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# METHANOGEN POLYPTYCH

Artist: Buster Simpson

March 2021

San José Regional Wastewater Facility, 700 Los Esteros Rd., San José, CA 95134 / Council District 4

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## ABOUT THE PROJECT

*Methanogen Polyptych*, created by Seattle artist Buster Simpson, is an 40' X 76' X 3" frieze composed of four stainless steel screens installed on the Cogeneration Plant presenting a pixelated image of methanogenic microbes as seen through an electron microscope. Methane producing microbes are the invisible workers that power the plant; they create energy from a byproduct of the digesters' anaerobic processes that then powers the Regional Wastewater Facility. In the evening, the artwork is dramatically lit suggesting a view inside the digesters.



Above: Above: Methanogen Polytych – Night View



Above: Methanogen Polytych – Night View

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

As an artist active since the late 1960s, Buster Simpson has worked on major infrastructure and planning projects, site specific sculptures, museum installations, and community interventions. Simpson received a MFA in 1969, and later, the Distinguished Alumni Award in Architecture and Design, at the University of Michigan. He is a recipient of numerous awards, among them, NEA fellowships and the Americans for the Arts Public Art Award in 2009.

Simpson's work employs site-specific opportunities, engages social actions, and

sustainable opportunities, often considered "poetic utility". Humor and rich metaphors distinguish his work, with deceptively simple sculptures offering social and ecological engagements and solutions to real problems. Simpson's work is included in numerous public commissions throughout North America. More about his work can be found at <http://www.bustersimpson.net/>

## 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.



Office of Cultural Affairs **Public Art Program**

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