



PUBLIC ART UPDATES

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PORT OF SAN DIEGO PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Margaret Brezel (Chair) Imperial Beach; Jeri Vanderpool, Chula Vista; Martha Ann Youngberg, Coronado; Jim Bird, National City; Janene Christopher, San Diego; John Vissat, Port Tenants Association; Teresa Barker, At Large Member; Calvin Woo, At Large Member; Jesus Dominguez, At Large Member; Catherine Yi-yu Cho Woo, At Large Member

ROBERTSON AIRCRAFT EXHIBIT



The Robertson Aircraft Exhibit at Lindbergh Field is the only one of its kind in the country. The public is seeing many items in this exhibit for the first time. In the fall of 1925, the Robertson Aircraft Corporation hired Charles Lindbergh as their

Chief Pilot to fly the mail from St. Louis to Chicago. An envelope flown by Lindbergh on his inaugural flight April 15, 1926 is on exhibit. It was Bill and Frank Robertson who believed in Lindbergh enough to contribute \$1,000 toward the purchase of the Spirit of St. Louis. A color copy of this historic check is on display along with one of his last payroll checks. The white Robertson baggage label in the display case came from the Robertson family. Pictured climbing into his DH-4 with a parachute on his back, Lindbergh had no radio, no navigational aids, and many times no lights to guide him on his 262-mile flights. Visitors will see many photographs including a picture of the airport and the boarding house just off Lambert Field where Lindbergh lived. The Robertson Aircraft Corporation was the very beginning of what we know today as American Airlines making Charles Lindbergh its first pilot. The Robertson Aircraft exhibit is on loan to the Port of San Diego by **Dan and Vickie Clemons**. Other items in the Clemons Collection are on exhibit at Lindbergh Field and the San Diego Aerospace Museum in Balboa Park.

Article by Dan Clemons

THE CAVE/CANYON PATH PROJECT

The Public Art Committee recently selected artists qualified in public art design, fabrication and installation for the pedestrian pathway between the Marriott Hotel and the Convention Center. The purpose of this project is to enhance this now-obscure pedestrian gateway with special design details and obvious visual landmarks that will direct attention to the access-way and create an engaging transition between city and bayfront. Three finalists and two alternates were chosen from a field of forty: **Jun Kaneko**, **James Carpenter**, **Dale Chihuly**, **Buster Simpson**, and **Mags Harries with Lejos Heder**. Three of the artists will be commissioned to develop detailed proposals for this project.



CONVENTION CENTER PROJECT

The San Diego Convention Center was recognized as one of the top three convention centers in the world with Paris and Hong Kong by *Meetings and Incentive Travel Magazine*. With its sail topped roof and nautical grace, this world class landmark provides 90,000 sq. ft. of column-free special event space, making it the largest such space in North America.

In conjunction with the on-going expansion of the Convention Center, a Public Art Partnership was established including the Convention Center, the City of San Diego, and the Port of San Diego. The Partnership sought public artwork that would meet three objectives: (1) enhance the pedestrian access with a visual linkage between the Gaslamp District and the SDCC, (2) mitigate the project impacts to the views of the waterfront as required in the Final Environmental Impact Report, and (3) further define the Convention Center as a public landmark. The envisioned monumental artwork will be located on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Harbor Drive.

The Partnership's nominating committee identified 56 nationally known artists and designers as potential candidates for creating the new artwork. Members of the oversight committee included: **Kathryn Adanchick**, Curator of Laumier Sculpture Park; **Mary Beebe**, Director of the Stuart Collection; **Louis Grachos**, Director of Site Santa Fe; **Joe Lewis**, Dean of Art, CSU Northridge; and **Sally Yard**, Associate Professor of Art History, USD.

An oversight committee ultimately selected three from this group of candidates—**Kim Adams** of Ontario, Canada, **Alan Rath** of San Francisco, and **Nancy Rubins** of Los Angeles—as semifinalists for the design competition. All three artists developed detailed proposals for consideration by the City, Port and Convention Center.

At press time, final selection of an artist and design for this project is pending.

SDIA INTERNATIONAL GATE

The Board approved the installation of artwork by artists **Italo Scanga** and **Gail Roberts** at the new international gates of the San Diego International Airport. **Roberts'** artwork is a large oil on canvas tree image composed of 38 separate 15x15" canvases. Each panel will be a painting depicting branches and trunks of trees in natural and rural environments throughout Southern California. The paintings when combined together will form one large image of a tree. This art is intended to be inset into the 32x20' wall in the 2nd floor ticketing area. **Scanga's** artwork for the 1st floor arrival lobby consists of three large paintings, five flame-like glass pieces and 4 glass trees that include elements of San Diego's sun, agricultural land and history.

HISTORIC RAILCAR PLAZA



Plans for the Historic Railcar Plaza in National City continue to move forward and are being developed by the architectural firm,

Anderson, Koch and Smith. The plaza, which will be built at the corner of 24th Street and Harrison Avenue, will contain a structure for housing and displaying a restored 1880s-vintage passenger railcar that was once owned by National City founder Frank Kimball. The railroad car is the No. 1 car of the old "Motor Cannon Ball" excursion train that once served on the old National City and Otay Railway. A section of track will enable the railcar to be rolled outdoors into the plaza for special occasions. Four additional display areas within the building will showcase artifacts and memorabilia associated with the railroad and early National City history.

Tile elements by artist **Marlo Bartels** of Laguna Beach will add a colorful and historical accent to Railcar Plaza. **Bartels** specializes in historic tile restorations and is particularly familiar with the tiles manufactured by the **California China Products Company**, which operated in National City at the turn of the century. The California China Products Company produced the tiles for the Santa Fe Depot and the California Building in Balboa Park. Historic Railcar Plaza is on track for a scheduled grand opening in May 2000.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Community involvement. The success of public art depends on the involvement of its patrons. While many artists actively engage the public in their work, community representatives also provide a vital balance to the decision making process by participating on Art Committees and at project development meetings. Those interested in participating in the development of upcoming projects should contact the Port's Public Art Coordinator.

Artists involvement. Artists who wish to be considered for public art commissions should submit the following materials to the Port's Public Art Department, Attn: Artist Registry:

- A current resume
- Up to 20 labeled 35mm slides of recent work
- Support materials such as catalogues, reviews, articles, etc.

Mail to: Public Art Coordinator, Port of San Diego, P.O. Box 120488, San Diego, CA 92112-0488.

"ELEFOUNT"

Recognized for his originality, humor and quality of form, **Gary Hughes'** work is found in a growing number of collections from coast to coast and abroad. In fact, his sculpture "At the Gate" at the San Diego International Airport created such interest in his work that soon after its placement, **Hughes'** collection sold out. To thank San Diego for its interest and support, **Hughes** donated the limited edition bronze "Elefount". The sculpture will be placed in the Coronado Ferry Landing central pond.



PUBLIC ART WEBSITE GOES ON-LINE!

A new web site showcasing the Port of San Diego's Public Art Program is now on-line! This will enable artists, art aficionados, public art decision-makers, patrons and other interested persons to gain a better and more immediate understanding of programs, opportunities and goals relating to public art at the Port. It also details how both artists and the community can become involved in these programs.

Visit our web site soon, and don't hesitate to send us your comments. A web site is always a work in progress, so your suggestions will help us shape it better to your interests. The internet address for the Port of San Diego's Public Art web site is: www.portofsandiego.org. (Click on the "Public Art" button.)

"SPIRIT OF IMPERIAL BEACH" STREET END MONUMENT



This large bronze sculpture depicts the dual theme of surfing and sand castles, for which Imperial Beach is world famous. Situated in a 10 x 30 foot and-filled island, **A. Wasil's** monumental 18-foot sculpture will be the central focus of a new oceanside pedestrian plaza planned for the end of Palm Avenue. The new sculpture is expected to nicely compliment existing art works nearby, including **Malcolm Jones'** "Surfhenge" and **Mary Lynn Dominguez'** "Illuminations" at Pier Plaza, and **Wyland's** "Ocean Riders" at Dunes Park. In addition to **Wasil's** piece, the city has commissioned a wave wall, designed by **Paul Hobson**, for the Median Beautification Project. These artworks reflect the civic pride of Imperial Beach and a remarkable renaissance of public art in this community.

FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC ART INFORMATION, CALL (619) 686-7246

Port of San Diego

Discover what's in it for you.

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Your comments and suggestions are welcomed.