

## West Point—at the Confluence

by Linda Toren, September 2022  
(Calaveras County Poet Laureate 2022-2024)

Our town is lost  
in the mountain reaches  
of a lightly populated county.

We don't belong anywhere  
but to ourselves  
a hideaway of artists  
and other loners  
taking care of each other.

Fortunate in the scheme of life  
our town forgotten  
then remembered  
once in a while.

We are not a destination  
unless a wrong turn  
heads you up the mountain  
where wagons rolled along  
a dirt road single file, east  
along the riverbank.

In the Long-Before-Time  
home to Mi-wuk—the people—  
their way of life compatible with  
meh weh, ep lolly, oo yah  
hee lee chah, ah su mah tee.  
All still here.

Once a mining town  
with a thousand Chinese.  
Then a timber town—lumberjacks  
led by a “bull of the woods”.

Now, West Point is still far away  
from anywhere—  
safe haven for us country folk.

If you arrive by accident—  
stop at the café, top of Main Street,  
find the library near the school,  
visit the Community Garden or  
wait until Lumberjack Day  
when far and wide the parade  
is a shining star of the year.

Reality is enough food for thought—  
wood split in the shed,  
chickens cluck about sunshine,  
ravens wheel on the wind.

The smell after rain  
beyond pungent,  
leaves a chorus of wonder  
as humus clarifies soil.

One can taste how life  
disintegrates and renews  
here, in the wild foothills.

**Thank you to all of the artists, businesses and  
community members who made this project possible.**



**Blue Mountain**  
Coalition for Youth and Families

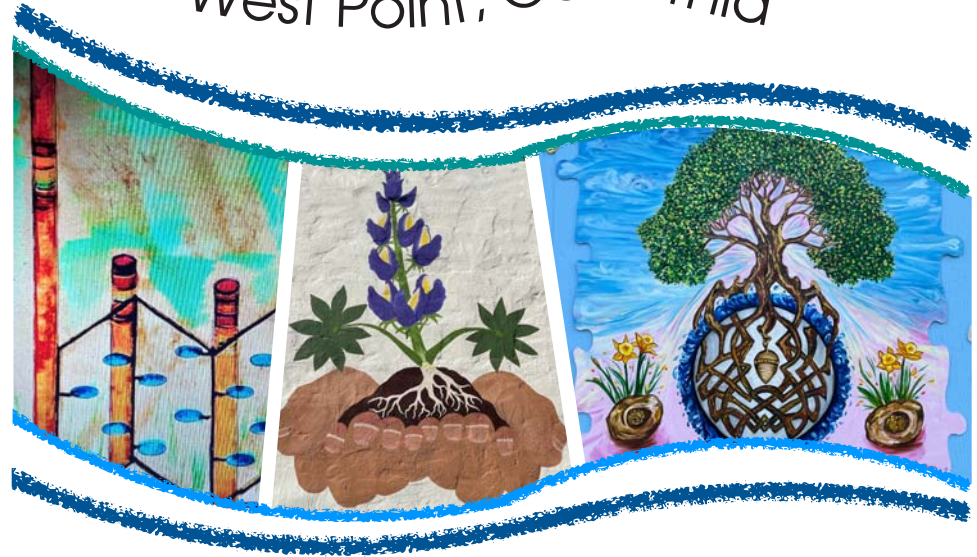


The West Point Art Path was funded by a grant from the California Arts Council, a state agency, and coordinated by the Blue Mountain Coalition for Youth and Families, a non-profit organization.

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# Art Path

West Point, California



**A walking path from  
West Point School & Library  
to our downtown spaces.**

**FOLLOW THE PATH**  
*to the*  
**HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY**



### 1 Book Bench



Maryann Gravitt, 2022  
Mixed media  
"READ!"

### 2 Crosswalks



Painted by the  
Blue Mountain  
Lead Up  
Teen Program, 2022

### 3 Rejuvenation



Nedra Russ, 2022  
Acrylic paint

### 4 "O Sunflower, weary of time"/Fragile



Bonita Gill, 2022  
Metallic acrylic on  
foam core with  
local ephemeral bits

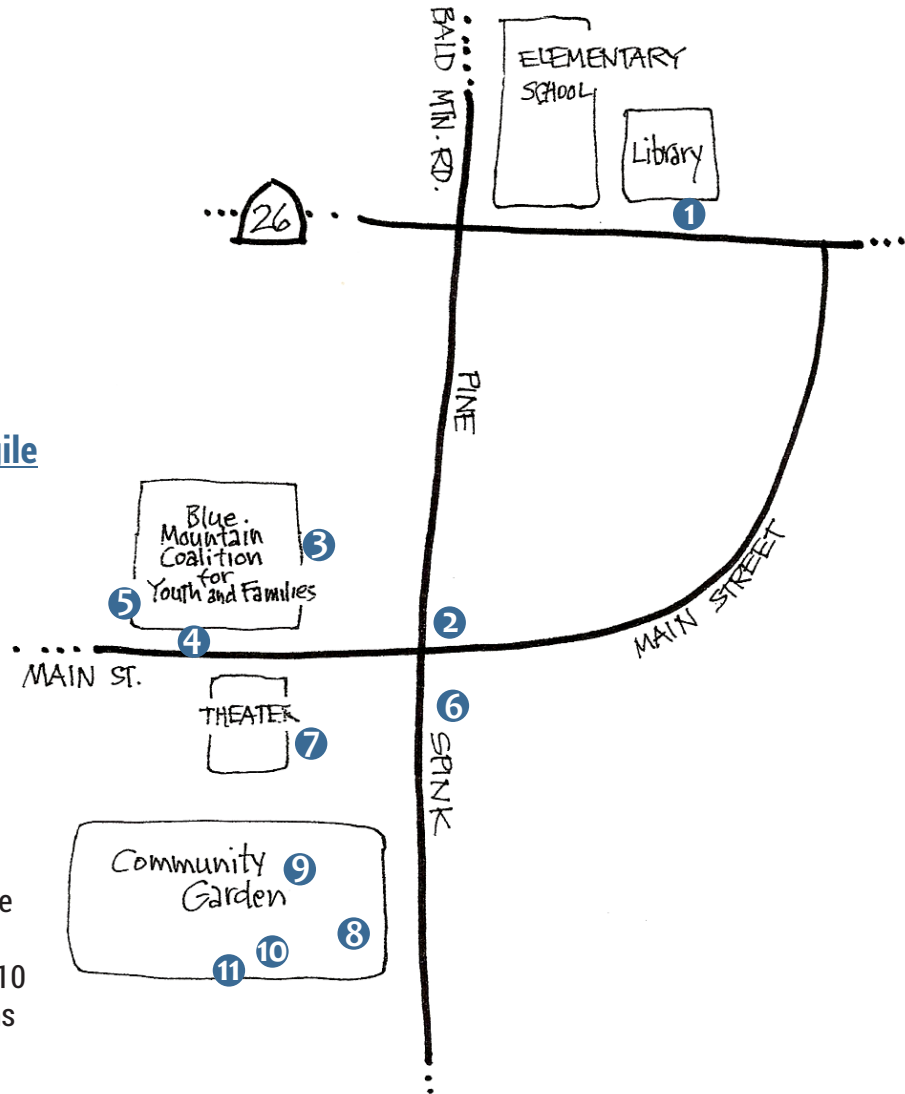
### 5 Monument to Miwuk Ancestors



To inform the next  
generations of Miwuk  
people and the  
community about the  
past, present, and future  
of First Peoples.  
Joyce Rummerfield, 2010  
Joyce's family maintains  
and honors her  
contribution.

# Art Path

West Point, California



### 6 Resilience Blooming



Delilah Garcia, 2022  
Acrylic paint  
"May we aspire to be  
as resilient as Lupine's  
beautiful blooms"

### 7 West Point Strong



Suzanne Smith, 2022  
Mixed media  
"Resilience, Love, Hope"

### 8 River and Pines



Susan Preece, 2022  
Wood, Rock,  
Metal, Paint  
"A tribute to the natural  
wonders of our area,  
and to the people that  
made it home."

### 9 Indigenous Life



Donna Guadagni, 2022  
Ceramic work &  
composition  
"Infrastructure by Sky  
Wallace"

### 10 West Point-at the Confluence



Linda Toren, 2022  
Calaveras County  
Poet Laureate  
Original Poem

### 11 Flower Garden Mural



West Point Elementary  
School Students, 2022