Neighborhood Art

Our History of Flood Irrigation

Nina Solomon

Concrete irrigation standpipe base covered with plaster, river rock and tiles with historic photographs

2005

Location: Maple-Ash Neighborhood
13th Street and Ash Avenue

Artist Website: www.ninasolomon.com

Description: This second Maple Ash standpipe artwork is incorporated in a mini-garden, or "plazita," and features photographic images representing the history of flood irrigation in the neighborhood. The accompanying text recounts the history and personal memories about flood irrigation by the neighbors. Surrounding the standpipe is a bench made of relocated WPA curb and gutter and a series of seats made from upcycled Salt River Project pipes and irrigation manhole covers. The mini-garden is completed with artistic landscaping including a metalwork grid representing the source of irrigation water – the Salt River. Landscape architect Rueben Valenzuela helped design the seating, neighbor Chris Rowley created the metal work and neighbors Jenny Lucier and Julia Andrews chose photographs and text. Other neighbors helped make leaf and water tiles, as well as assisted with the installation of all the project elements. The artist transferred the photographs and text to the tiles by firing on a decal made with a laser printer that uses iron oxide (a glaze material) in the toner.

Artist biography: Solomon holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in sculpture from Arizona State University. She has completed several art standpipes in the Maple Ash area of Tempe. Her many public art projects in Arizona include mosaics in the Art Education Building Courtyard of the Tucson Museum of Art, a bus shelter at Corona del Sol High School in Tempe and a 30-foot x 5.5-inch interpretation of a Navajo weaving outside of the Heard Museum in Phoenix.

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