

Houghton Road

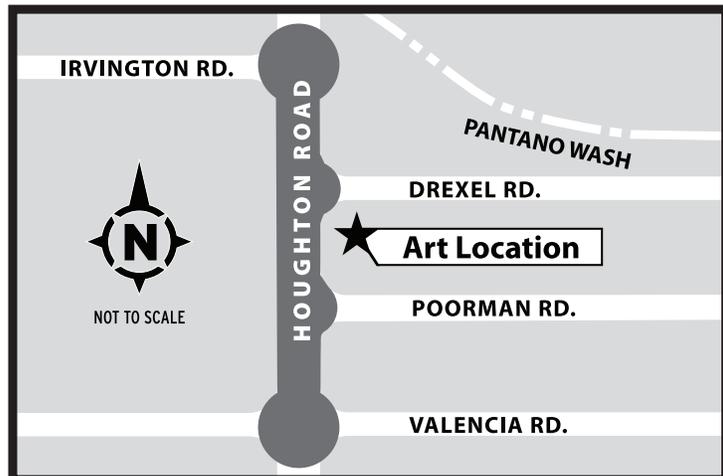
IRVINGTON ROAD TO VALENCIA ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PUBLIC ART FACT SHEET

Process

All Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) projects allocate 1% of construction costs for public art. Tucson Pima Arts Council (TPAC) administers the Percent for Art program for both the City of Tucson and Pima County. Through a competitive selection process organized and facilitated by TPAC, project artists are chosen to plan and create specific art in conjunction with the design and construction phases of the specific projects. The project artists are selected by a panel that includes residents and artists from the project area neighborhoods.

Planning

Public art planning artists Nina Borgia-Aberle, Stephen Grede and Blessing Hancock were selected and worked with the design team and the community on the Houghton Road Corridor Public Art Master Planning Process starting in November 2009. It was their goal to understand the roadway from a cultural, historical, environmental and aesthetic perspective. They collaborated with the community through attending Community Design Review Committee (CDRC) meetings, Houghton Road project open house events, neighborhood association meetings and community events. Their planning process identified opportunities and developed guidelines for future project artists.



More information is available at the project website:
www.houghtonroad.info



Design

Artists Blessing Hancock, Joe O'Connell and Nina Borgia-Aberle were selected for the design of the art for the Houghton Road: Irvington Road to Valencia Road segment.

- The artists used community input from the Houghton Road Corridor Master Art Plan to influence their art concept.
- The artist concepts, evaluated by the artist selection committee, were presented at three Ward 4 CDRC meetings, a public art meeting and one project public meeting over a two-year period.
- The art concept is a sculpture that was inspired by nature and wildlife habitats, particularly butterfly and moth cocoons. The sculpture is shaped like a cocoon.
- The sculpture is designed to be a destination/meeting place on the walking path along Houghton Road. Pedestrians will be able to walk through the sculpture.
- The sculpture is composed of stainless steel and contains low-level LED lighting that will be illuminated at night to allow for unique shadows to be cast as people walk through it. It has had standard engineering, construction and risk management reviews.
- Several locations were considered for the sculpture. Constraints for the locations that were eliminated included the presence of overhead power lines and underground gas lines.
- The sculpture is located just south of Drexel Road on the east side of Houghton Road. This location allows for a nearby source of electricity to light the art piece.
- The sculpture was created off-site and transported to Houghton Road for installation in April 2014.
- The artist rendering of the sculpture and additional information about the art selection process and recommendations may be found by visiting the project website at www.houghtonroad.info and selecting the Art link.

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