

Plaza Reflector Lights – Plazita de Descanso Public Art Project Fact Sheet



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Photo: Craig Smith

Title: Plaza Reflector Lights

Location: The Reflector Lights are in Plazita de Descanso, a quarter-acre city park south of the Valley Art Theater on downtown Mill Avenue, which serves as an entrance to City Hall.

Artist: Steve Martino

Completion Date: 1995

Medium: Steel light fixtures

Project Description: The Plaza Reflector Lights are part of a greater project to improve the Plazita de Descanso. The artist designed 13 steel light fixtures; he also designed the stand for the sundial that was on the plaza and is now located just west of City Hall.

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

Artist biography: Landscape Architect Steve Martino, FASLA, has earned a national reputation for design excellence. His pioneering work with native plant material and the development of a desert derived aesthetic is widely recognized. His efforts are based on his intimate understanding of the region and on the underlying theme of humankind's relationship to the desert environment. The juxtaposition of human-made elements with natural ecological processes is a recurring theme.

Martino's projects have been recognized with more than 80 local, regional and national design awards, including seven National Design Awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects. His work has been published nationally and internationally in more than 200 books and periodicals.

Martino has been a Phoenix native and resident since 1946 and studied architecture at Arizona State University. He is a Registered Landscape Architect in Arizona, California, Nevada and Texas. His project experience ranges from urban development and remote large-scale communities, to public art and private gardens. He has participated in public art projects for the cities of Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe.

Artist statement: "I wanted a soft reflected light on the ground, and I like the way the reflector face is highlighted. I hoped it would be like seeing fireflies in the trees when someone walked through the plaza."