

Lesson Plan: Placing Public Art in Architecture

Topic/Theme: Visual artists, urban planners and architects apply their unique professional efforts to design and realize our shared public spaces.

Class Level: Adult Education

Duration: 90 minutes

Learning Experience/ Brief Description of Unit: This lesson introduces students to public art as form, content and design in architecture.

Specific Learning Objectives:

Students learn to place artwork in architectural and planning contexts to understand how commissioning a public artwork impacts the experience of public architecture.

Students learn to look carefully at works of art in public.

Students can gain confidence in articulating the information gathered from the image

Students learn about the purpose and context of art in public places

Resources:

Public Artworks in Inglewood Buildings

Skedans, Tony DeLap

Location: City Hall, Exterior, north plaza

The Written Word, Tom Van Sant

Location: Public Library wall, three sites

Cabinet of Wonder, Susan Narduli

Location: Senior Center Exterior and Lobby

Podcasts: *Skedans*, Tony DeLap

The Written Word, Tom Van Sant

Video: *Cabinet of Wonder*, Susan Narduli

Background:

Inglewood's 1972 Civic Center was designed as a centralized government complex with civic offices and cultural facilities including City Hall, a Public Library, Lecture Hall, County Court house and park-like landscaping. All the building were made with poured-in-place concrete, then deemed an advanced building material. Recessed tinted windows in City Hall and the Library provide views without glare and heat. Pedestrian access was central to the design of the Center. The decision was made to place art in architecture, reviving the WPA idea of having artists work with government as it builds our public places.

For the Public Library, artist Tom Van Sant was asked to create an work to connect the content of the facility with its exterior presence. His work, *The Written Word*, is in three sites: along the Manchester Boulevard façade of the building, the entrance of the Waddingham Lecture Hall and the ground floor lobby of the teen center.

For City Hall's north (La Brea Avenue) entrance, Tony DeLap created the totem-like *Skedans*. The artist was inspired by Northwest Coast tribal communities to make the seat of government. The artwork stands on an octagon pedestal, designed by the architect, as a low-flow fountain.

For the 2018 Senior Center, artist Susan Narduli used architectural metal as the material for *Cabinet of Wonders*. She saw seniors and their memories are the real treasures in a senior center, and her two-story lobby artwork reflects the history of Inglewood people, places and families. Her patterns for the building canopies cast tree-like dappled shade in the mornings.

Classroom Applications:

The teacher allows students to “read” the art in architecture; students share what they see

The teacher does not have to be expert on public art or architecture.

Students drive the visual exploration; teacher guides discussion by asking questions.

Specific Questions for Teachers:

Does the architecture affect how these artworks are experienced?

Was each artist able to respond to the place for public art?

The Written Word, Tom Van Sant

Artist Tom Van Sant used the poured in place concrete to make his unique artwork. What do you see here in the three sites? Analyze the iconography. How does this fit with the space knowing that this is a library?

Skedans, Tony DeLap

Looking at *Skedans*, from a distance and up close, does it impact your approach to City Hall?

The artist says he was inspired by North American tribal totem poles. Do you see the influence?

Why does the sculpture have a gap in the center? DO you see meaning in the open space?

Does adding visual art to public space help a city? How?

Cabinet of Wonder, Susan Narduli

What do you see here? Consider the contents of the light boxes and photographs on the wall. How does this fit with the space knowing that this is a senior activity center?

Look at the exterior canopies on the first and second floors. Does the patterns remind you of the shade cast by a tree?

Open Ended Questions for Educators:

What’s going on in this artwork/ architecture?

What do you see that makes you say that?

What more can we find?



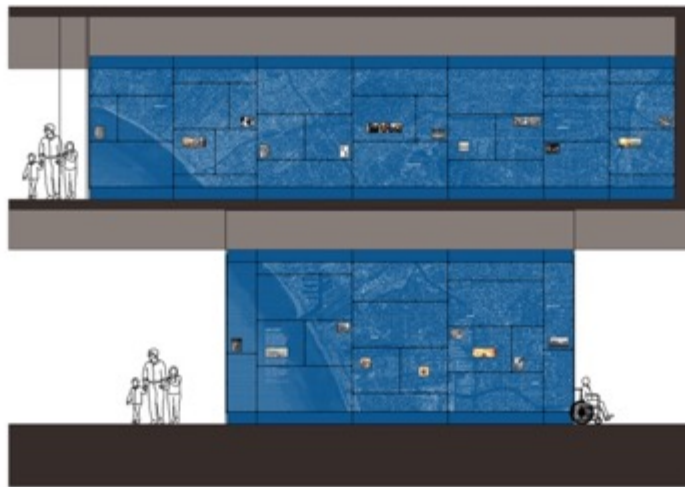
Skedans, Tony DeLap



The Written Word (Waddingham detail) Tom Van Sant



Cabinet of Wonder (first floor lobby), Susan Narduli (above)
 Cabinet of Wonder key to vintage photographs, light boxes and poetry excerpts (below).



CABINET OF WONDER KEY

BACKGROUND:
 City of Inglewood & surrounding area converted into perforated metal.

(left to right) **2nd LEVEL**

- Scream' Jay Hawkins at the Inglewood West Club, 1964
- School Years Memorabilia
- Gladys Washington Inglewood Historian Photo, 1990
- Marijuana High Society Pop Squad Photo, 1973
- Chamberlain and Russell at the Forum Photo, 1969
- Record Collection Memorabilia
- Academy Theater at Inglewood Photo, 2015
- Charm Collection
- Korean American Mothers Day Dinner Photo, 1992
- Muhammad Ali vs. Ken Norton Inglewood Forum Photo, 1973
- Homeware Coors China Inglewood
- Inglewood Entry to Rose Parade Photo, 1941

(left to right) **1st LEVEL**

- Freeman Elementary Classroom Photo
- Martie Collection
- Market Street View Photo, 1938
- Inglewood Memories Memorabilia
- Ramona Donahue
- Carnival Afters Photo, 1927
- Coverage and Stack of Letters Memorabilia
- The LA Forum Under Construction Photo, 1967
- Sea Scout Meeting at Hollywood Park Photo, 1958

TEXT

- "KORE CENTINELA" Inglewood, California
- Gordon W. Home California Post-Localite
- From Inglewood Poetry Project Anthology
- "KORE" by Sara Mills
- "SWEET CITY" by J. Malaka Beckford
- From Senior Design Charrette:
- JEWEL. PRIDE. HOME. INGLEWITE. TENACITY. RESPECT. MEMORIES

CABINET OF WONDER _INGLEWOOD SENIOR CENTER