

THE GOLDEN  
SECTION

**A Living Wall**

For

The City of Sebastopol

VICKIE JO SOWELL,  
SCULPTOR



The Golden Section

Concept Model at Sebastopol Public Library



- For me the heart of Sebastopol is the Bodega Highway, which winds like a ribbon through the town
- Of all the sites we considered, it is the facing wall of the Public Library that offers the best opportunity to make a great visual and defining impact
- Transformed into a Stunning Living Wall



# Golden Section--Fabrication

- A sturdy galvanized steel “A-frame” structure 19’ wide and 17’ high will be erected on a concrete pad in front of the central section of the Library Wall
- The 19’ x 17’ area will be divided into 4 sections, laying out the main areas of the living mural. Each section will have its own drip irrigation zone.
- Smaller galvanized compartments for plants are arranged within each of the sections.
- Bottom edge of sculpture extends 4’ forward into existing planter, providing a terraced multi-level slope for succulents.
- Project will be Certified by Structural Engineer

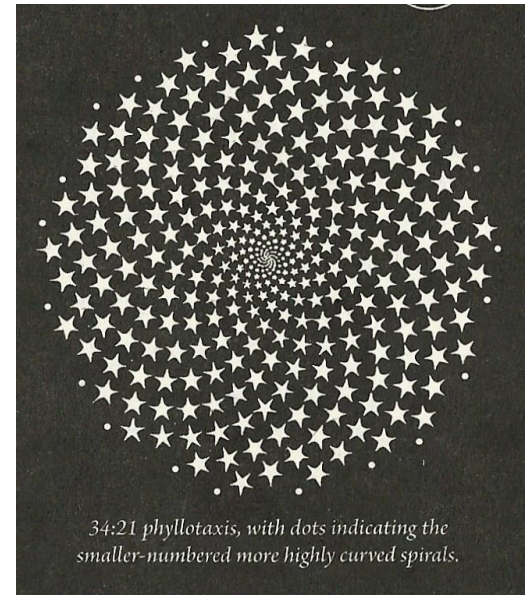


# The Golden Section--Celebrating Sebastopol's horticultural heritage

- An Homage to Horticulture and the Environment
- **Why succulents?** Many of the sedums and dudleyas used will be California coastal natives. These species are hardy, drought and frost resistant. In their enormous variety they are on the cutting edge of breeding and variation in agriculture as seen in Luther Burbank's Golden Legacy
- Organic Sculptural succulent forms combine into a 3-D mural "The Golden Section"

# The Golden Section--Inspiration

- The geometric patterns formed by the succulents within the sculpture demonstrate “The Golden Section,” sometimes called “Nature’s Greatest Secret”
- This refers to regular mathematical patterns that are often observed in Nature.
- Among plants, these familiar proportions in growth are called “Phyllotaxis patterns”. Succulents are wonderful examples of this.
- Here are just a few examples of Phyllotaxis among our flowering plants  
(source: “The Golden Section” by Scott Olsen)





# A Vibrant palette of Hardy Varieties

images from Mountain Crest Gardens <http://mountaincrestgardens.com/hardy-succulents/>



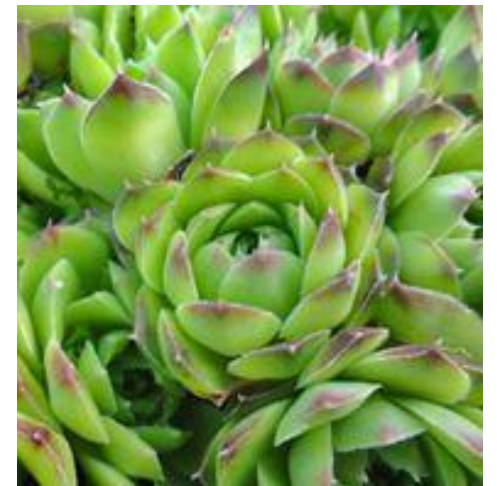
Jovibarba heuffelii  
'Aphrodite'



Jovibarba heuffelii  
'Beatrice'



Jovibarba heuffelii  
'Bros'



Jovibarba heuffelii  
'Gold Bug'

# Easy to Maintain Succulents and Drip Irrigation

- Plants suited for Local conditions—drought-resistant succulents need little additional water
- Professionally installed drip irrigation system and plumbing
- 5 year on-site maintenance plan included.\*



Sample planting compartments, with drip irrigation system

\* Budget details on request





Concept Model at Morris St. Wastewater Facility



# Site 2 for The Golden Section

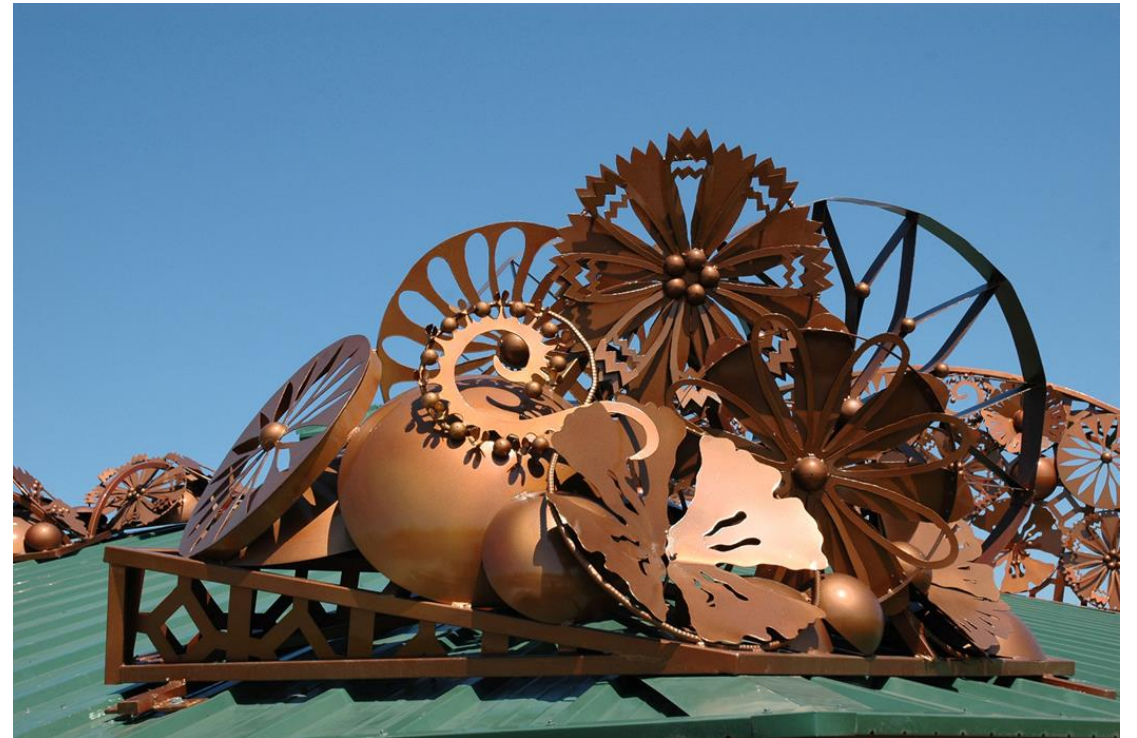
- The sloped embankment at the Treatment facility on Morris Street could serve be an alternate location for The Golden Section, should the Library be relocated
- Helps revitalize an environmentally important area of Sebastopol



# Experienced Public Arts Sculptor Vickie Jo Sowell

More than 15 years providing successful public arts projects to the community. Visit my website at <http://unrulyimages.com>. Resume and project list available.

Heliotrope, Stockton CA. Three sculptural sections sit atop a hexagonal shade structure establishing a spiraling floral bouquet that tracks the sun. Floral images are of native flowers that attract beneficial insects.





# Experienced Master Gardener and Environmentalist Vickie Jo Sowell

Big Daddy's Complete Rejuvenating Community Garden  
Founded and run by Vickie Jo Sowell, 2002 – present

When the auto-detailing shop across from our home burned down in 2000, the City asked me what we would like to see on the site. This thriving organic community garden and sculpture garden (which I also manage) is now 14 years old! It serves as an unofficial gateway to our City of Emeryville.



# Living Wall

Vickie Jo Sowell  
2014

Combining my passion for public art and gardening, this living sculpture is now over 3 years old. I've exhibited the piece in numerous exhibitions, always with a good response.

