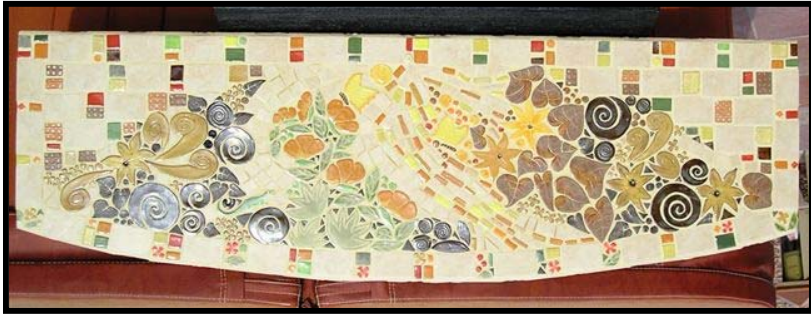


# ORO VALLEY MARKETPLACE

## Public Art to Enhance Shopping Experience at Oro Valley Marketplace



Vistoso Stone tile bench sides reveal the colors of the Sonoran Desert seasons



A tile spadefoot toad is surrounded by local flora



The stainless and carbon steel sculptures of "Moonflower" will be seen against screen walls adjacent to Oro Valley Marketplace's parking lot



A model of a handcrafted tile bench and concrete pedestal with a plant-like metal sculpture

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## **Public Art to Enhance Shopping Experience at Oro Valley Marketplace**

Oro Valley, ARIZ. June 10, 2008 – Oro Valley Marketplace developer Vestar has committed to spend more than \$600,000 toward the design and installation of public art and other aesthetic enhancements at this 800,000 square foot shopping center.

Sculptural benches and pedestals, pavement art elements and screen wall sculptures that will adorn the Oro Valley Marketplace will serve to create a special sense of place and represent the works of seven different artists.

“The trend in outdoor shopping centers has been predicated on a demand for public spaces that combine a unique shopping experience combined with amenities such as public art, and other environmentally enhanced features,” said David Malin, project manager for Vestar Developments.

The process began with a call to artists by the Greater Oro Valley Arts Council. After receiving over 100 proposals from artists all over the country, this process culminated in the selection of works by Susan Gamble, of Santa Theresa Tile Works, Caryl Clement of Wheat-Scharf, Simon Donovan, Lars Stanley, Wall Batterton and Bonnie MacQuarrie.

The Greater Oro Valley Public Art selection process is a part of Oro Valley’s Public Art in Private Development Ordinance, which requires all developers to dedicate a specific percentage of project construction costs to publicly accessible artwork.

Susan Gamble’s artistic vision includes a vibrant mosaic design of glass and tile to be embedded in pavement along a loop walkway that will meander through the shopping center’s eight-acre central open space.

“Moonflower,” a striking series of 5 sculptures depicting the sacred datura plant and its flowering stages was designed out of stainless and carbon steel by artist Caryl Clement. This art will be affixed to screen walls adjacent to the Oro Valley Marketplace’s parking lot and backlit with LED lights using solar power.

Artists Bonnie MacQuarrie and Wall Batterton collaborated to create 12 handcrafted tile benches and 18 hand-cast tinted concrete pedestals with metal sculpture artwork by Lars Stanley that represents different native cacti. Inspiration for the bench tops and insets was drawn from native flora and fauna. Tile colors reflect the evolution of seasons within the Sonoran Desert and are divided into three distinct hues - greens, yellows and browns, as well as reds and oranges. The sides of the benches will be made from Vistoso Stone to tie into the architecture of the surrounding buildings.

(more)

Artist Simon Donovan has ensured several on-site water tanks blend into the natural surroundings by painting each to resemble a barrel cactus; he is also designing free-standing sculptures which will be located in the shopping center's central open space.

Three distinct wind sculptures by artist Lyman Whitaker will also be featured to portray the fluidity and movement of air. The Double Dancer (16'6" tall), Double Helix Sail (16'10" tall) and a Single Helix Star (13'5" tall) will rhythmically move in concert around the center's central open space.

When complete in September 2008, Oro Valley Marketplace is projected to feature 24 stores and will comprise over 800,000 square feet of retail, entertainment and dining destinations. A grand opening is planned for mid-October 2008.

Known for its conscientious approach to developing environmentally sensitive and culturally significant properties, Vestar has established new benchmarks for working with neighborhood groups, communities and municipalities to address community needs and foster goodwill on all levels.

For more information, contact Sarah LaPorte at (480) 966-9338.