

# PUBLIC ART UPDATES

Published by the Port of San Diego's Public Art Program – No. 6 – March 2001

## New airport gallery opens with exhibit of "brown bag art" to help Food Bank



At last, the new airport gallery opens at San Diego International Airport. Located on the second floor of Terminal 2, the gallery's initial and current exhibit includes a collection of paintings on brown paper bags by twenty-five local artists. The artists are volunteers collaborating with the Neighborhood House Association to support the San Diego Food Bank and create community awareness regarding the issue of hunger in San Diego. British Airways will sponsor an auction of the artworks on April 27, with

proceeds going to the Association's efforts to feed hungry families and individuals throughout San Diego County.

This year marks the 86th anniversary of the Neighborhood House Association, the largest and oldest multipurpose human service organization in the San Diego County. With community programs such as Head Start, the San Diego Food Bank, senior and youth programs, mental health, job preparedness and an array of thirty programs, the Neighborhood House Association annually impacts over 300,000 San Diegans county-wide.

The San Diego Food Bank, an America's Second Harvest Certified Affiliate, has been providing nutritional services to San Diego County for over 20 years. Public relations officer Alexis Dixon said, "It is a pleasure to collaborate with the Port of San Diego Public Art Program on this unique project. Catherine Sass, the Port's Public Art Director, clearly understands that art can speak to societal needs in a way that brings the community together and promotes the common good."

Artists participating in this inaugural gallery exhibit include:

Gary Conaughton, Jack Yonn, Laura Janes, Susan Snyder, Charlotte Bird, Fran Watson, Candy Kuhl, Bill Gambini, Judith Jarcho, Chuck Rucker, Susan Roden, Marilyn Segraves, Cynthia Gersten, Madelena Latorre, Ron Smith, Nilo Naghdi, Jim Murray, Andre Rushing and Grace Quinley.

The new art gallery will showcase the work of area artists to the nearly 16 million travelers annually who pass through the airport. Exhibits will be displayed on a rotating basis. □

Photo top left: Example of "brown bag" art by artist Cynthia Gersten.

## Niki de St. Phalle sculpture "Coming Together" for Convention Center

Port Commissioners approved funding in December for an exciting new artwork for the Convention Center by internationally recognized artist **Niki de St. Phalle**. The proposed artwork, called "Coming Together," was recommended by the tri-agency Convention Center Art Partnership, which consists of representatives from the Port of San Diego's Public Art Committee, the San Diego Commission on Arts and Culture, and the San Diego Convention Center Corporation.



Formed in 1999, the Partnership has been working to identify a distinctive public artwork that would:

- Further define the Convention Center as a public landmark
- Enhance pedestrian linkage between downtown and the bay
- Enhance the design and functionality of a new plaza adjacent to the Convention Center expansion.

The new artwork is a large ceramic mosaic sculpture that depicts a human face divided in half with one side mirrored and the other side multicolored. The two sides represent the duality of the self. When completed, the sculpture will rise 37-feet above a new plaza being created at 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Harbor Drive near the south end of the new Convention Center expansion.

The artist, **Niki de Saint Phalle**, is well known for her giant whimsical figures in bright mosaics. Her other works include a sculpture garden of 22 tarot card figures in Italy, a Noah's Ark of 23 sculpted animals in Jerusalem (with Mario Botta), and a sculpture garden in Escondido's Kit Carson Park. Her work is on display throughout Europe, as part of the Stuart Collection at the University of California San Diego, in front of the Mingei Museum and Hall of Champions in Balboa Park, and at the San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art. One of her flamboyant, colorful sculptures, "Nana and the Dolphin," is on loan to the San Diego International Airport and is on temporary display in front of Terminal 2.

Continued on page 2

## Public Art Gazette

*A report of official decisions by the Public Art Committee and the Board of Port Commissioners*

### Public Art Committee Action:

*October 19* – Recommended accepting a proposed donation of a tribute honoring entertainer Bob Hope.

*October 19* – Recommended approval of site for the “Bob Hope Tribute” at the northwest corner of the G Street Mole and agreed to work with the project’s artists to further refine the design.

*October 19* – Approved artist A. Wasil’s request to reproduce copies of his maquette of the “Spirit of Imperial Beach” sculpture.

*October 26* – Recommended approving the design concept of the “Tribute to Bob Hope” conditional upon certain changes being considered in the wall and bench elements.

*November 16* – Recommended approval of design concept and siting of a memorial to the World War II cruiser *U.S.S. San Diego (CL-53)* at Harbor Drive & G Street Mole.

*November 16* – Recommended approval of the revised Convention Center partnership process.

*November 16* – Recommended accepting a proposed Convention Center artwork by **Niki de St. Phalle**.

*November 27* – Recommended approval of the “Bob Hope Tribute.”

*February 15* – Approved exhibit of art at the airport supporting the Neighborhood Health Coalition’s Food Bank.

### Board Action:

*June 27* – Accepted from Jackie Mann family the donation of sculpture called “Bubble Bath” by **Dan Hill** for placement at a site on Shelter Island near the Children’s playground.

*August 8* – Approved the design, siting and funding package for the Ron McElliot Memorial at the Chula Vista Marina.

*October 31* – Approved the appointment of Debra Owen to the Public Art Committee.

*November 14* – Approved preliminary concept design and budget for the “Canyon Path” public art project.

*November 28* – Approved concept design and siting of a donation titled “A Military Tribute to Bob Hope.”

*December 12* – Approved revised Convention Center partnership process and the Partnership’s choice of an artwork by **Niki de St. Phalle** for the Convention Center.

*December 12* – Approved the preliminary design and siting of a donation titled “U.S.S. San Diego (CL-53) Memorial.”

## Port Commissioners approve four major new public artworks for Port tidelands

In the closing weeks of 2000, the Board of Port Commissioners approved the recommendations of the Public Art Committee for four major new artworks for the tidelands.

The Board approved the preliminary design concept and project budget for the Canyon Path artwork by **Mags Harries & Lajos Héder**. This project will provide obvious visual landmarks and enhance accessibility to the narrow passageway between the Convention Center and the Marriott Hotel, which is an important link between downtown streets and the bayfront.

The Board also approved the recommendation of the Convention Center Art Partnership for a major sculpture by artist **Niki de St. Phalle**. This colorful mosaic and mirrored ceramic work is titled “Coming Together.” Standing 37 feet in height, it will be the focal point of a new plaza at Harbor Drive and 8th Avenue, near the south end of the Convention Center expansion. (See page 1.)

The preliminary designs and siting for two military-related artworks for the G Street Mole park passed muster with the Board as well. These works include a memorial to the distinguished service of the Navy cruiser *U.S.S. San Diego (CL-53)* in World War II and “A Military Tribute to Bob Hope,” which honors the famous entertainer’s selfless dedication, over half a century, to entertaining U.S. servicemen and women overseas. (See page 3.) □

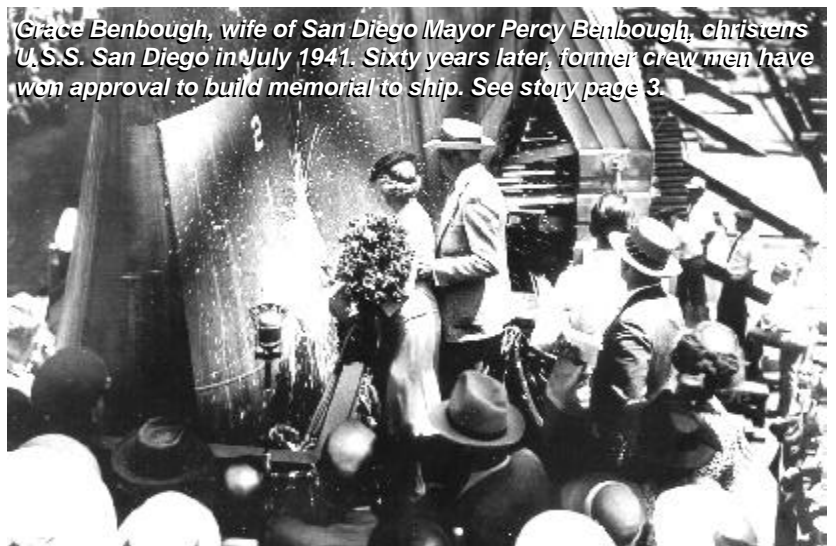
### Niki de St. Phalle...

(Continued from page 1)

The Niki Museum, which is devoted to the artist’s life work, opened in 1994 in Nasu, Japan. She was recently honored with a Praemium Imperiale Award – the Nobel Prize of the arts – for outstanding achievement in sculpture. The artist’s current exhibit at the Springle Museum in Hanover, Germany, will become a permanent collection in the museum.

The Port of San Diego has committed \$600,000 for financing this public artwork, which is sure to be a colorful and distinctive landmark in this new tidelands plaza and accessway to the bay. □

*Grace Benbough, wife of San Diego Mayor Percy Benbough, christens U.S.S. San Diego in July 1941. Sixty years later, former crew men have won approval to build memorial to ship. See story page 3.*



## U.S.S. San Diego Memorial approved for G Street Mole site

Fifty-five years ago last October, the citizens of San Diego turned out for a momentous and gala homecoming celebration for their city's namesake Navy cruiser, the U.S.S. *San Diego* (CL-53), which returned here from Tokyo Bay after thirty-nine months of arduous service during combat operations in World War II. Now, working through the Port's



Public Art Program, former crew members are planning to erect a landmark public artwork on tidelands to commemorate the distinguished deeds and service of their ship and its crew. In December, the Board of Commissioners approved the preliminary design as well as a site location at G Street Mole and Harbor Drive.

The new monument, known as the U.S.S. San Diego Memorial, is a

contemporary artwork consisting of geometric shapes attractively arranged on a triangular-shaped plaza in a design reminiscent of a ship's bow. The monument will feature a large terra-cotta bas-relief of the ship and two life-size bronze sculptures representing the men who served on board. The floor of the monument will depict a large map of the western Pacific with the ship's wartime track superimposed in brass.

Artists **Eugene Daub and Louis Quintance** designed this stately sculpture to complement the existing architecture and natural elements of the site, and to convey an inspiring and important story that deserves to be passed on to posterity. The U.S.S. San Diego Memorial will keep alive the example of service, valor and sacrifice that was such a common virtue among Americans during that critical time in our nation's history.

Groundbreaking for this project is expected to occur during 2001, and dedication is planned for 2002.

This monument is a donation to the people of San Diego. Funding is entirely from private and corporate donations. *For additional information on how to support or become involved with this project, please contact: Leonard Shea, Secretary, U.S.S. San Diego (CL-53) Memorial Association, Inc., P.O. Box 182142, Coronado, CA 92178, Phone (619) 435-0431 or E-mail: sheale@cts.com* □

## Major sculpture project to be focal point of a Military Tribute to Bob Hope

A major artwork honoring Bob Hope—actor, entertainer and comedian—will soon overlook San Diego Bay from a Board-approved waterfront site at the northwest corner of the G Street Mole.

Though universally known for his long career as star of radio, film and television, Bob Hope's legacy may best endure in the hearts of generations of U.S. servicemen. Over a fifty-year period, from 1943, he dedicated himself to entertaining soldiers, sailors and airmen at the many battle fronts and remote outposts where they have served throughout the world. His overseas U.S.O. tours, which often took place over Christmas, were deeply appreciated and well-remembered by countless thousands of servicemen on protracted tours of duty, often under combat conditions, far from their homes and families.

Artists **Tom and Leeann Askman** designed the Military Tribute to Bob Hope, which is in the form of a circular plaza about 47 feet in diameter. Five life-size bronze sculptures of Bob Hope are arrayed on the five points of a large star-shaped stage. They portray Hope in various performance skits at five different periods in his troop entertainment career—World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, and the Persian Gulf War. Additional bronzes around the perimeter represent audience members from each of the five military services.

A water element at the center of the star features a rotating globe traversed by a small airplane, symbolizing Bob's extensive travels around the world to entertain the troops. An interactive sound element features actual recordings of Hope's jokes and routines and gives the visitor some sense of the bonding Hope felt with the service people stationed overseas.

The Military Tribute to Bob Hope is sponsored by Taffy III, a group of public service-minded Navy veterans. *For additional information on how to support or become involved with this project, please contact: John Ibe, Vice President, Taffy III, 10525 Vista Sorrento Parkway #110, San Diego, CA 92121, Phone (858) 587-9999.*



## Aviation Art Contest winners announced

The Port of San Diego, in partnership with the San Diego Aerospace Museum, once again this year sponsored the International Aviation Art Contest for children. The goal of the contest is to motivate and encourage young people to become more familiar with and participate in aeronautics, engineering and science. This year's theme was "My Dream to Fly," and the only limitations to creativity were the children's imaginations and the size of their paper. A panel of judges selected winners in the following categories:

### Ages 6-9

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Ruben Castillo**, 9  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Jaime Leatherman**, 8  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Chelsee Harris**, 8

### Ages 10-13

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Lindsay LaPlante**, 10½  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Rebecca Kathryn Webb**, 11  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Trang Dinh**, 11

### Ages 14-17

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Erik Becerra**, 17  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Katie Bethea**, 16  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Pearl Hodges**, 16

### Chairman's Award:

- Age 6-9: **Carly Lindsay**, 9  
 Age 10-13: **Christian Valenzuela**, 11  
 Age 14-17: **Lindsay Seligman**, 16

### Executive Director's Award:

- Age 6-9: **Ignacio Castoneda, Jr.**, 8  
 Age 10-13: **Megan Teachworth**, age 11  
 Age 14-17: **Cindy Wang**, age 17

### San Diego International Airport Award:

**Taiana Vieira**, age 11

### Aviation Director's Award:

**Carly Clark**, age 11

### Aerospace Museum Award:

**Stephanie Tecca**, age 10

### Public Art Award:

**Francisco Ramirez**, age 17

### Honorable Mention at State Level:

**Francisco Ramirez**, age 17  
**Rebecca Kathryn Webb**, age 11

Local winners received great prizes, and their entries were forwarded to Sacramento for the statewide competition. Winners at the state level will be forwarded to Washington, D.C., to participate in the national competition. Finalists' entries are then forwarded to the international competition. The children's aviation artwork is on public display through March at the Commuter Terminal at Lindbergh Field. □

## Public Art Calendar for 2001

The Year 2001 promises to be a busy one for the Port's Public Art Program. The following calendar projects a number of upcoming events envisioned for this year:

March 20	Board presentation of Aviation Art Contest winners
March TBD	Installation of Italo Scanga and <b>Gail Roberts</b> artwork at Int'l. Gates
March-April	Food Bank art exhibit at Airport Gallery
April 27	Food Bank art auction – sponsored by British Airways
April 27	Dedication of Int'l. Gates artwork by <b>Gail Roberts</b> and <b>Italo Scanga</b> .
June-July	Ground breaking ceremony for Cancer Survivors Park
July-August	Banner Art Display – Phase II
August 15	Deadline for community-initiated public art applications
August-Sept.	Dedication of <b>Niki de St. Phalle</b> artwork at Convention Center
Nov.- Dec.	Dedication of Cancer Survivors Park
Nov.- Dec.	Dedication of Canyon Path pedestrian accessway
TBD	Ground breaking ceremony for Bob Hope Tribute
TBD	Ground breaking for U.S.S. San Diego Memorial
Jan – Dec.	Public Art Committee Meeting – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday monthly.

## Ron McElliott Memorial dedicated in Chula Vista

On January 17, the Port of San Diego and the San Diego Port Tenants Association dedicated a memorial to honor the late and much beloved community leader Ronald J. McElliott. Fittingly located adjacent to the Chula Vista Marina, which owes its existence to McElliott's vision and driving force, the beautiful new memorial features a wind harp sculpture by artist **Ross Barrable**.

Wind harps are acoustic sculptures that interact with the atmosphere to create musical tones, which vary in pitch and intensity with the changing speed and direction of the wind. Park visitors and nearby live-aboard marina residents have already expressed delight with the unique and pleasing sounds emanating from the memorial.

The McElliott Memorial wind harp, titled "To Remember Me," is constructed of stainless steel, contains an amethyst sphere, and is fitted with nylon and titanium harp strings, which are actuated by the natural sea breezes that are common at the site. It stands 12 feet high perched atop its powder-coated steel pedestal and is located near the harbor-master's office. Attractive landscaping and benches provided by the Port further enhance the public's enjoyment of the art and provide contemplative opportunities for passers-by. The appearance of the harp, which resembles the outline of a

sailboat, and the beautiful musical tones it produces were considered by the McElliott family to be especially appropriate to Ron's memory, because he loved both music and sailing.

"Ron McElliott was a valued leader and powerful influence behind community events that give our region a true sense of identity," said Frank J. Urtasun, Chairman, Board of Port Commissioners. "In Ron's memory, the McElliott family hopes the harmonic sounds of the wind harp will lift the spirits of all those who visit this special tribute." □



Photo by Dale Frost

## Debra Owen joins the Public Art Committee as new member at-large

In October, the Board approved the appointment of Debra Owen as a new member-at-large on the Public Art Committee. Ms. Owen is a prominent art consultant and gallery owner based in the Gaslamp Quarter and East Village neighborhoods of San Diego. Through her award winning organization, the Debra Owen Art Group, she has focused since 1993 on developing a supportive audience for emerging artists. She also works with corporate clients to find art works that will enhance their work environment as well as project corporate vision and values to employees, clients and the community.

Ms. Owen has served in numerous leadership positions on over a dozen different civic and cultural boards, committees and associations during the past six years. She currently serves on the boards of directors of the Downtown Partnership, East Village Association, Partners for Livable Places, Downtown San Diego YMCA, and the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation.

Ms. Owen is the recipient of numerous awards and distinctions including, in 1999, the Gaslamp Quarter Association's "Outstanding Service and Leadership Award." Also in 1999, *San Diego Metropolitan Magazine* recognized Ms. Owen's business as "Best Art Gallery."

Debra Owen is a highly qualified candidate with impressive professional and leadership credentials in the local art community. She assumes the Public Art Committee seat formerly held by Calvin Woo, whose term had expired. □



## Port sites "Flame of Friendship" sculpture

A gleaming, 21-foot-high, stainless steel artwork by internationally recognized artist **Leonardo Nierman** was dedicated on October 31 at the San Diego Convention Center. The sculpture, known as "Flame of Friendship"/ "Flama De La Amistad," is a gift of friendship and goodwill from the Government of Mexico to the people of San Diego. This beautiful original artwork is located on the upper level landing of the grand outdoor staircase of the Conventions Center, where it adds a polished accent to the modern architectural elements of the Convention Center and the new San Diego cityscape.

"This is a flame," notes artist **Leonardo Nierman**, "but it's also an embrace. It is my hope for mankind that one day we will feel like brothers, act like brothers and love like brothers, instead of like adversaries." □

## Public Art Committee candidates sought

The Port of San Diego is seeking qualified candidates from the community at-large for a soon-to-be open seat on its Public Art Committee.

The Public Art Committee consists of ten volunteer members—one each from the Port District's five member cities, one from the San Diego Port Tenants Association, and four members-at-large. The Committee's task is to review potential or proposed public art projects, determine which ones best fit the mission of the Port's Public Art Program, and make appropriate recommendations to the Board of Port Commissioners. The forthcoming open seat is for a member-at-large. For this position, the Port is seeking an interested art professional such as a curator, visual artist, art critic, art historian, art collector, art fabricator, architect, landscape architect, art educator or other person with a visual arts background who is willing to engage effectively in a panel process. Candidates should be prepared to meet with the Committee a minimum of one afternoon per month, normally on the third Thursday. Members are occasionally asked to volunteer for temporary working committees that meet as required to review special projects. Members' terms are three years.

Interested candidates should complete an application form and forward it with a resume or biography to: Director of Public Art, Port of San Diego, P.O. Box 120488, San Diego, CA 92112-0488. To obtain a copy of the application form or additional information about this position, call (619) 686-7246 or visit the "Public Art" section of the Port's web site: [www.portofsandiego.org](http://www.portofsandiego.org). (Click on the "Committee" button to find the form and more information.) □



Gail Roberts



Italo Scanga



Carolyn Braaksma

## Save the date - Meet the Artists April 27th, 2001

Watch for your invitation to the Grand Opening of the new FIS facility at San Diego International Airport, Terminal 2 East, featuring the dedication of three major public artworks:

**Tree Lines** by Gail Roberts

**Continents** by Italo Scanga

**Concrete Reliefs** by Carolyn Braaksma

**Hope to see you there!**



**My Dream To Fly**

by *Francisco Ramirez*, age 17, won the Public Art Award in this year's Aviation Art Contest and went on to win Honorable Mention at the state level competition. See page 4 inside for complete list of winners.

**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 Director.

**Artist 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 or curriculum vitae
- Up to 20 labeled 35mm slides of recent work
- Support materials such as catalogs, reviews, articles, etc.

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

**Port of San Diego  
 Public Art Committee Members**

- Margaret Brezel** (Chair)  
*Imperial Beach*  
**Melody Cernitz**  
*Chula Vista*  
**Martha Ann Youngberg**  
*Coronado*  
**Kathleen Smith**  
*National City*  
**Janene Christopher**  
*San Diego*  
**John Vissat**  
*Port Tenants Association*

Members at-large:

- Teresa Barker**  
**Jesus Dominguez**  
**Debra Owen**  
**Catherine Yi-yu Cho Woo**

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FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC ART INFORMATION, CALL (619) 686-7246, E-mail [publicart@portofsandiego.org](mailto:publicart@portofsandiego.org), OR VISIT THE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM WEB SITE AT: [www.portofsandiego.org](http://www.portofsandiego.org) (click on the "Public Art" button).

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Public Art Updates is published by the San Diego Unified Port District's Public Art Program P.O. Box 120488, San Diego, CA 92112-0488 Your comments and suggestions are welcomed.