



Public Art Project Fact Sheet

Artwork Title:

Grandmother's Kitchen/Grandfather's Garden

Artist:

Lynn Susholtz of Stone Paper Scissors, North Park

Location of Exhibit:

La Maestra Community Health Center, 4060 Fairmount Avenue, San Diego CA 92105, 3rd floor waiting room for family dental services, the women's health clinic and administration offices

Neighborhood & Council District:

City Heights, Council District 9

Creation Date:

2012

Owned by:

City of San Diego

Commissioned by:

City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture through a nationwide competitive artist selection process

Funded by:

Cash donation to the City of San Diego from the late artist Niki de St. Phalle through the Niki Charitable Art Foundation for the purpose of creating public artwork in City Heights

Exhibited by:

La Maestra Community Health Centers through a five-year loan agreement with the City of San Diego

Total Project Budget:

\$25,000

Purpose of the Artwork:

The purpose of the artwork, as suggested by the donor and refined by the Commission for Arts and Culture, is to create a permanent record of the unique nature of City Heights and to engender community.

Artwork Description:

Grandmother's Kitchen/Grandfather's Garden is a digital cookbook, a cultural archive of the City Heights neighborhood and a visual poem tracing the rich history of immigration to this community. The photography, video and text featured in this wall-mounted sculpture relate to growing, preparing and sharing food and were collected by the artist, Lynn Susholtz, from the residents of City Heights and the staff and patients of the La Maestra Community Health Center in City Heights to present the diversity of the neighborhood through shared experiences and culturally specific stories of food.

The artwork is a wall-mounted sculpture made of two layers of 1/4" acrylic panels that have been laser cut in the shape of chard leaves. The acrylic panels are printed and etched with images and international food terminology. Windows cut into the acrylic panels frame three back-mounted 8" LCD monitors that display 6-10 minute loops of digital videos and still images. The sculpture hangs on the wall and measures approximately 3' high x 4' wide x 5" deep. The video monitors are activated by a timer and run continuously during business hours. The public has access to the artwork nine hours a day, six days a week.





About the Artist, Lynn Susholtz:

Lynn Susholtz is an artist and educator living and working in the San Diego neighborhood of North Park. She is the founder of Art Produce, an artist-run gallery, café, garden, classroom and community gathering space in North Park's Arts District and her work at Art Produce was featured in the fall 2012 issue of *Public Art Review*. Susholtz is also the co-founder of Stone Paper Scissors, an artist collaborative specializing in community development through the arts. Stone Paper Scissors has created artworks for public agencies, schools, business associations and neighborhoods. Commissions for public and private spaces range from urban storefront improvements to playscapes for children to the design of community gardens. Stone Paper Scissors has received five Orchid awards from the San Diego Architectural Foundation and an award for planning from the California Chapter of the American Planners Association. Committed to community engagement, Susholtz has secured public funding for after-school arts programming, served as a project area committee member for the creation of the neighborhood redevelopment agency and has worked as a founding member of the design committee for the North Park Main Street Business Association.

Susholtz was selected through a competition among U.S. artists by a panel of San Diego community members appointed by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.

About the Donor, Niki de St. Phalle:

The late French artist Niki de St. Phalle moved to San Diego in 1994 and spent eight years creating and installing her iconic sculptures around San Diego County. Famous for her keen appreciation of myth and archetype in such installations as her Tarot Garden in Tuscany, Italy and Queen Califia's Magical Circle in Escondido, California, Niki believed art had the power to weave communities and cultures together. In a February 23, 1998 letter to Martha Longenecker, founder and then-director of the Mingei International Museum, Niki wrote, "I feel an enormous link to every culture. I have been nourished by, looked at, loved so many different things whether it was Mexican, or American Indian, Italian or Eastern Art. I have

wondered about, seen, and loved the wonders of this world. They are part of me. I feel united to other human beings, so I feel united to other cultures and feel that I am a part of them.”

Witnessing the geographical and social bifurcation of the City Heights neighborhood during the construction of Interstate 15, Niki developed a particular concern about the wellbeing of the community in this area of San Diego. She envisioned public art as a healing force for the neighborhood. After Niki’s concept for the installation of one of her own sculptures in a City Heights park could not be realized in 2000, she donated \$25,000 to the City of San Diego for the purpose of funding another public art solution.



About the Commissioning Body, The City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture:

The City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and City Council on promoting, encouraging and increasing support for the region's artistic and cultural assets, integrating arts and culture into community life and showcasing San Diego as an international tourist destination. The Commission is composed of 15 volunteers appointed by the Mayor and is supported by a staff of professional arts administrators.

About the City of San Diego Civic Art Collection:

The Civic Art Collection is comprised of all the artworks owned or controlled by the City and was begun unofficially in 1909 when the City accepted the gift of the Horton Plaza fountain from Louis J. Wilde, a businessman and banker. The City has continued to receive numerous donations of artwork, many of which are of art historical importance and historical significance, ever since. The collection includes

paintings, sculptures, works on paper and prints and is further distinguished by the commissioning and acquisition of various artworks in public places.

The mission of the City's Civic Art Collection is to provide meaningful aesthetic and cultural experiences for San Diego's residents and visitors. The City collects artworks that demonstrate the creativity and urbanization and development with humanizing elements; that honor the history and heritage of San Diego and its citizens; and/or that reflect the character and diversity of San Diego's region while incorporating a global perspective.

The scope of the Civic Art Collection is limited to the acquisition of artworks that achieve the highest standards for aesthetic and conceptual quality while fulfilling the City's collecting mission. Chronologically, collecting efforts focus primarily on the period from 1900 to the present. Geographically, the collecting range of the Civic Art Collection is primarily national with a focus on the San Diego region. The City limits its collecting efforts to artworks that are designed or specified by artists.

About the Exhibitor, La Maestra Community Health Centers:

La Maestra is a private, nonprofit outpatient health center serving low income, uninsured and underserved populations in four cities throughout San Diego County: San Diego, National City, Lemon Grove and El Cajon. The mission and vision of La Maestra is to provide quality healthcare and support services to improve the overall well-being of the family and to bring under-served, ethnically diverse communities into the mainstream of society in a caring and culturally competent manner that respects patients' dignity. La Maestra meets the needs of the increasing influx of foreign-born refugees and immigrants into City Heights and serves 90,000 patients annually. La Maestra recognizes the benefit of the arts to patients in tangible, measurable ways. La Maestra's comprehensive Culture and Healing through Art (CHA) program will include both temporary exhibits and a permanent collection of quality art, by emerging and established regional artists, representing a broad range of media, styles, and cultures; opportunities for artists-in-residence; a retail gallery and performing arts presentations in the City Heights health center. CHA will integrate quality art experiences into the lives of everyone who visits La Maestra, invigorate the identity, pride and vitality of City Heights, and contribute to healing and acculturation processes for residents.

La Maestra Community Health Centers is exhibiting *Grandmother's Kitchen/Grandfather's Garden* through a five-year loan agreement with the City of San Diego.

Project Facilitation Team:

Community-based Artist Selection Panel

- Ricky Franchi, Former Chair of City Heights Recreation Council
- Mathieu Gregoire, Former representative for the Public Art Committee City of the San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture
- Andrea Giaier, Former Project Facilitator, Aja Project
- David Stevenson, Representative for Niki Charitable Art Foundation
- Peter Terezakis, Artist (light, video, performance) and resident of City Heights/College Area neighborhood

- Pam Ison, Representative for Council District 3

City of San Diego

- Former Councilmember Toni Atkins
- Councilmember Todd Gloria
- Councilmember Marti Emerald
- District 3 Council Representative Pamela Ison
- Stacey LoMedico, Director, Park and Recreation Department
- Victoria Hamilton, Former Executive Director, Commission for Arts and Culture
- Dana Springs, Public Art Program Manager, Commission for Arts and Culture
- Nigel Brookes, Public Art Project Manager, Commission for Arts and Culture
- Christine Jones, Former Public Art Project Manager, Commission for Arts and Culture
- Vicki Reed, Chair, Commission for Arts and Culture
- Larry Baza, Chair, Public Art Committee of the Commission for Arts and Culture

Niki Charitable Art Foundation

- David Stevenson, Trustee

La Maestra Community Health Center

- Zara Marselian, Founder and CEO
- Lindy Webb, Executive Assistant & Special Projects Coordinator
- Diane Strum, Independent Contractor
- Gail Goldman, Public Art Consultant

What is Public Art?

Most purely, it is work created by an artist exhibited in a setting where the public can experience it. And yet, public art eludes easy definition as it stimulates infinitely complex questions, reactions, discussions, divisions, collaborations and celebrations. Art in public settings serves many purposes. Urbanization and development can be balanced by the inclusion of art as a humanizing element in architecture and urban design. Public art can mark history, preserve memory and celebrate heritage. Capturing the unique identity of a place and reflecting its authentic nature, is public art's strength. Public art can serve as a catalyst for debate, creating opportunities for citizens to learn more about their own and each other's voices and views. The presence of art in public places offers the chance for everyone to expand their visual vocabularies and to explore different ideas. Public art has the ability to inject everyday life with surprise, delight and levity. Artists' work embodies the creativity, innovation and cultural values of a place. Public art powerfully responds to the basic human impulse to express uniquely, experience cultural vitality and to live amidst beauty.