

## **Annual Report 2010 Public Art and Community Design Committee (PACD)**

The Public Art and Community Design Committee (PACD), a committee managed by the Tucson Pima Arts Council, is composed of twenty-one members: eight members represent Tucson's six City Council Members, Mayor, and City Manager; six members represent Pima County's five District Supervisors and County Administrator; seven members are appointed by the Tucson Pima Arts Councils' Board of Directors.

### **2010 PACD Overview**

During 2010, the PACD conducted a primary activity - reviewing the recommendations of selection panels unique to each capital improvement project for artists to receive commissions to design and create public art for Tucson and Pima County. The Committee also discussed and provided direction regarding several small commissions and donations, discussed efforts to restore specific artworks in the City's collection, considered a recommendation for an artist for the Arizona Department of Transportation's upcoming I-10 Prince Road Interchange Project, discussed mentoring opportunities for less experienced artists and public art in private development programs underway in many cities throughout the country, and undertook efforts to record some of Tucson's most significant murals with the Heritage Preservation's Rescue Public Murals project.

### **New Projects**

New projects related to capital improvements within Tucson's Parks and Recreation Department include Atturbury Wash, Cherry Center, and Lincoln Park. Tucson Transportation Department projects include the Grant/Oracle Roads Intersection, Houghton Road -Irvington to Valencia, Houghton Road Railing Treatment, and Kolb Road. ParkWise is building the Plaza Centro Parking Garage; City Transit and Sun Tran are constructing a new Sun Tran Bus Storage and Maintenance Facility.

The PACD reviewed the artist selection process for each of these projects, past work of the finalists for the projects, and discussed the qualifications of the artist recommended by the artist selection panel for each award. Formal action to accept the panels' recommendations were undertaken with the next step for each project to be a review by the Arts Council's Board of Directors before being forwarded onto the elected official in whose jurisdiction the project is occurring and then onto the City Manager for final acceptance.

Several small commissions (those under \$5,000) for which an artist can be invited were reviewed for neighborhood artwork (Brichta Neighborhood) and the Warehouse Arts Management Organization. This review includes a consideration of aesthetics, location, safety (with additional review by the City's Risk Manager), and maintenance implications. As in the case of larger

commissions, the PACD's recommendations are forwarded to the Arts Council's Board of Directors, elected official, and City Manager.

#### Maintenance and Deaccession

The Committee provided guidance in the review for maintenance and/or deaccession (removal) of two public art projects. The Committee discussed options and direction for a mural on the La Pilita south facing wall. The building itself, a historic structure, was undergoing stabilization and restoration, necessitating removal of the well-loved mural to access a failing wall. Direction was provided that includes continuing to work with the artist who had originally painted the mural to repaint the same mural.

The removal of a severely vandalized wall relief in Mansfield Park was finalized in 2010; the Committee had followed the progress of the removal after efforts to maintain and essentially recreate in more durable materials proved to be financially infeasible.

#### Other Jurisdictions

The Committee reviewed the artist selection process for the Arizona Department of Transportation's I-10 Prince Interchange. The same open competitive process used on Tucson and Pima County projects was undertaken but with a modified review process.

The Committee reviewed the artist selection process for Pima County's Cortaro/Magee Intersection and Walls and followed the standard approval process with County Administration.

#### Additional Items

Public art in private development, either as a voluntary addition of artwork into a privately funded project or as a requirement for projects of a predetermined size within a designated geographic area such as a downtown business district, continues to be discussed as a way to consistently enhance the community's vibrancy and aesthetic appeal.

In an effort to broaden the pool of artist applicants for projects, the Committee discussed adding mentoring of emerging artists into the selection process. Several strategies have been considered, including adding a less experienced artist as a team member with a more experienced artist.

The Committee contributed to the discussion of which Tucson murals merit documentation and recognition with the Heritage Preservation's Rescue Public Murals project. Ultimately, a diverse set of murals was selected based on multiple factors including artist, aesthetics, content, significance to the community, and condition. Information regarding these murals was provided to the Heritage Preservation Foundation.