

# Marina Water Muse 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](http://www.tempe.gov/arts)



Photo: Laurie Lundquist

**Title:** Marina Water Muse

**Location:** Tempe Marina on the North Bank of Tempe Town Lake, west of Rural Road

**Artist:** Laurie Lundquist

**Completion:** 2003

**Medium:** Concrete, metal, flagstone and limestone blocks from the Roosevelt Dam.

**Description:** The Tempe Town Lake marina complex is a 13-acre site, which contains a half-acre lagoon and marina designed to provide a safe harbor for lake operations in case of flood conditions. The Marina Water Muse is the artistic feature of the complex as well as an interactive circulation system.

**Funding:** The project was funded through city of Tempe Capital Improvement Project Percent for Art funds with additional funding from the Arizona State Lake Improvement Fund.

**Artist biography:** Laurie Lundquist is a nationally known artist who resides in Tempe. She has been active in the local community for many years. Since receiving a Masters of Fine Arts in Sculpture from Arizona State University, she has been prolific with the creation of many important local public art projects. She has exhibited both nationally and internationally, and has received numerous awards and grants for her work including multiple Valley Forward Design Excellence awards, NEA initiative grants and a Tempe Beautification Award.

**Artist statement:** The Marina Water Muse is an interactive circulation system that improves water quality for the Town Lake lagoon. The system includes several parts that are integrated into the amphitheater landscape partly above ground and partly below. Up to five cubic feet of water per second can be pumped from the Town Lake through an underground pipe to the *source pool* at the top of the amphitheater. From the source pool it flows down an aerating *waterfall* into the *main sluiceway*. Visitors to the site can walk across metal grating that spans the sluiceway to try their hand at controlling the flow of water through the site. Hand operated wheels can be turned by children or adults to open and close *water gates* that direct the flow into underground pipes. The water reappears in the open troughs of the *seat channels* that follow the east-west contours of the amphitheater. The seat walls terminate in a spiral of flagstone, water from the channels will disappear into a decorative grating at the center of the spiral. The split flow siphons underground to reappear once more at the *Roosevelt block* seating areas near the waters edge. These limestone blocks carry historical significance in as much as they were part of the original Roosevelt Dam, the dam that tamed the Salt River and allowed the valley to prosper. Water that flows through the Roosevelt blocks spills onto decorative grates and on to the final outfalls into the lagoon. The Marina Water Muse is designed to provide a beneficial circulation pattern within the lagoon, to echo the traditions of water distribution found throughout the Salt River valley and to encourage a contemplative interaction with flowing water.