
The Singing Stone, 2013 (in progress)

Artists: Living Lenses – Po Shu Wang and Louise Bertelsen

Calabazas Branch Library, 1230 S. Blaney Avenue, San Jose, CA 95129 / Council District 1

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Living Lenses, the northern California-based artist team of Po Shu Wang and Louise Bertelsen, created a unique artwork for the new Calabazas Branch Library called *The Singing Stone*. The artwork is intended to blend the timeless tradition of carved stone sculpture with elements of modern technology.

The focal point of the artwork is a square granite column in the library courtyard. On each of its four sides are figurative images that depict a man, woman, elderly woman and child carved in negative relief.

Once completed, the sculpture will be gently animated by a sound element created by the interplay between recorded voices and electronic data related to the library. A data stream, such as the traffic of people in and out of the library throughout the day, the library's collection, or circulation of library materials, will utilize specially-designed software to interface with vocal tones to create unique musical patterns, generating a "sound portrait" of the library. The sound of this will softly emanate from the granite sculpture, audible when one is nearby. Due to upgrades pending for the library technology system, work on the data element of the artwork is still underway.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Po Shu Wang and Louise Bertelsen bring their diverse cultural backgrounds together in their work as the northern California-based artist team Living Lenses.

Their focus is on site-integrated projects in which their work might serve as a 'lens' to a particular aspect of the both the physical environment as well as the societal or public aspect in a way that will engage the public in interaction with the artwork. In their own words, they "seek to create works that will have the function of lenses, to expand the range of the natural senses in order to get glimpses into many otherwise hidden aspects of the places that we encounter."

They often work across disciplines, infusing their art with elements of science and technology. They have been creating and exhibiting artwork for nearly two decades during which time they have completed many public art commissions in Northern California, across the nation and internationally.

More of their work may be seen at www.livinglenses.com.

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 1992 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.

