

## SEEING ART AS A CATALYST FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION AND UNDERSTANDING

## HOWARD MEEHAN

Howard Meehan's Firefly Public Art Studio has successfully installed more than 35 large scale public art projects in cities and at universities across the U.S. His deep understanding of the public space allows him to create powerful visual statements that capture the imagination of a broad audience, while visionary concepts tackle broad themes that demand thought and invite conversation.

Beginning with a strong visual concept, Howard's iconic images communicate the spirit of a place. They engage, allowing the community to embrace each project. Moreover, you'll often find his work at the entrance to a public space, a beacon, a gateway, a welcome.

Howard collaborates with architects, urban planners and landscape design groups to ensure that every aspect of the art integrates beautifully with the mission, surrounding buildings and natural areas.

As a multi-media artist Howard is comfortable with materials from concrete and stone to steel, glass and lighting, plus new media fabrication methods. Completed projects incorporate wind, fire or water and are kinetic while others use innovative LED technology for dramatic day/night effects.

His high-visibility public art projects spotlight parks, government buildings and functions, including numerous installations which honor research and the sciences.

## Education, Awards & Recognition

Hofstra University, New York • Art Center College of Design, BS; Honors, Pasadena CA. Expo70 Osaka, Japan ~ Lead Exhibit Designer • Industrial Design permanent collection, Smithsonian • IDSA Design Excellence Award • Pilchuck glass school, Oregon School Arts/Crafts Industrial Designer for Tektronix Corporation 1975-2000 • Fellowship: Oregon Art Commission Founded Anthro Corporation in Portland, Oregon 1985 • Published: American Craft, Published: Corning Museum "New Glass Review" • Industrial Design permanent collection, MOMA, NYC • 7 Design and Engineering patents awarded • "Artist in Review " Americans for the Arts Selection • "Art in America" Selection Magazine Featured in "Landscape Architect" magazine

## FIREFLY PUBLIC ART PROJECTS (Partial List)

"SLEUTH" Forensic Science Sculpture, ABQ. NM. 25' high steel sculpture with 9' dia, glass fingerprint. The slow moving sun casts a shadow over the elusive quality of evidence. 2003, New Mexico Arts Commission

"FIRE AND ICE" Grants, NM. Steel, fire, and glass sculpture, 28' high, with 30' diameter plaza incorporating timeline of history and stories of 3 cultures (Anglo Native American and Spanish) that comprise this small town along RT66. 1998. New Mexico Arts.

"BALANCE" University of Gainesville, Florida. Health Professions, Nursing and Pharmacy Complex. 28' stainless steel kinetic sculpture with 3' diameter glass reflective/Laminated glass. This figurative like human structure is a metaphor for balance and synergy that health professions emulate. It reflects the joint health-related scientific and humanistic purposes of the facility. 2003, Florida Arts Commission.

"NEWTON'S CORNER" Chemistry Biology Science Bldg. Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO; 2002 40' high stainless steel kinetic sculpture inspired by Sir Isaac Newton's theory of gravity. Colorado Council on the Arts.

"VOICES OF THE SEA" City of Huntington Beach, CA. Entry sculpture and 3 plazas inspired by T. S. Eliot's poetry about the voices of the sea. 2002.

"THE ZONE" P.E. Bldg., Southern Utah University, Cedar City, UT. 28' high sculpture, steel and reflective/laminated glass. Utah Arts Council. 2001.

"SULLIVANT PLAZA" Ohio Dept. of Transportation & Public Safety, Columbus, OH. 10,000 square foot upper/lower plaza. Gathering place inspired by history of area includes: historical quotations, timeline, sculpture, artifacts, seating, lighting, landscaping, arbor and fountain. 1999. Ohio Arts Council.

"INDIVIDUAL POWERS" Oregon Lottery Bldg., Salem, OR, precast concrete and glass mosaic seating sculpture with text inspired by idea of personal empowerment. 1998. Oregon Arts Commission. Budget: \$24,000.

"SPIRIT" University of Oregon, Eugene, OR. Steel, laminated glass, dichroic glass, and fire. 1997. Oregon Arts Commission.

"DNA" Skaggs Biology Bldg., Salt Lake City, UT. mosaic floor;1997; Utah Arts Council.

"CIRCLES OF TIME" Historic gas station and auto parts garage in Glendale AZ. Recreated the space focusing on the history of the site and the City of Glendale history. Reconstituted the old wheel rims, gas pumps and automotive parts existing at the site, reconfigured the landscape plan for public access and display. Glendale Arts Commission.

PALM DESERT COMMUNITY PLAZA Civic Center Rose Garden, City of Palm Desert, CA. 90' diameter gathering place: rose garden paths of mosaic, colored concrete, tile, cast rose poetry quotations, seating; 30' diameter steel and colored concrete shade sculpture. 1998. Palm Desert Art in Public Places.

"A PLACE OF LIFE, LIBERTY AND LEARNING" Purdue University, Columbus, Indiana. Mounded turf 8' high and concrete walls. Gathering space and seating area. Stainless steel sculpture with reflective dichroic glass. Commission by the IUPUC \$180,00,000 Completion winter of 2010

"FOR WANT OF A HORSESHOE NAIL" Frisco Southwest Community Center, Concrete horseshoe turn around with 30' tall horseshoe nail. City of Frisco, Texas Completion: Fall of 2008

"KEYS TO THE CITY" 21' high iconic keyhole sculpture located at the Columbia City Hall Plaza. Columbia Mo. Arts Commission, Office of Cultural Affairs. Budget: Completion: Spring of 2010

"UNDER THE RAINBOW" pedestrian archway to McEuen Park that compliments the waterfront and captures the imagination and excitement of the citizens of Coeur d Arlene. The gateway with interlaced cables strung between 2 steel yoke pillars will form the arch. Programmable LED lighting effects will further enhance the appearance during evening hours. The structure will rise to 28' in height and with cables interwoven will stretch to 46' wide. City of Coeur d Arlene Art Commission Completion Spring of 2014