

Ice Play

Artist: JoeSam

January 1996

Sharks Ice Center at San Jose / 1500 South 10th St., San Jose, CA 95112 / Council District 7

ABOUT THE PROJECT



Above: View of *Ice Play*.

The artwork is located on the corrugated metal façade of the Ice Center. The design includes the word “ICE” painted directly onto the wall in large, colorful letters that span the 26 foot high façade and create a vivid backdrop to the 7 aluminum figures, painted in brilliant colors and reflecting San Jose’s cultural diversity. These figures range in height from 15 - 18 feet, and illustrate the fun and excitement of ice skating. The artwork spans the 168 foot long façade.

JoeSam reached out to the community by working with a Franklin Elementary School 5th grade class. He led them in an art project that involved creating colorful and inventive “ice skates” out of old shoes, and encouraged them to write stories about their skates. He also took them on an ice skating trip to the Ice Center and sketched their movements on the ice as reference for the project.

The 7 figures on the wall represent different forms of ice skating. The figures are ice dancing, skating and playing hockey. Two of the figures represent enthusiastic spectators. JoeSam stated that this piece is about warmth, color, and humor as seen through these playful figures.



Above: Detail of aluminum figure.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

JoeSam is a San Francisco-based artist who grew up in Harlem, New York. He’s a mixed media artist focusing on texture and shape. He is well known for his colorful and playful figures that have strong connection to multicultural expression. Other commissions include the 77th Street Police Headquarters and the Rosa Parks Metro Rail Station, both in Los Angeles. More of his work may be seen at www.joesam.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. 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 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.

