



Providing Public Transportation
Alternatives for the Greater
Phoenix Metro Area

Artist Statements for Central Mesa Extension Station Art Signage

Overall Theme: Old Roots, New Growth

The art installations embrace the rich history of Downtown Mesa and the inevitable growth that will come from the light rail presence.

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1. Alma School Road Station

Title: Emergence

Artist: Daniel Martin Diaz

The approach to the design of “Emergence” was to capture the uniqueness of the community. The kinetic wind-driven sculpture denotes the former farming communities with a reminder of the windmills of a bygone era. It also represents the emergence of new technology and the innovation of projects such as the Light Rail, which reflect a revitalized and growing Downtown Mesa streetscape.

The tree imagery mimics that of the “Voronoi Fractal” seen in the center of saguaro cacti and other desert plants. It represents technological building blocks while bringing nature to an urban environment. The cut-out screen patterning and painted stained glass panels create a shadow-play experience casting shadows and beautiful colors across the platform that continually transform throughout the day. The overall aesthetic of “Emergence” is one that hopes to embrace a historic past and an emergent and thriving community.

2. Country Club Station

Title: Mesaflora

Artist: Ed Carpenter

In keeping with the theme, New Growth/Old Roots, “*Mesaflora*” suggests an enormous botanical specimen blooming at the core of the Country Club Road light rail station and marking the western entry into downtown Mesa. The blossoming of the City of Mesa itself is implicit in this metaphor.

Mesaflora is 30’ high and made of stainless and mild steel and laminated dichroic glass.

3. Center Street Station

Title: Drawing Room

Artist: Ralph Helmick

Drawing Room is a combination of urban icon, outdoor room, esthetic instrument and collective portrait of community. Metal silhouettes of an inclusive array of Mesa citizens are linked to create a soaring network of local character and characters.

Viewed from afar, the sculpture marks Center Station’s importance as the metaphorical front door to City Hall and to Mesa Art Center, the city’s major cultural venue. Standing beneath the artwork viewers

may gaze up through the profiles to the sky beyond, a perspective prompting reflection on connections both terrestrial and celestial.

Drawing Room is 50' high and made of stainless steel and silver-painted steel

4. Mesa Drive Station

Title: Sixteen Stories of One Home Town

Artist: Mary Lucking

The art at this station tells of Mesa history through the eyes of its youngest residents. The artist collected personal memories of growing up in Mesa through conversations in homes and coffee shops, and within audio archives at the Mesa Historical Museum. Working closely with the storytellers on the text and images, the artist transformed sixteen memories into pages of a children's storybook. The stories present a wide range of experiences, from Mesa's days as a frontier farming town to its growth into a large city.

The two large cut-steel panels on the platform illustrate a mother and father reading to their children, representing the gift of personal histories passed down from one generation to the next. The artist thanks all the storytellers for their generosity in sharing their memories—sometimes warm, sometimes bittersweet—and hopes that these stories will give a glimpse into the roots and spirit of Mesa.

5. Morris TPSS

Title: The Memory of a Tree is Strong

Artist: Mary Shindell

Orchards of Pecan Trees were once located adjacent to Mesa's Main Street. Originally, they served as crop trees and later as shade trees for the neighborhoods that replaced the groves. Growing up nearby, images of these ruggedly beautiful trees became a part of the artist's memory.

6. Hibbert Signal House

Title: Palo Verde

Artist: Roberto L. Delgado

This is an outline of the *Parkinsonia microphyllum*, the foothill or yellow palo verde tree native to the Sonoran Desert of northern México and Arizona. The Seri people, a Native American group from northwestern México, call this tree *ziipxöl*. They used to grind up the seeds for flour, boil the green pods with meat, and eat the sweet green seeds as well as the flowers.

Within this outline are photo silkscreened images of the culture and history of the people of Mesa, past and present. The images are from archives and the artist's photos.