

Path of Ten Thousand Leaves

Artist: Sheila Ghidini

March 1999

Cataldi Park / Morrill Ave. and Cataldi Dr., San Jose, CA 95132 / Council District 4

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The fishing –fire;
The waves lapping,
Falling tinted leaves.
-Keishi

This haiku is embossed in English and Japanese on the edge of the cement circle at the center of the *Path of a Ten Thousand Leaves*. It captures the spirit of the path meant to highlight the passage of the seasons and give homage to the site's agricultural past.

The *Path of Ten Thousand Leaves* meanders through the 32-acre park with a large circular seating area at the center of the path. The 1800 foot path is embossed with black

walnut and apricot leaves, thus making the ephemeral process of leaves falling permanent. The embossed leaves also have a fossil-like design nostalgic of the fruit orchards that used to inhabit the site.

Community participation was an integral part of the design of this project. Members of the neighborhood around Cataldi Park were invited to emboss the leaves into the cement over a two day period. In doing so, this project hoped to encourage a greater sense of community, a sentiment of shared property, and a feeling of involvement in the process.



View of Path of 10,000 Leaves



Detail of cement pathway with embossed leaves



Community participating in leaf embossing

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Sheila Ghidini is a San Francisco artist who has extensive experience in public art especially in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her process designing public spaces involves intensive research of a site's history, potential usage, relationship to the surrounding architecture, social implications, and community. She is particularly intrigued by public art that people must travel through such as paths. She hopes to entice travelers to slow down their busy lives and stop to consider the art around them.

More of her work may be seen at <http://sheilaghidini.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.

