



MAYOR
Oscar Leeser

CITY MANAGER
Tommy Gonzalez

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Peter Svarzbein

District 2
Alexandra Anello

District 3
Cassandra Hernandez

District 4
Joe Molinar

District 5
Isabel Salcido

District 6
Claudia L. Rodriguez

District 7
Henry Rivera

District 8
Cissy Lizarraga

**NEWS
RELEASE**

06/21/2022

City’s Desert Blossom Art Piece Selected as Top 100 Public Art Pieces in CODA Awards Public Encouraged to Vote for People’s Choice Award

EL PASO, Texas — The Museums and Cultural Affairs Department (MCAD) is excited to announce that the public art piece, Desert Blossom, has been selected as one of the top 100 public art pieces in the CODA Awards.

The art piece, created by Carol May and Tim Watkins, is located at Chuck Heinrich Park, 11055 Loma Del Norte Dr. Desert Blossom serves as a signature gateway to Mundy’s Gap leading into the Franklin Mountains.

The public is encouraged to vote to select the art piece for a people’s choice award by selecting Desert Blossom and click submit at the following website <https://www.codaworx.com/codaawards/2022-codaawards-top-100/>. The deadline to vote is Thursday, June 30.

“We couldn’t be prouder of the work the City’s Public Art Program is doing as we receive our third nomination in CODA Award’s Top 100,” said Cultural Affairs and Recreation Managing Director Ben Fyffe. “Desert Blossom showcases how our public art projects not only enhance El Paso’s visual image but can also be engaging and interactive to users.”

About Desert Blossom

Desert Blossom is a signature sculpture as well as an engaging, interactive entrance for El Paso’s iconic Franklin Mountains. The sculpture stands at 19-feet tall. Cast glass disks span the arch and are embedded in the shade structures. These disks glow and cast colored shadows on the ground as the sunlight pierces through. Desert Blossom incorporates interactive sound play for children, including bells and sound spinners. The diamondback snakes on the adjacent fence have interactive tails – washer and threaded rod rattles that make sound and vibrate too. The snakes are made of concrete white mosaic tile and provide a tactile path to the archway.

CODAworx, an organization of global designers, planners and artists that highlight the ability of art and design to transform public spaces, present the CODAawards. Projects selected for the awards are examples of projects that successfully integrate commissioned art into interior, architectural, or public spaces.

Since 2006, the City of El Paso has dedicated two percent of every capital project to site-specific public art and completed 78 projects in all areas of El Paso.

###



Media Contact: Rick Isaias
Office of Strategic Communications
isaiasra@elpasotexas.gov
915.212.1077 – Office
915.355.6611 – Mobile