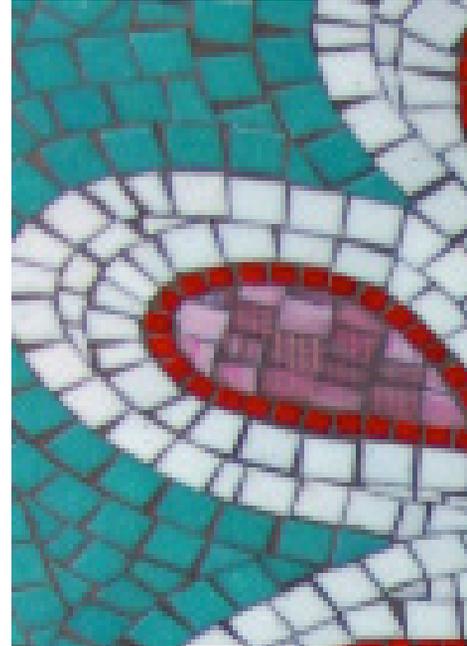


# Reston

## The Art of Community



### Initiative for Public Art — Reston traces history, future of public art in new Reston Museum exhibition

BY JANET REMS | PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUCY YEN AND SEAN BAHRAMI

**A**lmost 50 years ago when Reston was just getting underway, among those working at what became Lake Anne Village Center, Reston's historic heart, was world-famous Uruguayan sculptor Gonzalo Fonseca, known for his modernist, architecturally influenced stone sculptures. Those involved in the early development of the innovative "New Town" might remember stopping to watch the sculptor working, perhaps even chatting with the friendly, voluble artist.

At the same time Fonseca was working on his sculptures, which are still Lake Anne cynosures and favorite playing places for children, the nearby cubist townhouses at Hickory Cluster, designed by the equally noted modernist architect, Charles M. Goodman, were being constructed.

From its very beginnings, Reston was a place where public art was an important and integral part of the community. The sixth of the seven "Guiding Principles" for the planned community says: "Beauty — structural and natural — is a necessity of the good life and should be fostered."

An exhibition, "Reston — The Art of Community," which traces Reston's rich public art history and also looks toward its future, opens at the Reston Museum at Lake Anne Village Center on September 15.

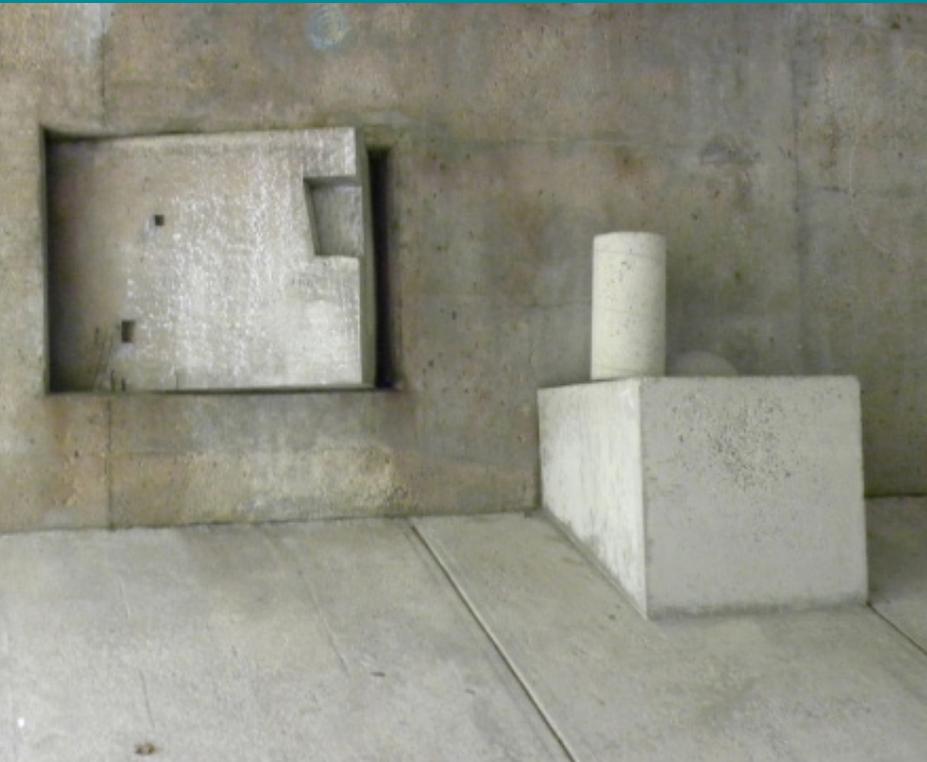
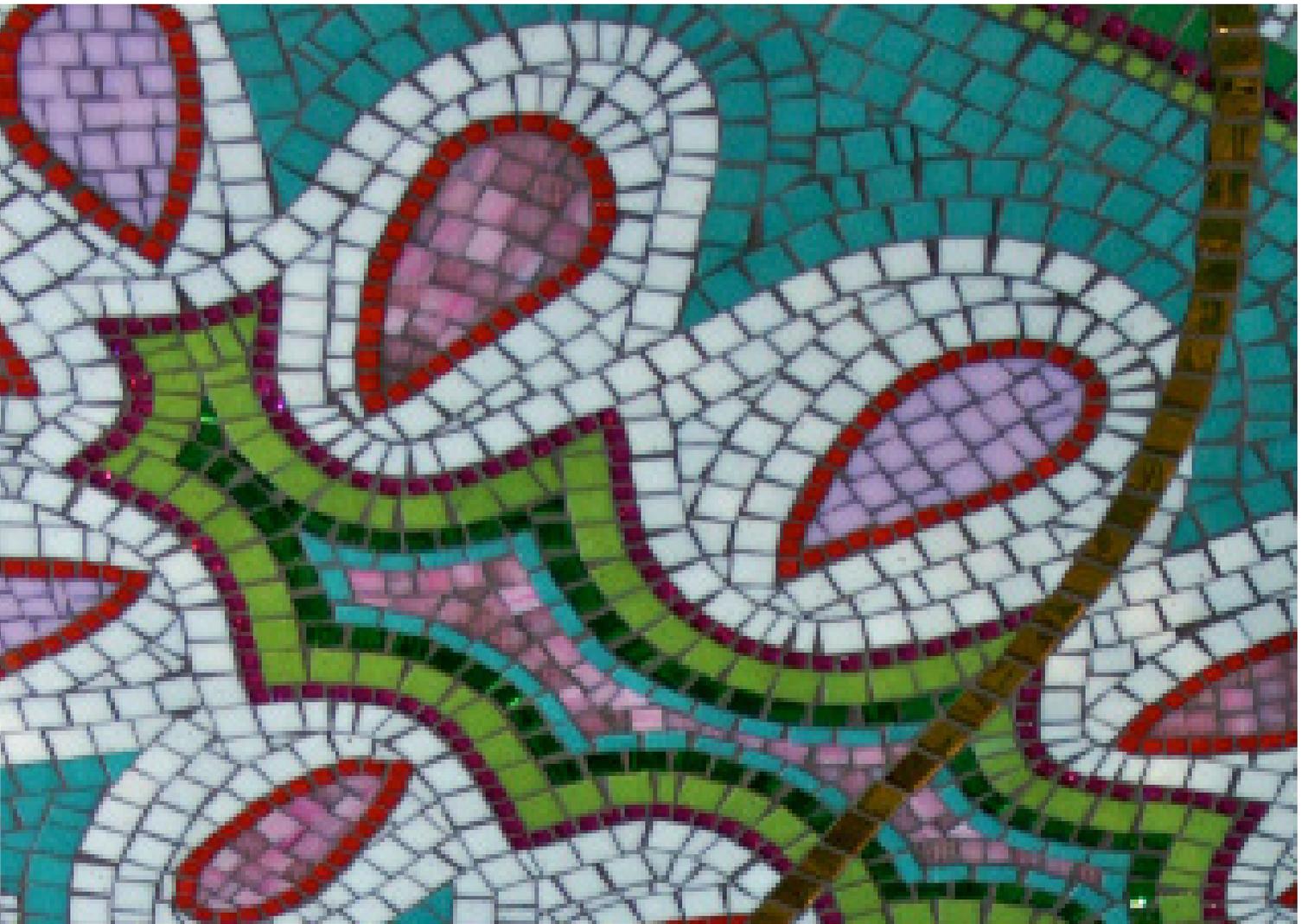
The exhibition is co-sponsored by the Initiative for Public Art — Reston (IPAR), whose mission is to cultivate "a new generation of public artworks throughout the community," and the Reston Historic Trust, which operates the museum.

Among the exhibition and outreach program's key supporters are MEDA Inc., Reston-based Comstock, and Friends of Lake Anne Village Center as well as private donations. Other partners include the Reston Community Center and South Lakes High School.

Organized by the geographic locations of Reston's public art, the idea for the exhibition naturally evolved from two other IPAR projects, which will be part of the exhibition content, according to Anne Delaney, IPAR's executive director.

One is a still-growing inventory of close to 50 existing and temporary public art works put together by IPAR intern Nejla Izadi, whose work was supported by an Exxon-Mobil Community Summer Jobs Program (CSJP) grant. Last year, IPAR received very enthusiastic responses from the community when it sent out a call for information about Reston's public art.

**Top: Emerge (detail), Valerie Theberge, 2010, Glade Drive underpass. Right: The Underpass, Gonzalo Fonseca, Lake Anne, 1965**

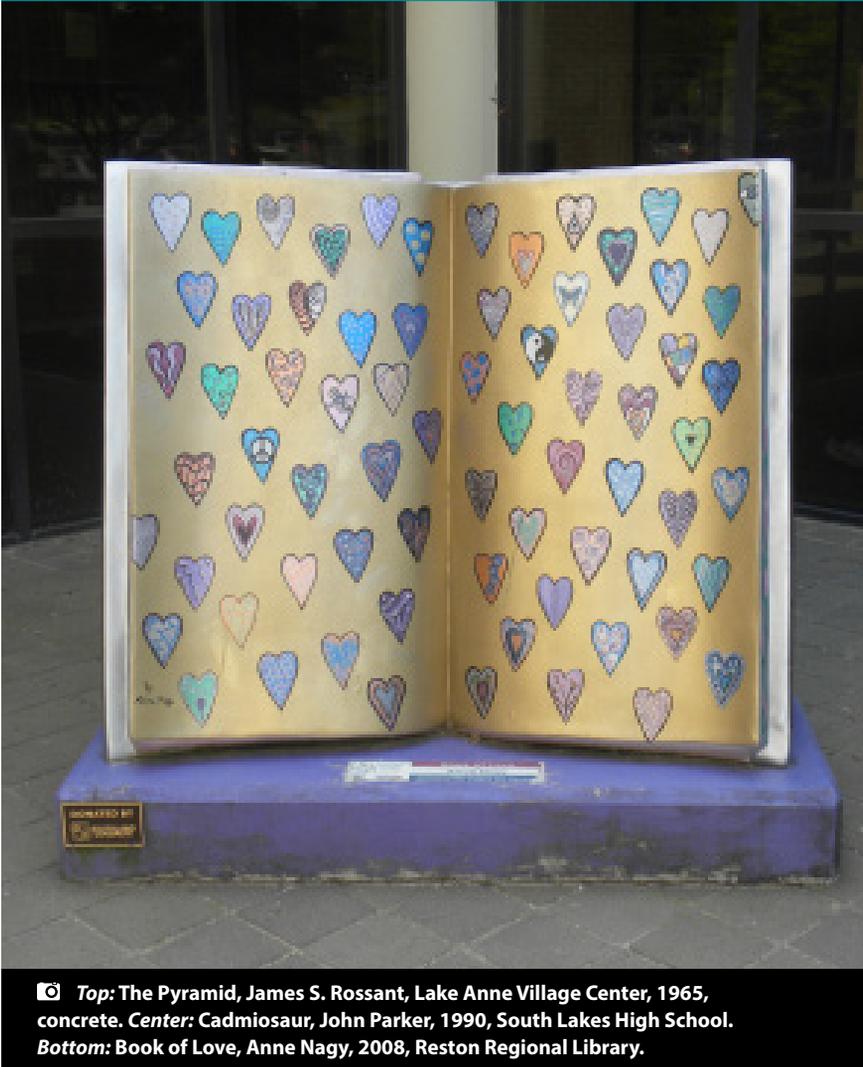


# TO GO

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For details, visit the IPAR website at [www.publicartreston.org](http://www.publicartreston.org).





The other is a 10 to 12-minute film on Reston's public art history produced by award-winning documentary director and producer Rebekah Wingert-Jabi, of Storycatcher Productions, who grew up in Reston and moved back here after years traveling and working abroad, especially in China and the Middle East.

"My hope is through focusing on different pieces, viewers will get a sense of the scope of public art in Reston and how public art was part of the original vision to create a community of joy and inspiration," said Wingert-Jabi, who also recently co-directed, produced, edited, wrote and filmed the documentary "My Neighbourhood," which was selected for the 2012 Tribeca Film Festival and won a 2012 Al Jazeera Documentary Film Festival special award.

Creating a documentary about Reston's public art history is a true labor of love for Wingert-Jabi, who moved to the community with her parents in 1973 when she was three days old. After almost a decade in the Middle East, she decided to move with her husband back to her hometown because she "came to value and appreciate how unique Reston is." Plus, "I couldn't raise my child anywhere else," said Wingert-Jabi, whose daughter, Hannah Victoria Jabi, was born March 21, 2012.

**Top:** The Pyramid, James S. Rossant, Lake Anne Village Center, 1965, concrete. **Center:** Cadmiosaur, John Parker, 1990, South Lakes High School. **Bottom:** Book of Love, Anne Nagy, 2008, Reston Regional Library.

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– Rebekah Wingert-Jabi  
Producer and director of film on Reston’s public art history



Creating the overall design and content of “Reston — The Art of Community” are award-winning exhibition designer Jeanne Krohn and urban planner and former National Building Museum curator Mary Konsoulis.

A specialist in the design and fabrication of exhibitions for museums and non-profit organizations, among Krohn’s past projects are exhibitions for the Smithsonian, Longwood Gardens, the National Building Museum, Baltimore Science Center, Folger Shakespeare Library, Jewish Historical Society of Washington, Colonial Williamsburg, and the Octagon Museum in Washington, D.C. She also did the total redesign of the Reston Museum’s interior space and designed the exhibition “Reston — A New Town” in 2009.

Konsoulis currently is a contributor to and coordinating editor of a history of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, to be published in 2012. She also is an adjunct faculty member in the School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation at the University of Maryland, College Park, and worked as an urban planner with the architecture firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill for 10 years.

**📷 Dennis Heimbach, *Fidelity of Form*, c. 2006, Reston Town Square Park**

Both Wingert-Jabi and Delaney expect the exhibition will continue to have life afterwards. The research material will become part of the IPAR and the Reston Historic Trust archives and will be available on their respective websites. They anticipate that the exhibit material, including Wingert-Jabi’s film, also will be used by IPAR for outreach to community groups, schools and other educational institutions as well as the business community.

In addition, IPAR plans to develop a map identifying the location of the public art works for the enjoyment of pedestrians and cyclists.

“We’ve already received a great response from the community,” Delaney said.



**Janet Rems** is chairman of the Initiative for Public Art — Reston’s Communications Committee. The former editor of *The Reston Times*, she currently freelances for *The Fairfax County Times* and *Northern Virginia Magazine*.

## Learn More

### Reston (IPAR)

The Initiative for Public Art — Reston (IPAR) is a group of civic leaders who represent Reston’s key community organizations. It seeks to inspire an ongoing commitment to public art and create a new generation of artworks in Reston. IPAR imagines public art throughout Reston that is world-renowned, inspires the community, and engages the mind and senses. In 2008, IPAR adopted a Master Plan that outlines a vision for public art in Reston, key opportunities for new projects, and an action plan for success. IPAR is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt, not-for-profit organization.

Visit [www.publicartreston.org](http://www.publicartreston.org) or call 703-467-9797 to find out more about the Initiative for Public Art — Reston, its mission and future plans or to get involved.

### Reston Historic Trust

The Reston Historic Trust (RHT) was founded in 1996 as a community-based non-profit organization to sustain the unique history of the award-winning, innovative, planned community of Reston. The Trust operates the Reston Museum & Shop, which offers community exhibits and archives, walking tours, children’s art workshops, and public events. The museum also offers original art, crafts and Reston signature items for sale.

Visit [www.restonmuseum.org](http://www.restonmuseum.org) or call 703-709-7700 to find out more.