

# Title: Aurora

## Public Art Project Fact Sheet



City of Tempe  
Cultural Services  
3340 S. Rural Road  
Tempe, AZ 85282  
480-350-5287  
480-350-5161 FAX  
www.tempe.gov/arts



Photo by Craig Smith

**Title:** Aurora

**Location:** Tempe Center for the Arts

**Artist:** Brower Hatcher

**Completion:** 2007

**Medium:** Glass, stainless steel, river stone and lighting

**Description:** The sculpture features a semi-circular canopy composed of five interlocking leaf forms which are inspired from desert seed pods. The sculpture incorporates smooth stones in the bulb-shaped bases and hand-made glass elements throughout. Polycarbonate orbs containing computer chips and LED lights appear within the structure. These interactive LED lights respond to temperature and light levels.

**Funding:** The project was funded through city of Tempe Capital Improvement Project Percent for Art Funds.

**Artist biography:** Brower Hatcher was born in Atlanta. He attended the Vanderbilt University School of Engineering and received his degree in Industrial Design from Pratt Institute in New York. He studied sculpture at Saint Martins College of Art in London with Sir Anthony Caro and William Tucker. He was on the faculty at Saint Martins for several years and returned to the United States and joined the faculty of Bennington College where he taught for 13 years. Hatcher left teaching in 1986 and has since has built more than 35 public art projects throughout the U.S. Hatcher is a recipient of three National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships, a Guggenheim Fellowship and an honorary Ph.D. from the State University of New York. He works at the historic Steel Yard in Providence, R.I., as the artistic director of Mid-Ocean Studio, Inc. In addition to his studio in Providence, R.I. he also lives in Block Island, R.I., and New York City.

**Artist statement:** "My goal, and that of Mid-Ocean Studio, is to create culturally relevant 21<sup>st</sup> century public art projects. Mid-Ocean is a collaborative group of artists, scientists, fabricators and technical personnel. Our work reflects an ongoing interest in the underlying geometry of organisms and living systems. Our works are typically powder-coated stainless steel 'cellular matrixes' built from computer-designed, multi-layered geometric frameworks. Our works often contain various combinations of relevant embedded objects, in this case glass and LED lights. Nature is a strong inspiration in Mid-Ocean's work and we continually strive to find new ways to incorporate aspects of the natural environment into the work itself."