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AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS SELECTS SAN DIEGO PUBLIC ART PROJECT AS ONE OF NATION'S MOST INNOVATIVE IN 2005

San Diego, California, August 5, 2005—The Public Art Network of Americans for the Arts is pleased to announce the *2005 Year In Review*. The *Year In Review* selects the most successful, innovative, and exciting public art projects in the United States. It has four components: a conference presentation, an online archive of the selected projects, the *Year In Review Slide Set*, and the *Year In Review CD-ROM*.

Each year, the Public Art Network collects applications to the *Year In Review* and invites two arts professionals to review the applications and choose projects to be included. This year, the *Year In Review* selections were chosen by Sherry Kafka Wagner, urban design and planning consultant, and artist Donald Lipski. Ms. Wagner and Mr. Lipski reviewed 156 projects from 77 applicants. Forty-eight projects were selected to be included in the *2005 Year In Review*. Ms. Wagner and Mr. Lipski presented their selections on June 10, 2005, at the Public Art Network Conference, *Lay of the Land: Public Art, Politics, and the Environment*, in Austin, Texas.

This year, the City of San Diego's Pump Station #4, which features landscape, hardscape, and surface treatments by the artist/architect team of Marcos Ramirez and Teddy Cruz, was selected to be a part of the *Year In Review*. Situated on a tiny island of property owned by the City within undeveloped, waterfront property owned by the San Diego Unified Port District, Point Loma Pump Station #4 (located at 2799 Carleton Street), is also surrounded on three sides by private residences and businesses. The public art intervention for the pump station was a mitigating response to the gray, bulky appearance of the plain, concrete block pump station building that was originally planned.

The artist/architect team of Marcos Ramirez and Teddy Cruz generated this design with the intention of creating an engaging public space while helping the concrete building blend into its surroundings in such a manner that allows viewers to look down a view corridor and see past the pump station to the waterfront beyond. The Port District has plans to develop the land around the pump station in the future so the artist and architect added elements to their design such as linear patterns of ground-level landscaping with grass and bamboo and hardscape patterns with concrete, glass, and stones that will allow any new development to connect seamlessly with the design of the pump station.

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Other design elements include metal beams and posts that echo the masts of the boats in the boatyard just behind the pump station and reference the maritime history of the Point Loma neighborhood. The artist-fabricated metal screen on the east side of the pump station features a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Nature is a mutable cloud which is always and never the same."

The artwork was created through the City's Public Art Program administered by the Commission for Arts and Culture (Commission) in partnership with the City's Metropolitan Wastewater Department and the Engineering and Capital Projects Department.

"We are very proud of adding this important artwork to the City's public art collection," said Victoria Hamilton, Executive Director of the Commission. "As a bi-national design team, Teddy and Marcos have succeeded in creating an artwork that simultaneously integrates into its site while maintaining a distinct sense of place."

"Americans for the Arts is pleased to once again recognize innovative public art projects in cities and towns across the country through our *Year In Review*. Public art helps to strengthen communities, and these 48 projects are some of the most successful and exciting work we have seen," states Bob Lynch, President and CEO of Americans for the Arts.

The *Year In Review* is an opportunity for communities to present their most inventive projects. In addition, the *Year In Review CD Rom* and the *Year In Review Slide Set* are available as educational tools for universities, arts programs, and communities planning public art projects. The online presentation, slide sets, and CD Rom will be available on the Americans for the Arts website in fall 2005. For more information, visit www.AmericansForTheArts.org or e-mail pan@artsusa.org.

Public Art Network (PAN) is a program of Americans for the Arts designed to provide services to the diverse field of public art and to develop strategies and tools to improve communities through public art. PAN's key constituents are public art professionals, visual artists, design professionals, arts organizations, and communities.

Americans for the Arts is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America. With offices in Washington, DC, and New York City, it has a record of more than 40 years of service. Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. Additional information is available at www.AmericansForTheArts.org.

The City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture vitalizes the City by supporting the region's cultural assets, integrating arts and culture into community life and showcasing San Diego as an international cultural destination.

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