

Spirit Gate

Artists: Bill Gould and Glen Rogers

November 2000

Hester Elementary School / 1460 The Alameda, San Jose, CA 95126 / Council District 6

ABOUT THE PROJECT

In collaboration with students, teachers and local businesses, the artists created a welcoming entry for Hester Elementary. "Spirit Gate" creates an entry transition between The Alameda and the school. The artists worked with 4th graders from Hester, who choose "power words" such as Honor, Inspire and Dream, which were then cut into the steel of the gateway. Local historian Rev. Nancy Schell, who grew up on The Alameda, gave a presentation to students about local history as inspiration for their work. The students drew scenes reflecting this history and worked with Lincoln High School students to translate the drawings into mosaics spiraling around the gate's columns. The project tiles were donated by Fireclay Tile of San Jose.



Above: View of Spirit Gate

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Bill Gould is a San Jose-based artist and architect. He has created artistic metal fence and gate projects for buildings he has designed, particularly schools. He also created temporary and permanent public art projects in the San Francisco Bay Area and for private clients. More of his artwork maybe found at www.lizardskinstudios.com. Glen Rogers has been creating public art since 1995 collaborating on more than twenty projects for Bay Area schools. Her interests also include printmaking, painting, and drawing. In 1998, she received the first Visual Arts Award from the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art. Her work is in the collections of the San Jose Museum of Art and the Triton Museum. More of her work is at www.glenrogersart.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.

