



2018 PRE-QUALIFIED

# PUBLIC ARTISTS

MARYANNE CORDER NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT



Cover Images (top to bottom):

Melissa Martinez

*Take Flight*

Mitchell Park Neighborhood

13th Street and Hardy Drive

Kristine Kollasch

*Farmer Guardians*

Wilson Art and Garden Neighborhood

11th Street and Farmer Avenue

2018 PRE-QUALIFIED

# PUBLIC ARTISTS

MARYANNE CORDER NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT

Background Image:

Andrew Carson

*Kinetic Sculpture*

Wilson Art and Garden Neighborhood

10th Street and Wilson Street



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

02 Introduction

03 About the Grant Process

06 About the Selection Process

08 List of Artists

10 Artist Bios

36 About Tempe Public Art



Background Image:

Jason Griffiths  
*Tempe Gardens Artistic Seats*  
Tempe Gardens Neighborhood  
College Avenue and La Jolla Drive

# INTRODUCTION

Since 1994, more than 30 pieces of public art have been placed in neighborhoods throughout Tempe. Each of these artworks came about because a group of dedicated Tempe residents collaborated to apply for grant funds. Through the Maryanne Corder Neighborhood Grant, residents may select the location and an artist with whom to design and install a work of public art in their neighborhood. Neighborhood Associations and Home Owners Associations receive assistance with site selection, material selection, and overall design guidance from the Public Art Office during the grant process. Artworks created from past grant cycles include benches, mosaic water standpipes, small sculptures, wall-mounted pieces and more. These works are accessioned into the City's public art collection when created on City owned property and are often seen as jewels within the collection.

This publication will introduce you to 26 public artists who have been pre-approved to work on City of Tempe projects. The artwork shown is diverse, offering many styles and approaches to creating art in public space. Our hope is that this publication may serve as a resource for those interested in pursuing a grant application as well as those interested in locating an artist for other projects.

# ABOUT THE GRANT PROCESS FOR PUBLIC ART

Tempe offers a unique opportunity for residents to be involved in the design and creation of artwork in their neighborhoods through the Maryanne Corder Neighborhood Grant. Residents can select the desired location and an artist to work with as part of the grant application with assistance from the Public Art Office as a resource.

The proposed artwork should enhance the community and be a permanent work that is accessible to the public. Artwork may be installed in the public right of way however when the artwork is located on City owned property the following restrictions apply:

- Artwork must be located in a Neighborhood Association in Tempe registered with the Neighborhood Services Division, a Homeowners' Association in Tempe registered with the Neighborhood Services Division, or an Apartment community that is fully certified in the City of Tempe's Crime Free Multi-Housing Program
- Artwork must be back of curb and back of sidewalk
- Artwork must be created out of a material that is durable and provides longevity (temporary artworks will not be funded)
- Artwork cannot obstruct pedestrian/ bike/ vehicle traffic
- Artwork must comply to current ADA codes where appropriate
- The total amount available through the grant program is \$15,000 per project; artwork costs are all inclusive within this amount (design fees, fabrication, installation, assistants, engineering, barricading, road closure, or other related expenses)
- Funding must be spent and artwork completed by June 30th of the grant year



Tempe residents wanting to use grant funds to create a public art project on City owned property must follow these additional steps:

1. Prior to applying for a grant to create public art, the applicant should review the site and idea with the Director of Public Art
2. Select at least three artists from the City of Tempe Pre-Qualified Public Artist List for bids
3. Provide a narrative description and visuals of past work with the grant proposal, outlining materials to be used, exact location, budget and project timeline
4. The grant application should show how the artwork was selected by the neighborhood (include evidence of community meetings when possible)

Tempe residents applying to use grant funds to create a public art project on *privately* owned property are welcome to use the City of Tempe Pre-Qualified Public Artist List as a resource and are encouraged to speak with the Public Art Office for consultation during the creation of their projects, though this is not a requirement.

Public Art Office Contact:

Rebecca Blume Rothman  
Director of Public Art  
[Rebecca\\_Rothman@tempe.gov](mailto:Rebecca_Rothman@tempe.gov)  
(480) 350 - 2827

Background Image:

coLAB Studio  
*Cyclists Feat*  
Wilson Art and Garden Neighborhood  
Farmer Avenue and 10th Street  
Photo credit: Aaron Thacker



Background Image:  
Esmeralda Delaney  
*Birds in the Neighborhood*  
University Heights Neighborhood  
Hall Street and Lemon Street



# ABOUT THE SELECTION PROCESS

In keeping with procedures adopted by public art programs around the country, all artists represented in this publication were selected for inclusion through a committee review process.

A request for qualifications was issued to target artists who reside in Arizona and have an interest in working with residential communities to develop public art projects. Each applicant was asked to submit images of previously created artworks, a current resume, and a letter of interest that explained why they were specifically interested in working on grant funded projects with residents. The review committee was comprised of residents from several neighborhoods in the City of Tempe. Each panelist held experience working with public art as either an artist or as a resident who has previously led the grant process for their neighborhood association. After careful consideration and review, the selection panel chose 26 artists for representation.



# ARTISTS

## Page Number + Artist Name

10. Oliverio Balcells
11. Joan Baron
12. Kristin Bauer
13. Isaac Caruso
14. Christine Cassano
15. Amanda Clayton
16. Susan Conklu
17. Heidi Dauphin
18. Jorge De La Torre
19. Jake Early
20. Charles Hilton
21. Daniel Hornung
22. Lauren Lee
23. Hugo Medina
24. Daniel Moore
25. Martin Moreno
26. Ann Morton
27. John Randall Nelson
28. Ernie Nickels
29. Rebecca Ross
30. Rael Slick and Timothy Schirack
31. Nina Solomon
32. Jennyfer Stratman
33. Thomas Strich
34. Zach Valent
35. Bobby Zokaite





# OLIVERIO BALCELLS

[oliveriobalcells.com](http://oliveriobalcells.com)

Oliverio Balcells is a scholar of the ancient Mesoamerican cultures, as well as a photographer, painter and musician.

“I’m interested in social themes like history, culture, human potential development, symbolism and nature. I’m inspired by color, the ancient Mexican cultures, the master muralists and the golden age of Mexican cinema.”

In 2017 he was a selected artist for Valley Metro’s public art for the Northwest extension of the light rail. In 2016 he was a selected artist for the In Flux Cycle 6 with the City of Tempe and painted a mural on Apache Blvd. In 2012 he was selected by the City of Tempe’s Public Art Program to design and paint a utility box on Mill Avenue. The image was also made into a library card for the Tempe Public Library. In 2008 Balcells was awarded First Place at the Arte Latino en la Ciudad XII at the Phoenix Center for the Arts and in 1999 he was awarded Best Artist in the 7th Annual Plastic Arts Exhibit of Cancun. Balcells received his Bachelor’s degree in Graphic Design from the Univa University in Guadalajara, Mexico. He currently lives and works in Tempe, Arizona, USA with his wife and two children.





# JOAN BARON

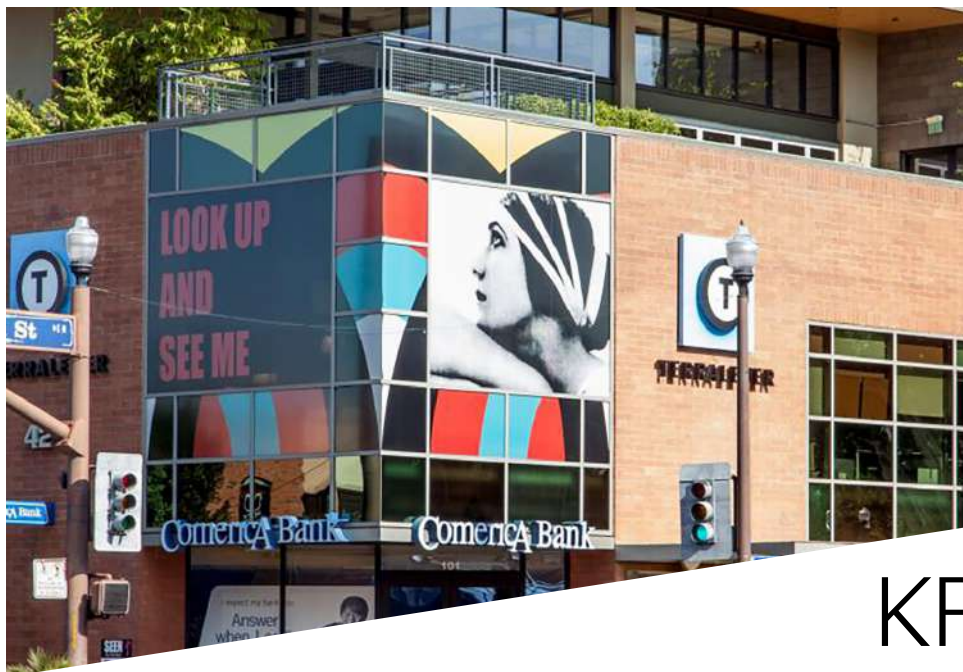
[joanbaron.com](http://joanbaron.com)

Urban garden activist, alley adventurer, public space game changer, tile maker, & seed saver, Joan Baron's background includes art studies at Washington University in St. Louis, The Chicago Art Institute, & multi-disciplinary studies with the Institute of Noetic Sciences based in Petaluma, CA. She is principal of Baron Studio in south Scottsdale, AZ.

Her aesthetic encompasses a passion for nurturing community through large & small art interventions that seek to bring a new awareness to place. This can take form as edible landscapes, contemplative walks, social justice projects, political commentary through site-specific interactive installations, or guerrilla gardening. Baron believes that hands-on art projects provide the runway for confidence building, which inspires new collaborations between all ages, & diverse cultures. She has witnessed lives being transformed in the ever-evolving "Food in the Alley" initiative.







# KRISTIN BAUER

[kristinbauerart.com](http://kristinbauerart.com)

Kristin Bauer is a multimedia artist that was born in Minnesota and lives and works in Tempe, Arizona. Her work includes sculptural pigmented cubes, multi-panel assemblage works and site-specific installations among other forms. More recently Bauer's art has focused on square and cubic pigment and plexiglass works that activate transparency and light and space in a moving dialogue with her text usage, focusing ultimately on the relevance of perspective—both physically and conceptually. Her work is inspired heavily by the psychology of perception, propaganda, linguistics and poetry.

Bauer has exhibited nationally and internationally in galleries and museums, including New York, Los Angeles, Chile and Melbourne, Australia, as well as the Arizona Biennial at Tucson Museum of Art, Phoenix Art Museum and Mesa Arts Center. Her work was included in the Transborder Biennial of 2015. Bauer was a recipient of an Artist Grant from Phoenix Art Museum's Contemporary Forum in 2012. She has been an artist in residence at Vermont Studio Center and Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts. Bauer received a BFA in Painting from Arizona State University in 2004 and keeps her studio in Tempe, where she and her husband are raising their two daughters.

Photo credit: Howard Romero of Vermont Studio Center





# ISAAC CARUSO

[isaacncaruso.com](http://isaacncaruso.com)

Isaac Caruso is a 29 year old Public Artist and Creative Director from Phoenix, Arizona. He is passionate about creating art and has extensive experience working with creative companies, including Superfly Productions, Coachella, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix Valley Metro, Scottsdale Public Art, the Phoenix Suns, INFLUX Arizona, the City of Tucson, the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture, and the City of Tempe, with gallery exhibitions in notable establishments such as the Smithsonian in Washington D.C.

He currently is working in Public Art and as the Creative Director of Fyresite, a website and technology firm. It is his goal to continue making art that influences large amounts of people by augmenting the shared landscape. He also has plans to paint a mural on every continent, which he is fulfilling as he plans a trip to paint a mural in the Arctic Circle next fall.





# CHRISTINE CASSANO

[christinecassano.com](http://christinecassano.com)

Christine Cassano is a full-time artist working in Phoenix, Arizona. Her work explores the unease, intrigue and fragility between humanness, technology and ecology. She received her BFA in Studio Art from Old Dominion University. She exhibits her work locally, regionally and nationally including the Phoenix Art Museum and a solo exhibition at Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum. Cassano is the recipient of a five week residency at the University of West Georgia. She is a grant recipient of the Phoenix Institute of Contemporary Art resulting in a published artist catalog of her work authored by Marilyn Zeitlin, former director and chief curator of the ASU Art Museum and Houston Museum of Contemporary Art. She is also a 2016 Contemporary Forum Artist Grant recipient from the Phoenix Art Museum and supported in part by the Nathan Cummings Foundation Endowment.

With work in various collections throughout the US, Cassano's installations and public art works have also been commissioned by a number of architectural firms, developers, universities and hospitals. She has been featured in numerous publications including her work featured on the cover of two nationally published books. Her studio is in the warehouse district of downtown Phoenix where she works (and sweats) regularly.





# AMANDA CLAYTON

[a-clayton.com](http://a-clayton.com)

Art and landscape are deeply intertwined in the art and life of Amanda Clayton. She received her Master's degree in Landscape Architecture in 2016 after completing dual Bachelor of Science degrees from Arizona State University in Urban Development and Sustainability. Studying sculpture at ASU during graduate school helped her to further refine her craft and turn it from a lifelong interest into a reality of gallery shows and public art commissions. She works at a landscape architecture firm and is working on her license while continuing to do public art. As a fourth generation Phoenix native she is passionate about creating a sense of place in the urban environment that celebrates the desert context and artificial/urban interventions. Contemporary and geometric designs with a touch of whimsy are integral to her personal style. Materials and context of the piece also drive the final design and most of her sculptures are created for a specific site. Neon, metals, concrete, mirrors and LEDs are her preferred mediums along with found desert objects. She has received public art commissions from platFORM and INFLUX and worked with Scottsdale Public Art and the Mesa Arts Center to successfully complete her sculptures.





# SUSAN CONKLU

[instagram.com/susanconkluart](https://www.instagram.com/susanconkluart)

Susan Conklu is a metal and wood artist with a primary focus on outdoor installations and touchable art. She has a strong interest in conveying people's stories of places around Tempe, her chosen home since 1996. She is also a Senior Transportation Planner for the City of Scottsdale's bikeways, sidewalks, and trails program. Her prior work experience includes long-range urban planning, assistance in public art administration, and working with elementary students. She earned a BS in Community and Regional Planning from Iowa State University in 1996 and a BFA in Arts with an emphasis in Sculpture from Arizona State University in 2005.

In Tempe she constructed and installed four gear-shaped bicycle racks at two Tempe businesses along Apache Boulevard for NEDCO (Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation), a non-profit that partnered with State Farm to enhance businesses along the light rail corridor. Liquor Express and Haji-Baba each have two pairs of the bike racks while a third location is currently in progress. The racks welcome bike riders to the businesses while providing a secure location to lock their bicycles.

Susan enjoys running, biking, swimming, snowboarding, walking her dogs, traveling, and volunteering for Free Arts of Arizona and Tempe Bicycle Action Group.





# HEIDI DAUPHIN

[heididauphin.blogspot.com](http://heididauphin.blogspot.com)

Heidi Dauphin is a mixed media artist and was born in 1970 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She has lived in Phoenix since 2004. She earned a MFA and BFA from the University of Michigan. She also pursued a K-12 art education teacher certification program at Eastern Michigan University.

Dauphin has had many jobs surrounding art and education. She taught high school art in Tecumseh, Michigan. After completion of her MFA, she moved to Boston, Massachusetts and became the Exhibitions Director for the New Art Center in Newton, Massachusetts and ran two galleries. Since being in Arizona, Dauphin has been an Artist-in-Residence, Guest Artist, and Art Teacher at several Phoenix area schools and art programs. She has also partnered to work on public art projects in the Phoenix area. She has completed six different large-scale, outdoor projects, including one for Valley Metro Light Rail. She has also worked on private commissions for families and local businesses.

Throughout her career, Dauphin has shown her work at many galleries and art centers across the country including New York, Michigan, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, and Arizona. She continues to be passionate about creating her artwork, educating all ages in art, and making art accessible to all.





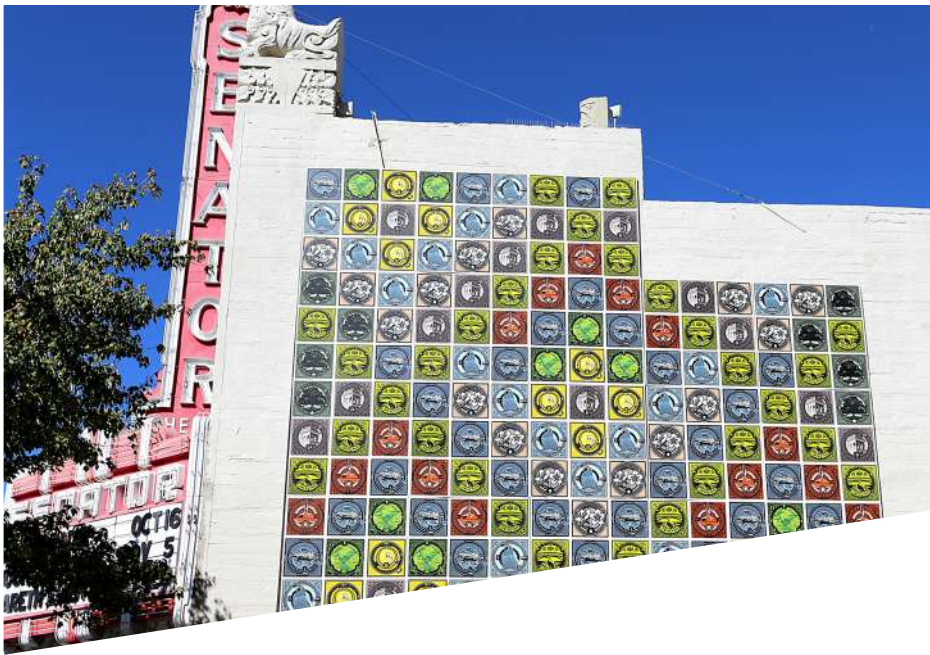
# JORGE DE LA TORRE

[jorgedelatorreart.com](http://jorgedelatorreart.com)

Jorge De La Torre is a Mexican immigrant raised in southern Arizona. Although gifted with artistic talents and a deep love of creating, his practical-minded culture did not encourage the pursuit of a career in the arts. Being keenly adept at math and sciences led him to study engineering instead, thus he graduated with a BS in Computer Engineering from Arizona State University.

The artist in him could not be silenced, however, and after several successful years working as an engineer for a renown military industrial contractor, he decided to forego engineering altogether to chase his dream career as an artist and craftsman. De La Torre spends his days sculpting and crafting fine furniture, continuing to push the boundaries between art and function.





# JAKE EARLY

[jakeearly.com](http://jakeearly.com)

Jake Early has been a professional illustrator, printmaker and muralist for over 20 years. Originally from Chico, California, he relocated to Tempe in 2007. His work ranges from limited-edition, hand printed silkscreens, to wheatpasted street art and spray-painted murals. A constant theme in his work is a strong sense of place and bold use of graphics and color. Wherever his art appears, his goal is to reflect and honor the local people, spaces and landmarks that make the community unique.

Early has created numerous installations on buildings, shipping containers, interiors and block walls throughout the west. Public art is important precisely for what it is - art in the public space - for everyone to contemplate and enjoy. As a member of the local community, it's important to him to work locally.

He has adapted his techniques for printing silkscreen posters to create murals of any size while retaining the crisp detail and imagery of his original design. He uses a combination of hand-cut stencils, ink, paint and spray paint to execute his murals.







# CHARLES HILTON

[chivesta.com](http://chivesta.com)

Tempe is Charles Hilton's hometown, and he would love to do a project that would enhance the experience of the people living and working in his old neighborhood. He believes that the artwork he creates will help tell some stories, engage the passersby in a variety of ways, and help Tempe build their identity as a destination for travel, living, education, and work. Tempe is where he bikes, shops, visits, rides his electric board, sometimes has a brew.

As an artist, his work has a desert feel sometimes, and generally has a lot of bas-relief work because he loves to carve clay. He is a craftsman when it comes to the details, and strongly believes in the concept of thinking it through and doing the job right the first time.





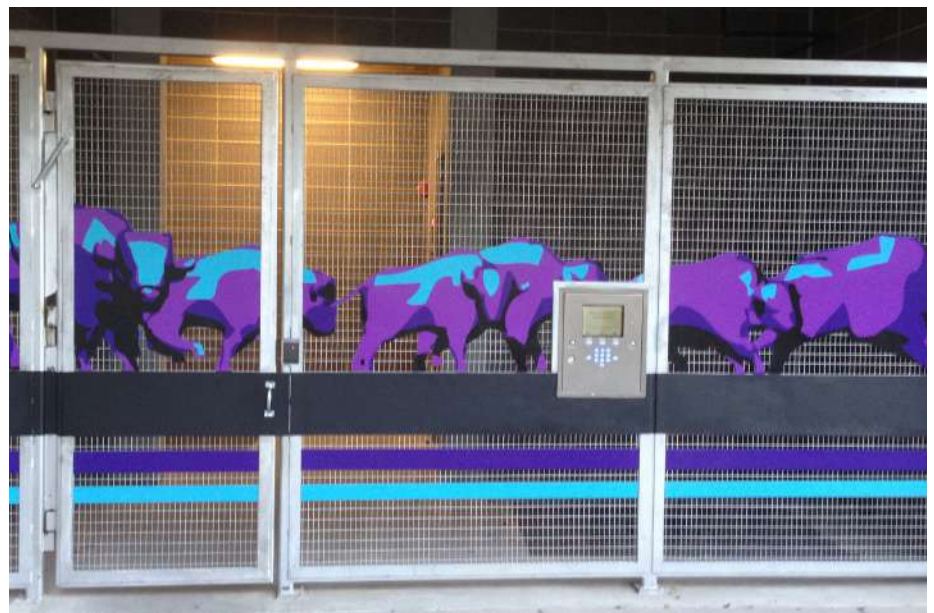
# DANIEL HORNUNG

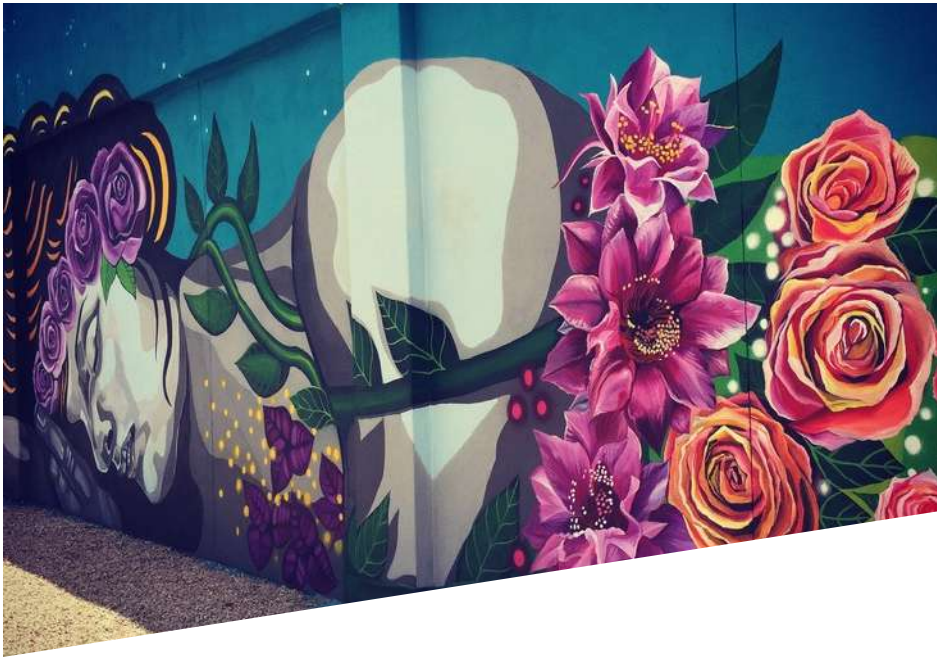
[20digitdesign.com](http://20digitdesign.com)

Daniel Hornung is a sculptor based in Tucson, Arizona. With a background in design and fabrication he uses his experience to design and build art primarily inspired by imagery from the southwest.

Hornung earned a BFA from the University of Arizona in 2004. He went on to work as a craftsman at Metalphysic Sculpture Studio where he learned the trade of casting bronze sculpture. In 2008 he relocated to Austin, Texas where he worked as a designer at Ion Art where he used computer design skills he acquired at Metalphysic to design signage, sculpture, and architectural decor. In 2015 he returned to Tucson to rejoin the team at Metalphysic. Being involved in hundreds of design/build projects is invaluable to the educational process of a public artist.

As a public artist Hornung is inspired by creating imaginative, charming, and accessible art. Primarily using the computer as a design tool allows him to create accurate visualizations of the proposed design. This streamlines the collaborative process when working with community organizations, designers, architects, contractors, and engineers. He has been designing and building sculptures for over a decade.





# LAUREN LEE

[laurenleefineart.com](http://laurenleefineart.com)

Lauren Lee is a fine art muralist and public artist. After Lee graduated in 2007 from Arizona State University with a Bachelors degree in Studio Art, she went on to teach high school art for five years before becoming a full time professional artist. She has been painting murals for the cities of Mesa, Scottsdale, Tempe, Phoenix and Chandler for over five years; while also maintaining a studio practice and gallery shows. Her strengths lie in her design capacity, and on site meeting with clients and neighborhoods to get a feel of the community to produce large scale works of fine art.





# HUGO MEDINA

[hugosart.com](http://hugosart.com)

Born in La Paz, Bolivia, Hugo Medina immigrated to New York as a child. He received his BFA from C.W Post/ Long Island University in 1998 and his Masters in Education from University of Phoenix in 2006. While completing his undergraduate work in N.Y, he volunteered to teach at a summer program at the Kumayya Indian reservation in California. His experience at the reservation is what led him to a career in art education. His great appreciation and admiration of the Southwest and a constant search for adventure brought him to Phoenix in 1998.

Medina's passion for the arts, and desire to pursue his dreams led him to becoming a full-time artist. His ability to develop and organize programs, and events, desire to give back to the community, led him to being awarded the first public art award by the Mayor of Phoenix. An honor that was followed by various other recognitions for his work.

He is recognized for a wide range of multicultural projects which have given a voice to the city through artistic expression, and has worked together with communities to create a conduit not only for art, but for cultural discussion that tells a story. He is an artist with experiences stemming from a career of teaching, coordinating and managing community art projects, fabrication and sculpture with various materials, murals and educating citizens in arts related projects.





# DANIEL MOORE

[theoxidestudio.com](http://theoxidestudio.com)

Graphic representations of Arizona's unique plant life were the inspiration for his botanical themed panels, the first pieces created at The Oxide Studio. His photographic background influenced the choice to "frame" each design within the confines of a rectangle, producing a contemporary, somewhat formal presentation that contrasts well with the colors and organic forms in its environment.

The OXIDE studio has evolved over the years and Daniel Moore has been commissioned to create many works on all scales by private clients, both commercial and residential as well as Art in Public Places. His completed projects include classic sculptural pieces, memorable freestanding works, gateways, enclosures, furniture and more. All exploring and utilizing metal to combine iconic design that reflects a sense of timelessness and permanence while expressing the visions of the client.

The Oxide Studio is located at his home in the Willo Historic District in downtown Phoenix, which he shares with his wife Nina, youngest of three daughters, Sade, their two dogs, and Bazzi, the cat. Moore received his BFA in Photography and Graphic Design from the University of Iowa.





# MARTIN MORENO

[instagram.com/cuervostudios\\_martin\\_moreno](https://www.instagram.com/cuervostudios_martin_moreno)

Martin Moreno was born in Adrian, Michigan in 1950, where he grew up speaking Spanish at home and English in school. His parents were migrant workers, living in a community named "Sunnyside". At a very young age Moreno became the interpreter/liaison/spokesman not only for his household but for most of the community.

"My earliest memories of color and rhyme are those of the fields, sitting in the back of a pickup truck watching rows upon rows of corn and tomatoes form a visual pattern of rhythm, while listening to the realities of superstition told by the elders; stories of the Llorona (crier), the Earth, and stories of my glorious past." All of these images come to life in his sculpture, murals, paintings and mosaics.

Moreno is a graduate of Sienna Heights University in Adrian, MI where he earned his BFA. He is currently an Instructor of Art at Ridgeway Academy.





# ANN MORTON

[anmortonaz.com](http://anmortonaz.com)

After a 35+ year professional career as a graphic/environmental graphic designer, Ann Morton earned her MFA in 2012 from ASU's Herberger Institute - School of Art. Currently, she is a practicing artist and educator at ASU and Paradise Valley Community College.

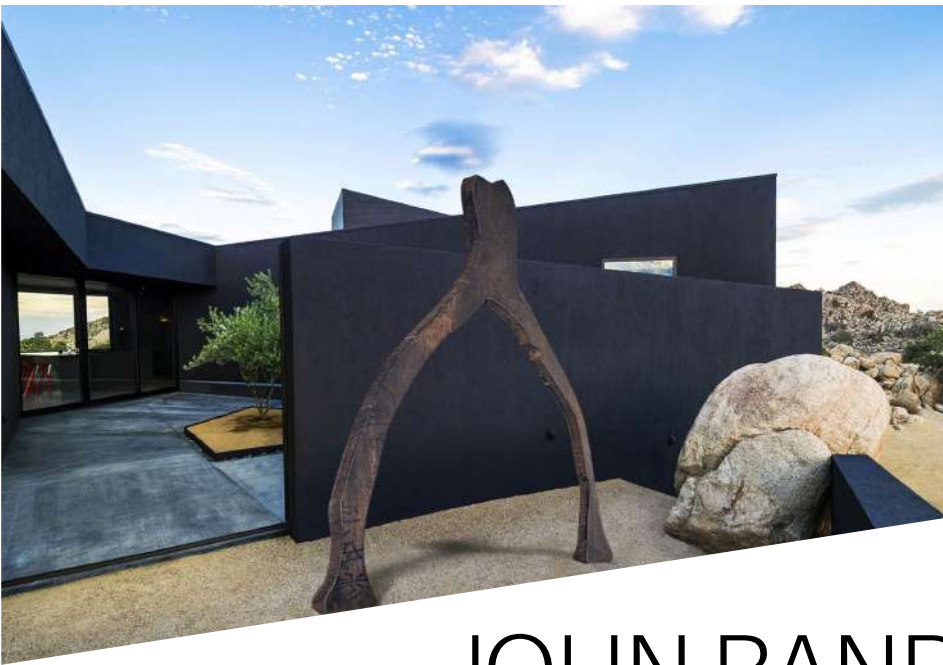
Her work has been shown and recognized nationally and internationally and has been published in *FiberArts Magazine*, *1000 Artisan Textiles* (Quayside Publishing Group), *American Craft Magazine*, *Surface Design Journal*, and the NEA's *Creative Placemaking*, 2017.

Notable projects include:

*Re-Thanks*: 2017 commission by the City of Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture as part of an artist residency at the 27th Avenue Solid Waste Facility/Phoenix, AZ, exhibited at the Arizona Science Center and Phoenix City Hall, Phoenix, AZ, 2017. Featured Sept. 2017 in *American Craft Magazine* online.

*The Ground Cover Project*: 2014 Americans for the Arts, *Public Arts in Review*; 2014 Arizona Forward Crescordia award for art in public spaces, Juried Best of Show in the 2015 Surface Design Association international show, *Materialities*, and published by the NEA in their publication, *Creative Placemaking* in 2017.





# JOHN RANDALL NELSON

[nelsonpublicart.com](http://nelsonpublicart.com)

Tempe based artist John Randall Nelson is inspired by the idea of creating a social conversation through the use of sign and symbol. His focus is on projects that are thoughtful and functional. The mission is to encourage the public to interact and engage with the work.

With 18 years of public art experience, he has successfully collaborated with other artists, contractors, municipalities, engineers, and the public. He has completed commissions for clients as diverse as the National Endowment for the Arts, the Visa Corporation and the cities of Tempe, Scottsdale and Phoenix, AZ.







# ERNIE NICKELS

[erniesartwork.com](http://erniesartwork.com)

Ernie Nickels practiced architecture and landscape architecture for over 30 years after graduating from Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Architecture. He turned to the art world with his abstract steel sculpture and free-hand sketches around 1990. The common denominator of architecture, landscape architecture and art is combining form, texture, color, composition, play of light, space, scale and balance with functionality and beauty. The artist/designer creates new combinations of forms in space that often cannot be described in words. Most of Nickels' pieces are of recycled materials, best appreciated surrounded by nature in a patio or garden, or as a focal point in interior spaces. Most artwork for the garden is allowed to rust naturally, but interior pieces are powder coated to preserve a polished metal finish. Most pieces are strictly abstract but some are functional like tables or garden water features. He never begins with a preconceived idea and abstract pieces are titled only after completion.

Past commissions include award-winning architectural and landscape design projects. Sculpture commissions include a memorial sculpture for a small church park, private residential sculpture gardens, and corporate exterior sculpture, and conference room table. Nickels has entered his work in galleries and shows, including SunDust Gallery in Mesa and Shemer Art Center in Phoenix. He currently has eight pieces in The Velo bike shop in the Roosevelt Arts District, Phoenix, and a lovely memorial piece in a dentist's office.



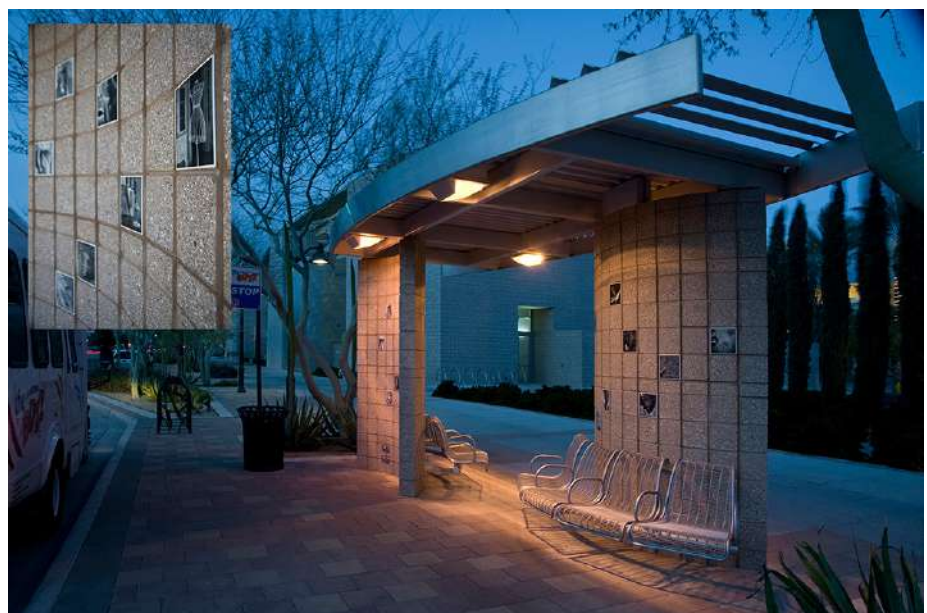


# REBECCA ROSS

[rebeccarossstudio.com](http://rebeccarossstudio.com)

Rebecca Ross is a public artist and photographer. She has completed many public art and Art in Private Development projects including *Translation* at Papago Gateway Center with Chesnut Properties, SmithGroup and Okland Construction. *Translation* combines a series of glass-tiled water features spanning a 200-foot courtyard with photographs of desert plants produced on dyed aluminum. Her public art projects include: *River Then, River Now, River Future*, a 545-foot-long ceramic mural along Tempe Town Lake; *Memento*, an artist-enhanced bus shelter at the Mesa Arts Center featuring original photographs produced on porcelain-enameled steel; and *Hedgerow*, with Laurie Lundquist, which combines brightly painted metal sculptural elements with Morse Code integrated into a concrete block wall design. Her public projects involve collaborating with community and neighborhood groups as well as working closely with architects, engineers and fabricators to produce site-specific art. Her experience includes teaching, creative writing, and community engagement with people of all ages and backgrounds including at-risk youth and tribal groups.

Ross' artwork has been widely exhibited in the US and Europe and is represented in many permanent collections, including the Museum of Fine Arts-Houston, Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture, Mayo Clinic Scottsdale, and the Harry Ransom Center at University of Texas-Austin.





# RAEL SLICK AND TIMOTHY SCHIRACK

[instagram.com/summerkitchenstudios](https://www.instagram.com/summerkitchenstudios)

As Arizona public artists, Rael Slick and Timothy Schirack are passionate about investing their time, talent and ideas in their home state. They are raising three children in Arizona and are excited at any opportunity to enhance this wonderful region.

They have designed, fabricated and installed free standing sculpture, suspended art, and interior and exterior wall mounted murals and sculpture. They value working with project managers, design professionals and community to exceed expectations in professionalism, beauty, and durability. Inspiration begins with a location and listening; architecture, environment and history begin the process. The needs of a community hold an important place in the design dialogue.

They are a married team working in public artwork since 2000. Rael has seventeen years of diverse experience in mixed media sculpture with work in ceramic, cement, metal, glass, fabric, and murals. Her experience meeting with community groups enhances her ability to deal with public concerns. Timothy contributes his knowledge and experience in every facet of a project, from concept through presentation, fabrication, and installation. A graduate of Cleveland Art Institute, he has been in the field of public art for seventeen years. Rael and Timothy live together in Tucson with their sons.





# NINA SOLOMON

[ninasolomon.com](http://ninasolomon.com)

Nina was born in Michigan City, Indiana, then moved to Gary, Indiana. As a young teenager, she studied at the nearby Chicago Art Institute, developing a love for figurative sculpture. During high school in Cleveland, Ohio, Solomon took life drawing classes at the Cleveland Art Institute. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Art Education degree from Kent State University in Ohio. After moving to Arizona, she studied with master figurative sculptor Bruno Luchessi and anatomist Jon Zahouric at The Scottsdale Artist School. In 1990 at Arizona State University, she earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in Sculpture. For her thesis show, Solomon reexamined the Adam and Eve story from a feminist viewpoint in five large-scale clay sculptures, including a 7-foot-tall ceramic column. This was her first taste of working on a large scale.

Solomon taught art at many levels from elementary to college. While working as an art teacher at Sunnyslope Elementary in Phoenix, she worked on a thirty-seven-foot-long participatory mural with an artist-in-residence. Working large scale with a community on a project for a designated site was such an interesting process, that she found herself teaching less and working more on public/participatory art—twenty-four projects since 1996.





# JENNYFER STRATMAN

[stratmanstudio.com](http://stratmanstudio.com)

Jennyfer Stratman grew up in Phoenix, Arizona. In 1997 she completed her studies at Arizona State University majoring in visual arts and art education. Stratman is a full time artist with studios operating in Phoenix, Arizona and Melbourne, Australia. Her time is divided between the two countries with each location informing and influencing the creative process.

Stratman's work reveals a personal journey by contemplating the interior landscape of the psyche and how this resonates with her experience of the exterior world. Her work is a continued exploration of interconnections between all things from the subatomic to the galactic, expressed primarily through figuration and natural elements.

Stratman has exhibited in 26 solo exhibitions and over 100 group exhibitions nationally and internationally. Her work is represented by galleries in the United States, England and Australia. She is a regularly featured artist in Art Fairs across the United States, Asia and the United Kingdom. Her indoor and outdoor sculptures are held in public and private collections in countries including the United States, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Israel, England and Europe.





# THOMAS STRICH

[thomas-strich.com](http://thomas-strich.com)

Thomas Strich is a mixed-media artist who has a special interest in the connection between art and science. He has been creating studio art and public art for more than 20 years. As a youth, he took up birdwatching and stargazing, while also spending his time making whimsical drawings of invented animals and imaginary technology. He went on to get double B.A. degrees in Art and Art Theory, and then an M.F.A. in Sculpture. In his studio work, Strich has used photography in conjunction with metal, wood, concrete and found objects. He uses sculptural materials to explore themes of landscape and perception. His work is imbued with a love of exploration; the search for knowledge and meaning when encountering the natural world. Strich has a deeply ingrained appreciation of scientific instrumentation, which he often references in his work. As a public artist, he has worked in collaboration with planners, architects, and landscape architects to produce popular and award-winning projects. His public artworks are signature elements that make each site distinctive. Strich has exhibited his works in galleries and museums in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. He has taught design, drawing, and sculpture at colleges and universities in Arizona and California.

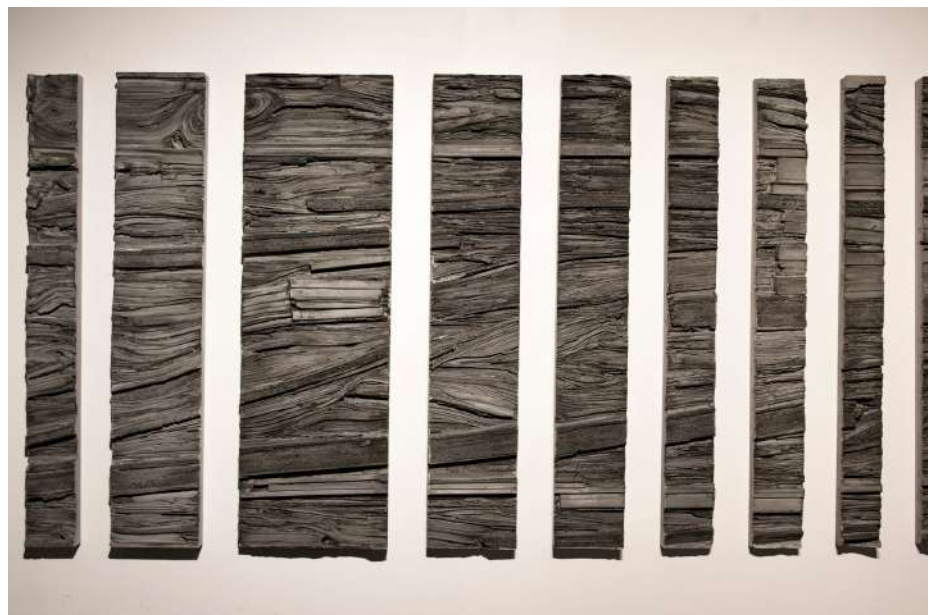




# ZACH VALENT

[zachvalent.com](http://zachvalent.com)

Zach Valent is an interdisciplinary visual artist who creates objects and installations that are encouraged by his fascination of growth and time. His artistic practice encompasses a multitude of processes ranging from mold making and casting concrete, metal fabrication and woodworking, digital fabrication, and experimental processes. Valent received a BFA in sculpture from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 2014 and a MFA in studio arts from The Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts in 2017. As a classically trained artist, Valent's work presents a cohesive relationship of formal and conceptual elements offering a multifaceted experience. By playfully combining motifs of geological development, archeological remains, advancing technology, and modern-day imagery his work simultaneously explores ideas of the past, present, and future. Valent's work has been admired, exhibited, and collected both nationally and internationally. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the Nathan Cummings Travel Fellowship, The Rickert Ziebold Trust Award, and a Windgate Charitable Foundation for the Arts Award. Currently, Valent is living and working in the Phoenix Metropolitan area and is an adjunct faculty member at Phoenix College.





# BOBBY ZOKAITES

[bobbyzokaites.com](http://bobbyzokaites.com)

Bobby Zokaites is a Tempe, AZ based artist skilled in a variety of mediums and materials and has a wealth of experience producing works for private and public spaces at a large scale. Engaging the imagination through the creation of large-scale, colorful, interactive objects and spaces, his work is intended to stimulate audience interaction. Zokaites investigates themes of adventure, history and childhood, while utilizing fabrication and assembly methods inspired by industrial processes. This combination of play and industry create distinctive works of art that activate the surrounding industrial environment and encourage audience participation. In recent years he has been able to produce artwork for public spaces across the United States. Each project helps him to strengthen his skill-set and expand the visual vocabulary that he draws from, to connect with his audience. Public projects are an opportunity to present his work in public spheres where more than just the arts and gallery-going community will experience it.

Zokaites' work stems from the challenge and spectacle of creating large scale sculptures, requiring the teamwork that is romanticized in frontier living. He has found that the physical qualities of the creation of art and participation in the art experience can help solidify a community. This realization comes from a romanticizing of the past and the hope that the future will have a physical and human quality about it.





# ABOUT TEMPE PUBLIC ART

Tempe Public Art aspires to cultivate a unique community identity that advances Tempe as a vibrant and progressive destination. Tempe's diverse collection of permanent and temporary public art complements the natural and built environment through innovative place-making, installations, and infrastructure enhancements. Tempe Public Art promotes artistic expression, bringing people together to strengthen Tempe's sense of community and place.

Since its inception in 1988 and as of 2017, Tempe Public Art has created 80 permanent and 23 temporary public artworks, overseen 39 neighborhood public art grants, and assisted in the development of 109 privately funded works of art through the City's Art in Private Development program.

For more information or to use our Interactive Public Art Map to tour the collection, please select one of the links

Website: [Tempe.gov/publicart](http://Tempe.gov/publicart)

Map: [GIS.tempe.gov/publicartmap](http://GIS.tempe.gov/publicartmap)

Public Art Office Contact:

Rebecca Blume Rothman

Director of Public Art

[Rebecca\\_Rothman@tempe.gov](mailto:Rebecca_Rothman@tempe.gov)

(480) 350 - 2827

Background Image:

Paul Hubbell and Heather Dessel

*Desert Fountains*

Brentwood/Cavalier Neighborhood

College Avenue and Southern Avenue

