

Come Together Public Art Project Fact Sheet



City of Tempe
Cultural Services
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Photo: Craig Smith

Title: Come Together

Location: Near the northwest corner of Mill Avenue and Broadway Road, adjacent to Tempe High School

Artist: Joe Tyler

Completion: 1995

Medium: Welded steel

Description: This transit shelter is a surrealistic tree sculpture. The four steel trees support and camouflage an 8 x 10-foot galvanized solid steel canopy, which provides shade and protection from rain and sun. The welded steel limbs and copper powder-coated leaves extend beyond the canopy creating filtered shade to form a larger canopy. The roots around the base of each tree provide seating by supporting wire mesh seats. Tempe's goal

with its Artist Designed Transit Shelters is to encourage people to use the public transportation by making it attractive, innovative and functional.

Funding: The project was funded through city of Tempe Capital Improvement Project Percent for Art funds with additional funding from the Arizona Commission on the Arts and the Federal Transit Administration.

Artist biography: Joe Tyler received his BS degree in Horticulture from Arizona State University. He earned his Masters of Environmental Horticulture at ASU in 1974. Tyler's works can be seen all over Arizona as well as in Germany, Japan, California, New Mexico, Texas and Nevada. Tyler has received many awards and has held several professional positions in the field of horticulture. He has created public art for the cities of Tempe, Scottsdale, Chandler, Tucson and Yuma and art for major business corporations.

Artist statement: This sculpture was planned with shade as the integral part of the shelter. The botanical theme gives the structure a cool soft feeling with the powder coated copper foliage. My goal was to create more than a pleasing transit shelter, but to also give the neighborhood and the city a sculpture they would take pride in. The title, "Come Together," was chosen because the thought was that this shelter would serve as a place where students from high schools, residents from the surrounding neighborhood and other transit customers would come together, as the surreal limbs and foliage do in forming the sculpted canopy for the shelter.