

Local youth brings tradition to TCA

Ancient peoples believed that the instruments used in ceremonies were extremely important in conveying a message and directing the outcome of the event. The Anasazi, made ornate instruments, replete with designs, decorations and inscriptions to invoke the favor of the gods, much the same way the Greeks, Romans, Egyptians and Maya conducted their ceremonies.



Even today, we continue the practice of using representative symbols to bring luck and good fortune to our endeavors. The first pitch in baseball. The christening of a ship. What better way to plant the wonderful seeds for the Tempe Center for the Arts (TCA) than by using shovels for the groundbreaking ceremony that are themselves works of art? Each shovel representing the muses, the city and the people involved.

Students from The New School for the Arts and Academics, under the guidance of Kyllan Maney and Glen Allen, Corona del Sol's art teacher David Andres and McClintock High School's Stacy Marko designed and painted shovels that were used in the TCA groundbreaking ceremony in March. The imagination and talent of the students beamed from the simple tools that seemed to take on a life of their own.

From the blues and reds of the "All America City" and "City of Tempe" shovels created by Beth

Schertenlieb and Eric Mandujano to the portrait of Mayor Neil Giuliano by Lindsay Wenner to a "Cowgirl" by Joanna Wallace, people and places were represented. Ideas, ideals and fantasies were symbolized by the shovels crafted by McClintock's Orion Fisher and Marquis Espinoza, New School's Stephen Proski and Corona's Jessica Willittes and David Johnson.

The arts, too, were portrayed through Corona's Dan Held and Kyle Steinke's "Lights, Camera, Action;" the "Ballerina" by Corona's Jessica Guillory and Jacob Barto; and the "Drama Masks" fashioned by McClintock's Luis Luna and Ahmad Moayedpardazi. Music and musical instruments were emblazoned on shovels by Corona's Lindsey Benkel, Chantel Vilaverde, Tara Cook and Bobby Patterson and McClintock's Zarina Valente.

Valente also teamed up with McClintock's Jonathan Stultz and Suzanna Valles to shape a brightly

colored free form face. The circle of color was completed with a geometric shovel by McClintock's Chaz Matus and Patrick Seifter who used brilliant orange and yellow patterns for an eye-catching design.

It was an impressive array – one that the ancients would have been proud to use and one that would astound the artistic spirits and muses and sway them to our cause. Yes, the groundbreaking was a success and the TCA is off to a perfect start thanks to the hard work of these students and teachers.

Note: Students from New School for the Arts and Academics provided paintings for the groundbreaking ceremony which were exhibited in the area that will become the TCA Gallery.