

Almaden Sphere

Artist: Ray King

May 2006

Almaden Community Center and Library / 6445 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120 / Council District 10

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Almaden Sphere is a celestial shower of light and color suspended from a web of stainless steel cables in the entry lobby of the Almaden Community Center and Library. It is a modern interpretation of the tradition of grand crystal chandeliers that adorned great halls. It is designed to interact with both the natural sunlight and the interior lights to add a dramatic design element in the main hub of the building.

Comprised of 5,000 dichroic glass prisms *Sphere* measures 18' diameter and 23' high and weighs approximately 800 pounds.

The artist desired to create a sculpture that evokes a sense of fascination, stimulation, beauty, contemplation, and intrigue.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ray King is an accomplished artist who uses the natural phenomena of light as it interacts with glass and optics as an art medium. By creating dynamic interactions with the sun and refracting light colors, rainbow-like emanations that shift and change as the viewer moves or as the light source changes, King creates magical environments.



Above: View through the sculpture



Above: View looking down into the lobby of the center

His work has been commissioned by universities, municipalities and private patrons throughout the world. His glass creations have been exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Crafts in New York, the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian Institute, the Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art in Sapporo, Japan, and other venues throughout America and Europe.

More about Ray King's artwork can be found at his website: <http://www.rayking.nu>

ABOUT THE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The City of San José Public Art Program seeks to build community identity 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.

