

Grove Parkway Plaza

Art in Private Development Fact Sheet



City of Tempe
Cultural Services
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Photo: Craig Smith

Artwork

Boy and his Wagon
The Blocks

Development

Grove Parkway Plaza

Address

7400 S. Priest Drive

Artist

Russell Bowers

Completion

1996

Material

Bronze

Description: Rusty Bower's sculptures are realistic and cast in bronze. There is a strong emphasis on the importance of family.

Funding: This project was funded by the individual developer as a requirement of Tempe's Art in Private Development Ordinance.

Artist's Biography: Russell "Rusty" Bowers has been the Arizona State Senator from District 21 since 1993. He lists his occupation as Sculptor/Painter.

Artist's Process: "I love ripping the clay (before casting a bronze sculpture.) The clay--it has a texture, and when you rip a piece off," he says, demonstrating, "you can feel it."

Though he has been a working artist for almost 20 years, Bowers still considers himself a novice. And he acknowledges that his style tends toward the conservative. "I don't profess to have any abstract tendencies," he says. Still, he says he considers his art honest, and is critical of others who have opted for quantity over quality.

He calls his art his "salvation," especially when the Legislature is in session, and says he regrets that his other responsibilities often take precedence over it.