

The Elements Public Art Project Fact Sheet



City of Tempe
Cultural Services
3340 South Rural Road
Tempe, AZ 85282
480-350-5287
480-350-5161 FAX
www.tempe.gov/arts



Photo: Craig Smith

Title: The Elements

Location: The east side of McClintock Drive, north of Southern Avenue, adjacent to McClintock High School

Artists: Scott Cisson, Niki Glen, Helen Helwig and Joe Tyler

Assistants: McClintock High School students

Completion: 2000

Medium: Handmade ceramic tiles, metal, river rock and flagstone.

Description: The transit shelter incorporates elements of earth, water, air and fire into steel, stone and ceramic structure made to look like an obelisk complete with roots, leaves and a sun. The rainproof shelter has a large shade canopy and seats 20 people. During the yearlong project, McClintock High School students assisted with drawing, painting and creating handmade ceramic tiles used in the design. The students also worked alongside the artists to install their tiles on the shelter structure. 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 made available through the Tempe Transit Tax.

Artist biography: Joe Tyler has created public art for the cities of Tempe, Scottsdale, Chandler, Tucson and Yuma. He earned his Master's degree in Environmental Horticulture. Helen Helwig is a professional ceramic artist. Niki Glen, a professional muralist and clay artist, has directed more than 50 public art projects throughout the United States. Both Helwig and Glen have extensive experience with artist-in-residence programs as well as teaching and collaborative projects. Scott Cisson has a degree in architecture and a Masters in Public Administration and Urban Planning.

Artist statement: The transit shelter can be enjoyed by the people who use this area as they wait for the bus, as well as by those who walk by. Our theme relates to water cycles of life, the sun, earth and wind. This public artwork will enhance the site and will be enjoyed and remembered for many years by the people who ride the buses, the passerby and the visitors to Tempe.