

Stratigraphy

Artist: Ron Baron

September 2010

Bascom Library & Community Center / 1000 S. Bascom Avenue, San Jose, CA 95111 / Council District 6

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Ron Baron's artwork *Stratigraphy* is a major focal element at the Bascom Library and Community Center, located on the face of the elevator bay of what is called the "sun porch," a central area that is designed for gatherings and celebration. The artwork is itself a celebration of the Bascom community.

Stratigraphy is a sort of visual, vertical timeline of the areas culture and history, telling the story through a vast array of representative objects; it is meant to give the idea of a cut-away at an archeological site that reveals a social history. Baskets and acorns pay homage to the original Ohlone inhabitants; the region's agricultural and canning era are conveyed through fruit, cans and canning jars, which then transitions into the electronics and technology era. The work also captures the pulse of the Bascom Library and Community Center facility through representative objects: balls and athletic items for the community center and books that could be found in the library. At the top is a tree with figures from trophies dangling from its branches. Baron included this as a whimsical suggestion of growth and aspiration, built on a foundation of "that which came before".



Stratigraphy is cast, patinated bronze, set against layered polished stone; the artwork wraps around the elevator bay onto the second floor landing. Baron worked closely with the community in developing the ideas and imagery for the artwork. Actual objects were used in the creation of the work. *Stratigraphy* was cast by Piero Mussi's Artworks Foundry in Berkeley California. Natural stone work was done by Thomas O'Byrne and the craftsmen at The Granite Encounter in San Jose.



ABOUT THE PUBLIC ARTIST

Ron Baron is a sculptor who works in bronze. His works are often built around real objects that he casts in bronze; he then uses rich patinas to enliven and animate these. His body of work includes many functional items as well as sculptural art. Baron has works in many major public facilities across the United States including transit stations (airports and train stations) and sporting facilities as well as commissions for the private sector including a major work at the Estee Lauder headquarters in New York City. Among Baron's numerous honors include a prestigious grant from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation in 2001 and fellowships from the Public Art Fund, the New York Foundation for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. He has exhibited widely including the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Wexner Museum, Configura 2, Erfurt, Germany, Anna Kustera Gallery, The Sculpture Center and Exit Art in New York. For more information about Ron Baron's artwork including this project, go to www.ronbaron.net .

Artworks Foundry, located in Berkeley, California, is among the nation's leading foundries for the production and restoration of bronze sculptures, reliefs and monuments. Artworks Foundry has served over 2000 artists in projects ranging from the miniature to the monumental and has worked with many of the nation's premier sculptors. To learn more about Artworks Foundry, go to www.artworksfoundry.com .

ABOUT THE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The City of San José Public Art Program seeks to build community by initiating artworks and exhibitions that enhance the civic landscape. Through active community engagement, public art strives to reflect the City's diversity, historic richness, and envision its present and future.

The Public Art Program is part of the City's Office of Cultural Affairs, a division of the Office of Economic Development. The Public Art Program was established by a 1984 municipal ordinance that provides public art through funding from City capital improvement projects and eligible private development.

For further information and photos, please contact the San José Public Art Program.