstudio.com ● @cara_lynch ● bonnarooworksfund.org ● flynashville.com
This exhibit is funded by the Bonnaroo Works Fund, the Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival and Arts at the Airport

Exterior Stairwell Budget (Materials and Labor, not including travel or artist fee)

Custom awning fabrication and installation (approximate, in conversations with fabricators)	$10,000
Assistant labor (vinyl applique work)	$3000
Miscellaneous materials	$500
Vinyl	$3000
Total	$16500

Complete Budget

Interior Stairwell Installation	$21,194
Exterior Stairwell Installation	$16,500
Artist Fee	$8,000
Travel (car rental, hotel, flights for me + assistant, some contingency funds) (includes initial trip to take measurements)	$4,306
Total	$50,000

Long Term Care

For interior installation, polytab murals are incredibly durable, especially when sealed. No significant long-term maintenance is expected. Semi annual monitoring could occur looking for signs of delamination or wear, but this is not expected. Additional adhesive could repair peeling material, but it is unlikely this will be needed. Polytab murals are considered permanent and used in both interior and exterior situations.
The mural will be sealed and therefore could be gently cleaned if needed. No harsh chemicals should be used. Mural should not be scrubbed. A soft brush or cloth and water should be used to clean if needed. Vinyl installation on windows will be made with Oracal 8300. In an interior situation, this is considered permanent.

For exterior installation, I will be consulting with a professional awning manufacturer/installer. The vinyl I will be using to create the colored patterns on the clear polycarbonate roofing is Oracal 8300. It is expected the material will last for a number of years before showing any signs of wear. An additional layer of protective material will be added if budget allows for this. The awning itself will be securely attached to the parking structure and posts will be cemented into the ground. The structure will be highly durable (likely made of steel) and it will stand up well to outdoor elements.

Timeline

Interior stairwell installation, touch ups, and community event, approximately 8 days.

Installation complete by October 10.

Final measurements taken: early June 2025
Design finalized: late June 2025
Polytab painting at my studio: July-August, 2025
Vinyl fabrication at my studio: July – August, 2025
Contingency: September 2025
Awning fabrication: July – September, 2025
Awning installation: late September, 2025
(Vinyl to be applied to polycarbonate sheeting in advance of or in coordination with awning installation)
Installation of interior and exterior artwork: late September, 2025

2-2.5 weeks total timeline for installation