

# Sheltering Wing

Artist: Roger White Stoller

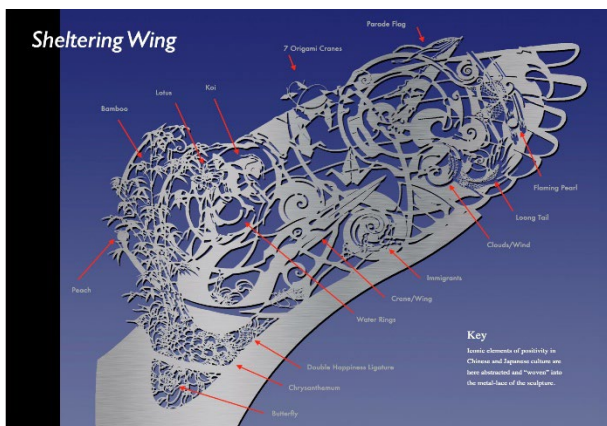
Completed June 2023

Heinlenville Park, 650 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, San José, CA 95112 / Council District 3



## ABOUT THE ARTWORK

*Sheltering Wing* was created by San José-based artist Roger White Stoller. The 18-foot-high, stainless steel metal-lace sculpture captures imagery that is culturally significant to both Chinese and Japanese traditions, interweaving representations of bamboo, peaches, koi, origami cranes, butterflies and chrysanthemums, among others. Stoller envisioned the artwork concept and developed the design in consultation with historian and Heinlenville descendant Connie Young Yu, San José Taiko co-founder PJ Hirabayashi, artist, designer and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Japantown resident Tamiko Rast and others from the city's Asian community about what imagery should be contained in *Sheltering Wing*.



Importantly, while the imagery celebrates ways in which these two very distinct cultures share commonalities, those references are also in homage to John Heinlen, the businessman who leased property in a secure environment to Chinese immigrants who were burned out of the previous Chinatown in downtown San José in the 1880s. Heinlenville, which was on the site of today's Japantown, was a hub of Chinese cultural activities in the city for the next five decades, centered around the Ng Shing Gung temple, and its presence was a catalyst for the development of Japantown. Heinlenville Park highlights aspects of this history.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Artist Roger W. Stoller, a significantly accomplished sculptor, works in large scale cut stainless steel and sometimes bronze with a signature approach to sweeping, dynamic form, elegant textures in cut metal, and imagery which he has evolved over time to be rich in representational content.

Stoller has worked out of his studio in San José for more than 20 years. For the 13 years prior to that, from 1987-2000, he was on the San José State University (SJSU) faculty and worked out of the SJSU Foundry. Roger Stoller has a stream of significant works across the region and country. *Sheltering Wing* is his first work in the City's Public Art Collection.

Learn more about Rogers W. Stoller's vision and work at [www.stollerstudio.com](http://www.stollerstudio.com)

## ABOUT THE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The City of San José Public Art Program seeks to build community identity by initiating artworks and exhibitions that enhance the civic landscape and experience. Through active community engagement, public art strives to reflect the City's diversity, historic richness, and envision its present and future.

The Public Art Program is part of the City's Office of Economic Development and Cultural Affairs. The Public Art Program was established by a 1984 municipal ordinance that provides public art through funding from City capital improvement projects and eligible private development.

For further information and photos, please contact the San José Public Art Program at [publicart@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:publicart@sanjoseca.gov).