



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR • JUDITH VALLES

300 North "D" Street • San Bernardino • CA 92418-0001

909.384.5133 • Fax: 909.384.5067 • www.ci.san-bernardino.ca.us

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MAYOR VALLES UNVEILS PUBIC ART PROJECT

Spheres Will Bring Color, Art to Downtown

San Bernardino Mayor Judith Valles will recess the city council meeting at 5 p.m., Monday (Oct. 3) and invite the council and audience to join her in front of city hall for a very special ceremony.

The ceremony will mark the unveiling of the first public art project in downtown San Bernardino in many years. The project which is co-sponsored by the city, California State University – San Bernardino and Watson & Associates developers, is the centerpiece of a *Taste of DownTown*. Sponsored by the Downtown Area Revitalization Team, Taste of Downtown will take place on the city hall plaza and at Court Street Square and is designed to showcase the various downtown arts, entertainment and food venues.

The public art project is comprised of a series of 12 24-inch concrete spheres that were painted by CSUSB art students. The spheres will be installed at various locations downtown. "Arts and Entertainment" is the theme of the artwork, which is intended, according to members of DART, to add color and art to downtown.

Students were invited to submit designs in the spring. A jury comprised of CSUSB art faculty, Watson staff and city officials reviewed 18 designs and selected the 12 finalists. Watson provided \$500 commissions to each finalist. The city purchased the spheres and, over the past few months, the students rendered their designs onto spheres. Sant Khala, Cal State Art Department chair, will be on hand Monday to discuss the process that lead to the artwork and to acknowledge the student artists.

The mayor will present James Watson of Watson & Associates with the 2005 Arts Benefactor of the Year award for underwriting the art project as well as several other projects planned for the city. Attendees will be treated to an exhibition of another Watson-funded project. The semi-finalist and finalist designs for a public sculpture, which will be place in the forecourt of a shopping center to be built at the intersection of Northpark and University, across from the Cal State, will be on display in the lobby of city hall.

We are grateful to Mr. Watson and his staff, not only for their generosity in funding these projects, but also for the insight and imagination they've brought to the city. They truly see the great potential our city holds," said Mayor Valles.

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The program will include discussion of other downtown improvements including, the fountain of E Street, landscaping upgrades, and the new light post banners as well as future aesthetic improvements.

“We’ve always believed that an improved downtown is the key for improving the entire city,” said Mayor Valles. “First, though, we have to make it (downtown) a pleasant place for people to come – and that starts with making it more attractive.”

Following the formal program, visitors will be invited to tour city hall plaza to be entertained by representatives of several of the performing arts groups who received funding through the city’s fine arts grants program.

Representatives of a number of downtown establishments including: Rays Downtown Deli, Joe’s Yum Yum Café, Burger Time, Eli’s Restaurant, CinemaStar and Don Alicia Nuts and Candy will be on hand with food samples.

The “Cadillac Cats” will provide music. There will be balloons and a play area for the kiddies.

“We have tremendous plans to make downtown more attractive and a more pleasant place to be. We hope everyone will join us Monday for a glimpse of where San Bernardino is going,” said Code Compliance Director Glenn Baude, who is heading up the downtown improvement effort.

Student Artists

Dion A. Cuevas
Janis Chun
Jay Merriweather
Sabrina Valles
Michael Kirk
Conrad Ruiz
Heidi Rampley
Mark Batongmalaque
Quenna Hernandez
David G. Morgan
Annabel Osbert
Kristopher San Pablo

For More Information:

Jim Ruester
(909) 645-8973