

Luminaria

Public Art Project Fact Sheet



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



Photo: Craig Smith

Title: Luminaria

Location: 13th Street and Mill Avenue

Artist: Barbara Grygutis

Completion: 2006

Medium: Perforated pre-rusted aluminum, light, stone

Description: Luminaria is a distinctive gateway marker distinguishing this intersection from other neighborhood entrances along Mill Avenue. The 17.5 feet high perforated metal sculpture is lit from within and semi-transparent, creating a lighted entranceway at night. The sculpture echoes the shape of the feather and the shape of the leaf, two of the elements which contribute to the special quality of a neighborhood characterized by old tree growth that provides a haven to numerous species of birds. As the Arizona light shifts in the sky, filtering through the semi-transparent sculpture, moiré patterns are created on the sculpture's surface,

giving it a sense of motion. At night, the sculpture is illuminated from within, and the "featherleaf" shape softly glows. The sculptural marker is supported by a stone base, further emphasizing the importance of the natural environment of this streetscape to the daily lives of its residents.

Funding: This project was funded through city of Tempe Capital Improvement Project Percent for Art funds.

Artist biography: Barbara Grygutis collaborates to create public spaces that enhance community identity, enable civic interaction and reveal unspoken relationships. Grygutis has more than 25 years of experience creating environmental works of art that give meaning and identity to public spaces. Grygutis was born in Philadelphia, raised in Israel, attended the University of Arizona and studied ceramics in Japan. She has completed more than 60 major public art commissions throughout the United States and Canada since the 1980s, and is currently working on public art projects in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Connecticut, Boston and Calgary, Canada.

Artist statement: "My response to the qualities of the natural environment of the site, for which a work of art is intended, is a key dynamic of my work. I create places of reflection, where the beauty of the natural world can be seen in the built environment, where among the sculptural elements, the viewer can experience the interplay between art and nature. Through my work as an artist I create public spaces that enhance the built environment, enable civic interaction, and reveal unspoken relationships. By identification of Meaningful themes and creation of works relevant to specific locations and communities, I create distinctive places of interest for the public."