
Wishing Wands

Artist Team: Wowhaus

September 2009

Berryessa Creek Park / Isadora Drive and Messina Drive, San Jose, CA 95132 / Council District 4

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Situated in the plaza adjacent to the play area, *Wishing Wands* consists of three 12' high sculptural dandelions in their parachute ball stage. They are made of stainless steel with crystal "seed" elements. The crystals refract sunlight and cascade tiny rainbows across the plaza. Depending on the angle of the sun, sometimes the rainbows will only appear within the ground shadow cast by the person viewing the artwork, providing a playful element of discovery.

The concept underlying *Wishing Wands* is the universal practice of children blowing on the dandelion's downy-dry seed head and making a wish, something Wowhaus found the neighborhood children to be doing on visits to the park site. Other encounters with park users were also inspirational: mothers enjoying tranquil moments with infants, grandparents watching over the young at play, school children enjoying recreational outings, a young girl who shared her love of rainbows with the artists. These experiences at the park helped shape the design of the artwork.



Building on the idea of making wishes on dandelions, Wowhaus conducted a 'wishing workshop' with the children from the neighboring Majestic Way Elementary School during the dedication of the new children's play area. The children held the crystals in their hands and made wishes on the 120 crystals that are now mounted into the three seed heads of the artwork.

ABOUT THE ARTIST TEAM

Wowhaus, the artist team of Scott and Ene Constable, creates public art that directly engages the community in the process of creation and/or engagement with the finished artwork. For more than a decade, they have created many public art commissions nationally and internationally, particularly in the San Francisco Bay Area. They are based in Sebastopol, CA.

More of Wowhaus's work may be seen at www.thewowhaus.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 City of San José Public Art Program.

