

Hanger Park Public Art Project Fact Sheet



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Photo: Rebecca Ross

Title: Hanger Park Art Project

Location: Hanger Park, Knox Road, south of Warner Road

Artist: Laurie Lundquist

Completion: 1997

Medium: Perforated sheet steel, galvanized tubing and concrete.

Description: A primary goal of the Warner Ranch Homeowners Association was to bring shade to the park, which had previously been just a large, open grassy space. Consistent with this objective, the artist developed an art plan for Hanger Park which encircles the existing playground with a decorative sidewalk, playful ramadas and shade trees. The structures vary in size and are fabricated with perforated sheet steel and tubing supported by galvanized pipe legs. Each Ramada is painted a different color. Defining the entrance to the parks playground are concrete seats shaped like old-fashioned milk bottles, with the perimeter of the park being encircled with an image laden decorative concrete sidewalk eluding to the areas rich historic past.

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

Artist biography: Laurie Lundquist is a nationally known artist who resides in Tempe. She has been active in the local community for many years. Since receiving a Masters of Fine Art degree in Sculpture from Arizona State University, she has been prolific with the creation of many important local public art projects. She has exhibited both nationally and internationally, and has received numerous awards and grants for her work including multiple Valley Forward Design Excellence awards, NEA initiative grants and a Tempe Beautification Award.

Artist statement: My intent is to refer to the farming lifestyle, which led to Tempe's settlement. Hanger Park was given its name to honor a family that lived and worked for generations in the Kyrene District. The Hanger family developed a thriving dairy business that was a cornerstone to the rural community. At this point in time most traces of the agricultural history of the area have been erased by residential development. The new residents recognize the importance of keeping some record of the local history alive for future generations, and Hanger Park is a place where memories and imagination can give life to local history. The sidewalk encircles the playground and is embedded with images of local history as drawn by schoolchildren. The shade ramadas are in the form of simple clothing items that may have been worn by the farming families. Seen from above the whimsy and nostalgia of coveralls and dresses dancing, as they do on clotheslines, the armadas provide an invitation to enter the park. Once in the park images of cat fishing, dairy farming and domestic life will keep the stories alive.