



Passage

Passage is a public art project by artists Mags Harries and Lajos Héder. It combines poetry, seating and trail improvements to enrich South Mountain Community Library's connection to the surrounding community and landscape.

Celebrating the beauty and history of South Phoenix, poetry adorns four trellises along the path between the library and the artist-designed pedestrian bridge crossing the Western Canal. The words are cast in shadows on the walkway by metal letters atop the trellises.

The artists designed the plaza in front of the library to strengthen the historic link between libraries, poetry and place. The jumble of letters embedded in the concrete includes the entire alphabet and spells out words, such as "desert," "stone" and "mountain" that describe the nearby landscape.

The plaza also has three motion-activated "acoustic" chairs with speakers that whisper poetry whenever visitors take a seat. The poetry was selected by Arizona State University Regents' Professor Alberto Ríos and recorded by Sián Heder and Alberto Ríos. It includes works about South Mountain by 21 area poets and a community poem, "Baseline Blooms," edited by Professor Rios from lines and phrases submitted by the public.

The public art project was funded by City of Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture Public Art Program and the Maricopa County Community College District Bond Program.

Artists

Mags Harries and Lajos Héder formed Harries/Héder Collaborative in Cambridge, MA, in 1990 and have worked together on more than 25 major public commissions since then. Harries is a sculptor and teacher. In addition to being an artist, Héder was trained as an architect and has worked on community projects, urban design, site planning, architecture, and construction. Their work has been recognized with many local and national awards.

Words in the plaza

Blue, Boulder, Breeze, Current, Dawn, Desert, Dusk, Earth, East, Grow, Hill, Horizon, Mountain, North, Passage, Rains, Red, River, Road, Rock, Sand, Shadow, Sky, South, Stone, Sunrise, Torrent, Valley, Water, West, Winds

Poems

"Baseline Blooms" – community poem

"Going into Moonlight" – Dick Bakken

"A Centaur" – Jefferson Carter

"The Desert on Friday" – Jeanne E. Clark

"I ride a bike..." – Ralph Cordova

"At South Mountain" – Cynthia Hogue

"mesquite mother territory" – Will Inman

"Ordinary Time" – Sydney James

"Our Lady of Guadalupe" – Sydney James

"This Town" – Sydney James

"South Mountain Lights" – Susan L. Krevitsky Law

"[Untitled]" – Jimmy Lo

"Gridlock, South Phoenix" – Claire McQuerry

"Orchards" – Rick Noguchi

"After the Rooster Crows" – Fernando Pérez

"Final Scene for a Film" – Fernando Pérez

"Highline Canal" – Fernando Pérez

"Passing Up Citrus" – Fernando Pérez

"Arizona Satori" – David Ray

"Wren's Nest in a Saguaro" – Christine Rhein

"Desert Water/Agua del Desierto" – Alberto Ríos

"Four Trellis Poems" – Alberto Ríos

"My Public Library/Mí Biblioteca Pública" – Alberto Ríos

"I Leave" – Iliana Rocha

"In This Otherwise Small and Deserted Landscape"
– Lois Roma-Deeley

"December Evening, South Phoenix" – Jana Russ

"Along Baseline, Miles of Fields" – Peggy Shumaker

"Landlady" – Peggy Shumaker

"The Wife" – Peggy Shumaker

"In the Teeth of Angels" – David Sullivan

"Wilding" – David Sullivan

"It's Going to Rain/Va a Llover" – Ofelia Zepeda

"Smoke in Our Hair" – Ofelia Zepeda

"Sounds of Ceremony" – Ofelia Zepeda

"Sunset" – Ofelia Zepeda

