

Sculpture advises to have an "Open Hand, Open Mind, Open Heart"

Jose Arredondo | 03 de Agosto de 2015



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Art piece entitled "Open Hand, Open Mind, Open Heart." (Photo By Jose Arredondo)

Situated in the center of Pittman-Sullivan park, there is a 32' high, 7' wide and 10' deep orange hand sculpture surrounded by limestone block seats. The artwork, which towers the Davis Scott Family YMCA, pays homage to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"It is fitting that this new public art piece is located at Pittman-Sullivan Park, as it has served as an everyday community gathering space for area residents and has also welcomed thousands of people from around the country for the city's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. March and Commemoration," District 2 Councilman Alan E. Warrick II said in a press release "This artwork beautifully conveys the history and significance of our East Side."

The art piece was created by Boston-based artist Douglas Kornfeld, who is an advocate for public art. He has created public art pieces all over the country. In his website it states, "Public art must be more than mere decorative embellishment, it must have poetry."

Kornfeld was selected by the San Antonio Arts Commission to create the original work as part of the 2012 bond Public Art Project: Eastside Parks. He explains the inspiration and interprets the art for those who may not understand it.

"Dr. Martin Luther King and his philosophy of social change inspired the artwork by non-violent action," Kornfeld said. "The open hand depicts a gesture of non-violence and is reinforced by the open ring in the palm further depicting a non-aggressive pose. The ring at the bottom of the arm is designed to encourage visitors to step through the artwork."

The total cost for this project included \$20,000 for design and \$60,000 for fabrication, totaling \$80,000.

It was a partnership split between City Council District 2, the Department for Culture & Creative Development's Public Art San Antonio division (PASA), Transportation & Capital Improvements, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Davis-Scott Family YMCA.

The Eastside of San Antonio is one of five areas selected as a "promise zone." The Eastside Promise Zone was created to fight poverty, improve housing and education, as well as enhance public safety.

Warrick believes that the Sculpture symbolizes the continual growth of the Eastside.

"Our center city is a gateway to surrounding neighborhoods filled with history, culture and the promise of a prosperous future. San Antonio's historic Eastside is a great example of this crossroads of history and progress," Warrick said.