

SITE VISIT

Benito Huerta, *Snake Path* (2007, MACC)

2/28/2014

Present: Maggie Stenz, Collection Manager, AIPP; Herlinda Zamora and Chris Owens, MACC/PARD; Laura Esparza, HAND/PARD

MACC staff were concerned about staining/discoloration on Snake Path, so we looked at it together.

Overall, I noticed no changes from the last condition reports on file (November 2012 and April 2013), which reported minor issues with weeds growing through the cracks, gum left on bricks, and discoloration at the shaded part of the sidewalk.

The issue we noted today was that the bricks under the building's overhang were moist and/or stained, most probably from water drainage issues. This part of the sidewalk doesn't get much sun, and it's quite likely that the sand underneath the bricks does not drain well. (NOTE: though today is sunny, we have had rain the last few days—quite possibly takes a few days to dry out.)

Some of the stains are dark (could be either dirt, mold, or moisture held in the bricks); some of the stains are whitish (possibly calcium deposits from the water used to power wash the bricks).

Chris noted that they regularly power wash the sidewalk, but without soap. Chris thought perhaps he would try to wash with soap in the dirtier areas. Laura thought perhaps a product that removed calcium deposits would help.

The rest of the sidewalk is in good condition, except for small weeds sprouting up in between the bricks. Comparison of the bricks in the sunlight and the bricks in the shade reveal that the issues are limited to bricks in the shady section.

Repair options: Possibly one way to tackle the problem would be to remove the bricks and improve drainage underneath, if the issue is caused by drainage problems. Easier methods would be applying products to the bricks to remove stains. If moisture is the issue, it will not be eliminated by adding new coat of sealer or other products. Question would be whether the artwork itself is damaged and needs repair (AIPP issue) or whether it is a building/grounds issue that needs to be addressed by public works. If it is determined that AIPP should repair the work, we would consider this repair in the context of other AIPP repairs on our list and prioritize according to budget, etc.

Next steps:

**Maggie to call artist to get info on bricks (source? Any extras left behind?), sealers used (artist's maintenance plan suggested bricks should be resealed every 3-5 years), suggestions on cleaning bricks, name of person/company who installed sidewalk.

**Keep an eye on the bricks—next site visit should be after a period of prolonged dryness—check condition of walkway if/how/when the bricks dry out.

Photos—next page.



Corner brick missing (on path near snake's head)



Red bricks look dirty (just near shady area)



Under the overhang the bricks are different colors, likely due to moisture under the bricks and/or mold

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