

Not If But When

Artists: coLAB Studio – Matthew and Maria Salenger

September 2010

Edenvale Community Center / 330 Branham Lane East, San Jose, CA 95111 / Council District 2



ABOUT THE PROJECT

coLAB Studio, the artist team of Matthew and Maria Salenger, created the artwork *Not If But When*. The title came from the community's aspirations for each child in Edenvale to find success in life. The artwork consists of two elements: bronze sculptures inset into the exterior walls at each of the three entrances to the building, and vinyl drawings on the large gymnasium windows that face Branham. All the elements are based on objects, images and ideas cultivated by the artists from the community. The artists engaged in extensive interaction with the Edenvale community in the creation of the artwork. They went out to schools, neighborhood and community gatherings, youth centers and the library to encourage community members to "Be a Part of the Art" by contributing objects, stories, photos and memorabilia that represented their own lives.

The window drawings depict a series of doors, many photographed in the adjacent neighborhood. The doors become an entry point to different ideas the artists wanted to convey, based on the community outreach and their own research.

Sculptures are set in boxes that are inset in the façade of the building. The sculptures are hybrids of many of the donated and discovered items from a very diverse community brought together in a way to inspire new thinking about everyday objects, as well as the long and interesting history of the area. The bronzes are accompanied by quotes from [A Spiritual Thought for Each Day](#), a book of inspirational thoughts by Mary Hayes- Chynoweth, an early settler in the Edenvale, and builder of Hayes Mansion.



Bronze sculpture element

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

coLAB Studio was formed in 1999 by Matthew and Maria Salenger. Both completed undergraduate studies in architecture. Maria obtained a Master of Fine Arts at the Slade School of Fine Art, University College London. Matthew graduated with honors from the Architectural Association of London Diploma School. coLAB Studio has completed various nationally published art projects, as well as residential and commercial architecture in Phoenix including the Butterfly Garden at Tres Rios, the St. Clare Chapel, and the Arizona 9-11 Memorial at the State Capital. More about their artwork may be found at their website: <http://www.colabstudio.com>.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The City of San José Public Art Program seeks to build community 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.