

# Civic Stage Set

## Artist: David Bottini

Completed 1989

Children's Discovery Museum, San Jose, CA / Council District 3

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### ABOUT THE PROJECT

Civic Stage Set by artist David Bottini is the brightly colored abstract geometric sculpture located in the lawn area Children's Discovery Museum. The sculpture successfully uses the juxtaposition of its energetic, decisive colors (chrome yellow, bold red, aquamarine and crisp white) and elegant, minimal forms to enchant the viewer. When creating Civic Stage Set, Bottini was inspired by the classic stage spaces that he came across while spending time in Italy. He became fascinated by the notion of contradiction when conceptualizing this piece – bringing together the essence of what is actually temporary and illusionistic as stage settings and something so permanent as steel.

Bottini often refers to his abstract works as “steel collages.”

Influenced by the art of Cubism, Russian Constructivism and Minimalism, his work continuously explores spatial relationships and forms, “taking recognizable shapes, abstracting them and putting them together in a strange way of some sort.”

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

David Bottini is a well-established sculptor based in the Bay Area who shares his time between Oakland and Fresno. He completed a number of large, commissioned works and collaborated in several architectural projects, including the International Terminal at the San Francisco Airport. Bottini, a graduate of San Jose State University in 1970 with a Master of Art Degree, is among the first rank of artists who continues the cubist constructivist tradition of 20th century sculpture. In addition to his artistic career, Bottini has dedicated many years to teaching sculpture at several universities, including San Francisco State University; Fresno State University; University of California, Berkeley; Reed College in Portland, Oregon and others.

### 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 Cultural Affairs, a division of the Office of Economic Development. 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.

