

# Annotated Bibliography

## Source #1:

Editor, P. M. G. (Ed.). (2024, March 27). About Philadelphia's Magic Gardens. Philadelphia's Magic Gardens.

<https://www.phillymagicgardens.org/about-philadelphias-magic-gardens/#:~:text=The%20creator%2C%20Isaiah%20Zagar%2C%20used,bi%2Dlevel%20outdoor%20sculpture%20garden>.

Through this source, I learned about Isaiah Zagar, the creator of Philadelphia's Magic Gardens. One quote that stuck out to me about the creation of these mosaics was, "The Zagars, teamed with other artists and activists, transformed the neighborhood into a prosperous artistic haven and successfully led protests against the addition of a new highway that would have eliminated South Street. This period of artistic rebirth was coined the 'South Street Renaissance.' After the street was saved, Zagar continued creating mosaic murals, resulting in hundreds of public artworks over the next five decades." This page also showed video footage and photos of Philadelphia's Magic Gardens itself. Through those images and videos, I observed how Zagar drew on the grout itself to outline shapes, used brightly colored grout, layers of different objects, outlines with mirrors, found objects, and wavy lines to achieve his iconic look.

## Source #2:

Editor, MasterClass. (Ed.). (2021, September 7). Explore Mosaic Art: How to Make a Decorative Mosaic. MasterClass. <https://www.masterclass.com/articles/how-to-make-a-mosaic>

Through this source, I learned more specifics about how to create a mosaic that will last outside. This source recommends using a clean concrete base, which will mean that I will have to strip the paint off of the wall on the terrace that I want to use. This source also recommends using polyurethane as a sealant if you want the mosaic to last outside. This is a useful piece of information because other sources I have looked at have not included which type of sealant I should use. This source also made me realize that I will need a spatula for the applying of grout and adhesive.

### Source #3:

Moorman, J. (2019, May 18). Using found objects in figurative mosaics: How to mosaic blog. How To Mosaic Blog | Using Tile To Make Art.

<https://blog.mosaicartsupply.com/using-found-objects-in-figurative-mosaics/>

This article was a blog about found objects being used in mosaics. It was useful because it showed examples of people tastefully using found objects in mosaics, where you could still understand what the mosaic was trying to depict. This is useful to me because I want to use found objects in my mosaic, but not lose definition/the image I want to create. This source also taught me about how important contrast is in a mosaic, because the image will already get muddled by the color of the grout, so you have to make it stand out with color. This source also highlighted that when it comes to found objects in mosaics, less is more. I don't know if I will be able to follow that advice because I am using SLA senior's found objects for a majority of my mosaic.

### Source #4:

Marble, M. (2018, February 16). Saimir Strati: A Unique Mosaic Artist. Mosaic Marble Blog.

<https://mosaicmarble.com/blog/saimir-strati-a-unique-mosaic-artist>

This source talks about Saimir Strati, a famous Albanian mosaic artist known for his use of unconventional materials. The source explains that he uses unconventional materials like mirror glass, porcelain, eggshells, corks, toothpicks, coffee beans, sea glass, nails and even compact discs. This information is useful because it offers up unconventional material ideas that I hadn't thought of before. This also explains how Strati seeks to celebrate the fact that most artists chose to pursue their craft despite the fact that they will likely not make a lot of money at first. This idea is definitely a mindset I should keep in mind as I could very likely not get funding from Braskem.

### Source #5:

Wallys, Wandering. "How to Make an Outdoor Wall Mosaic." *YouTube*, YouTube, 23 May 2020,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpBELpIPCfY>

This source offered some good insight into less professional-grade mosaic making. The woman in these videos used a file to sand a lot of her pieces of glass into shape, and I hadn't thought about needing that before seeing this. She also used mostly broken ceramics which got

me thinking about what ceramic companies I could reach out to to ask for scraps. She also recommends having a giant plastic vat to store grout and tile cement in so that it stays dry throughout the process. The women also used a brush to scrape off the excess tile which is a technique I used when I created tile at my Fleisher classes, but forgot about. She also stresses the fact that for outdoor projects you need waterproof cement and grout to ensure that it lasts. She covers up her mosaic at night, so I wonder if I should get a tarp to do that on the terrace as well. She also uses paper to map out her mosaics beforehand for each small section that she does. She also stresses that you have to use the brush to clean the grout off the tile while the grout is still wet.

## Source #6:

Miles, Helen. "MASTERING OUTDOOR MOSAICS: 4 Key Principles For Long-Lasting Artwork." *YouTube*, Helen Miles Mosaics, 17 June 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=maHiZCuGnRc>

This source details the "4 key principles for outdoor mosaics." The first of these is choosing the right materials, and the woman explained that you cannot use broken mugs whose details have been printed on because the design will crack and peel over time. She recommends using only bone china to make sure that your mosaic lasts. I'm not sure if that is achievable for me, however, because I am working off of cheap and found materials. The woman in this video explains that if you are using an outdoor wall you have to put a coat of render on it, which I have found is adding a layer of cement to a wall before a mosaic to make it smooth and durable. I am not sure if this is going to be a necessity for me because the wall I am working on is already solid concrete. You also need to have a ledge, or coping stone, that goes above the mosaic wall and hopefully diverts rain. She also highlights that you should use tile adhesive and make sure that it says for outdoor use, and you should read all the instructions. She also recommends Titebond 2 premium wood glue to adhere glass and ceramic to the wall. She says one of the most important things to remember is that anything you are adding to your mosaic should be held  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the way by the grout. For example if you push in a 1 in x 1 in cube of glass, you should only want  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch sticking out. She then shows how to put in shells and shallower pieces of tile as well.

## Source #7:

Twining, Peter. "Outdoor Mosaic Materials." *Youtube*, Treasury Road, 14 July 2020, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L\\_aaGEYmnM8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_aaGEYmnM8)

This video had a cool idea to use old CDs in your found object mosaics. It also recommended that I waterproof seal my concrete even though it is not as porous. This was good to know because I would not have sealed my concrete beforehand if I had not known it was necessary. The man in this video also mentioned that there are rejected tile places where you can go and get tile. I was planning on reaching out to tile companies and thrift stores/resource exchanges but I did not think that actual reject tile places existed so I will have to look into that. This source also stressed that you should make sure that your grout and adhesive are not weather-resistant and water-resistant, but waterproof. This will ensure that my mosaic lasts outside and in a high traffic area. The man in the video mentions mixing his own thin set mortar, but I don't think I will be able to do this because it requires a latex solution and I am allergic, so I will stick to my other adhesives or a latex-free version. Through watching this video, I also learned the tip that you add a drop of water to the back of the tile you want to use and see if it absorbs, if it does it is not suitable for outside mosaic work.

### Source #8:

News, WGN, "Artist's Mosaics Fill Potholes with Actual Street Art." *Youtube*, WGN News Chicago, 5 September 2019, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B\\_kOJWx1WfE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_kOJWx1WfE)

This source offered some inspiration in the form of a street artist who fills potholes with mosaics. This made me think about all of the parts of our building that fall apart and how maybe a good alternative project if I don't receive Braskem funding would be to fill the holes in our school with beautiful mosaics. He preps his work beforehand so he has more time to create the artwork and then transfers it into concrete on a mesh sheet. I wonder if this would be a good method for me when it comes to my wall mosaic because it would give me more time outside of school to be productive because the building closes at a certain time.

### Source #9:

Oregon, PB, "Pebble Mosaic Artist Jeffrey Bale Uses Work to Connect With Nature | Oregon Art Beat." *Youtube*, Oregon Public Broadcasting, 18 September 2019, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hoW\\_J1E\\_yk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hoW_J1E_yk)

This source was helpful because it offered the unique idea of using pebbles to create intricate patterns in a mosaic. I like this idea and want to incorporate pebbles into my work now because it connects to the natural world, which is something necessary when it comes to the terrace. The artist interviewed, Jeffrey Bale, collects natural materials from the beach, so I think it would be beneficial for me to go collect some stones and shells from the jersey shore when I can to incorporate into this project. Bale uses this technique where he presses a large wooden

board into his mosaic before it dies to even out all of the material. I don't know if this would work for me because I am working vertically, but it is a good tip to remember.

### Source #10:

Designs, A. (2017, March 15). "Rashid Johnson's 'Broken Pavilion.'" Artaic Designs | Public Art Mosaics. <https://artaic.com/commercial/mosaic-applications/public-art-installations/>

This source offered a pretty large collection of mosaic installations in public places. This offers great inspiration for unconventional shapes I could include in my mosaic. I especially liked Rashid Johnson's "Broken Pavilion" design because of how he used color to make a really graphic and eye-catching mosaic. This was a good reminder to me that I want to use as much color as possible when creating this mosaic because of how dreary the terrace looks currently. I also like that this design depicted a lot of people since it was going into a community space, so I want to definitely keep that in mind for my mosaic.