



Office of Economic Development
Civic Arts Program

Artist John Wehrly Receives Award for Public Art
WEST BERKELEY RAIL STOP AND TRANSIT PLAZA
RECEIVE AN AWARD FROM THE BERKELEY DESIGN ADVOCATES

Berkeley, California (Thursday, December 14, 2006) - On December 7, 2006, the Berkeley Design Advocates held its seventh biennial awards program to recognize projects with excellent design and community sensitivity -- by honoring outstanding additions to the built environment in Berkeley. The West Berkeley Rail Stop and Transit Plaza received one of the thirteen awards. Special consideration was given to artist John Wehrly for his Public Art murals and to Berkeley poet Betsy Davids for her poems of Welcoming and Departure.

The final brushstrokes are being placed on a Public Art installation to commemorate the historic Native American settlements and shellmound of the area, creating an inviting "outdoor room" envisioned by the community and frequent users of bus and rail transit here. Ms Davids poems are written above the columns and are seen by all coming and going on the train.

The new design for the West Berkeley Rail Stop and Transit Plaza is located at the foot of University Avenue. It creates a landscaped civic space with abundant pedestrian level lighting and street trees, in place of a formerly unpleasant open area beneath a roadway overpass. Additional physical improvements have included widened sidewalks, street paving, new plantings and site furniture, information kiosks, and a steel and glass canopy for shelter from the elements.

The Project Team members are: Community Design & Architecture; Phillip Erickson, AIA; Thomas Kronenmeyer, AIA; Land Studio, Landscape Architecture; LLC, Inc. Civic Engineering; Silverman & Light, Electrical Engineers, Lighting Design; Public Art Installation, John Wehrle, Muralist and Painter and Betsy Davids, Poet; Client, Berkeley Redevelopment Agency and the City of Berkeley.

The Public Art and Poetry was funded by the City of Berkeley 1.5% for Public Art through the Redevelopment Agency in cooperation with their Board of Directors and the Civic Arts Commission.

For additional information about the West Berkeley Rail Stop and Transit Plaza Public Art component please visit the City of Berkeley's Civic Arts web page <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/civicsarts/publicart.htm> or contact Mary Ann Merker, Civic Arts Coordinator at (510) 981-7533.