



# Neighborhood Art

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## *Our Community; The Beauty Around Us*

Niki Glen and Helen Helwig

Handmade clay and stone

1999, 2001

**Location:** Brentwood/Cavalier Neighborhood  
College Avenue

**Artist Website:** [www.glenstudios.com](http://www.glenstudios.com)

**Description:** The Brentwood/Cavalier Neighborhood work consists of two parts: *Our Community* is a series of five sidewalk panels placed near intersections, and *The Beauty Around Us* consists of two benches placed in entryway medians off of College Avenue. The neighborhood association wanted to create a neighborhood identity through an artist-designed mosaic that would enhance the entry for the many pedestrians and bicyclists who frequent the route. Together, the artists and neighborhood association wanted a unified and welcoming feeling and sought to involve Brentwood/Cavalier residents in the brainstorming of design ideas and the creation of the artwork itself. The artists held community workshops and sent out surveys to involve the community in the planning and fabrication of the elements within the mosaics. The artists created the pieces from handmade clay and stone, covered in special glazes developed by Helwig. This community-involvement artwork received a Tempe Beautification Award in 2001.

**Artist biography:** Helwig has more than 35 years of experience in clay design and fabrication, and Glen has directed more than 50 community public art projects. Both artists have directed many large-scale public art installations. Helwig is an award-winning clay artist who develops innovative glaze techniques and Glen is an outstanding designer and muralist. Glen paints murals and large scale charcoal studies for public art installations. She is inspired by everything around her and strives to make a measurable difference by enhancing the quality of life and making the world a better place. She loves to collaborate with other artists, sculptors and community residents. Glen also is a master designer and uses her imagination to come up with images that can be drawn, painted, or sculpted.

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