

"Infinity" Sculpture Dedication October 11, 2011, 3 pm.

Public works of art are prominent in cities and places throughout the United States and the world. Such art is free and it enriches the community.

Broken Arrow now has a growing collection of such art—a collection that began in 1993 when Alan Houser, probably the most prominent American sculpture of that time, was commissioned to create a sculpture to memorialize Broken Arrow's Lt. Col. Ernest Childers, World War II hero and recipient of the Medal of Honor. That statue was dedicated in 1994 and stands in Veterans Park on South Main Street.

That first public art project was led by the Rotary Club of Broken Arrow. And, today, the Rotary Club of Broken Arrow is delighted to have a similar lead in making possible this newest piece of public art— this sculpture, "Infinity," — and to donate this sculpture to Broken Arrow Public Schools so all the citizens and visitors to Broken Arrow can enjoy its unique beauty.



L. to R. School representatives: Mark Frie and Sharon Whelpley
and Broken Arrow President Stan Evetts

While the committee pulled the veil from "Infinity", Stan presented the deed and a photo to the school representatives, Mark Frie and Sharon Whelpley.

"Infinity" is a contemporary granite art piece that stands over nine feet tall. It was created by Kang Pham-New, an internationally acclaimed Vietnamese-Canadian artist who, at age 12, was among the "boat people" who escaped from Vietnam as the Communists gained control of that country. He was sent alone to Canada, where he was adopted by John New, a professor of European History, and his wife. Kang was educated in Canada. Kang's art is represented by Glenn Green Galleries in Tesuque, near Santa Fe, New Mexico. Glenn spoke at the unveiling ceremony giving us a great perspective

on Kang and his art as well as the challenge of creating "Infinity" and placing it in Broken Arrow.

The proposal to acquire a major sculpture and to donate the art piece to the school district for placement on the grounds near the new Performing Arts Center was first considered by the Rotary Club of Broken Arrow in 2008, during the year that Bob Cacy served as club president. In the spring of 2009, while Paul Barrett was club president, the Club board of directors re-endorsed the concept. The Rotary Club pledged an initial \$20,000.00 to begin the fund-raising drive for the sculpture. During the next 18 months, the club's Sculpture Project steering committee successfully raised the \$130,000.00 needed to acquire the sculpture and complete the project. The steering Committee members for this project were Bob Cacy (Chairman), Stan Evetts, Paul Barrett, Terry Cupp, Scott Graham, Nick Nail, Clarence Oliver and Janie Thomas. The entire Rotary Club of Broken Arrow voted unanimously to support this project for the benefit of our community.



Unveiling of Infinity

Major contributors to the Club's project include the Broken Arrow Rotary Foundation, the Scott L. Graham Family, the Grace and Franklin Bernsen Foundation, the First National Bank and Trust Company of Broken Arrow, the

Walton Family Foundation, the Broken Arrow Community Foundation, the Nick and Alma Robson Foundation, and Tulsa Teachers Credit Union

There is no true way to find the value of public art. The art is there to be experienced. The beauty of art is that if a hundred people all see the same artwork, there could be a hundred different ideas and interpretations of the same work. We expect many visitors to enjoy and appreciate this new and unique sculpture.