

Waterworks at Arizona Falls

LOCATION:	56 th St & Indian School Road, Phoenix
DESIGN TEAM:	Harries/Heder Collaborative, artists Steve Martino, landscape architect
BUDGET:	\$2,044,104 (design & construction)
FUNDING:	City of Phoenix Percent for Art funds U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Title XXVIII funds
YEAR COMPLETED:	May 2003
DISTRICT:	6

There is new community energy devoted to re-thinking how the canals in the Phoenix area can be used. The artists' created an opportunity at Arizona Falls, on the Arizona Canal, to focus this new energy by designing a place to gather, reflect and interact. The team of Mags Harries, Lajos Heder and Steve Martino was recommended by a community selection panel in 1999 to develop a proposal to revitalize the Arizona Falls, a significant historical site along the Arizona Canal that once boasted a major waterfall, dance floor and community picnic area.

The design utilized the existing site and structures in new ways, including the incorporation of exposed gears and the floor of a former generator room that remains from a hydroelectric plant that existed on the site in the early part of the 20th century. A small flow of water was diverted from the canal into two new aqueducts framing each side of the room. The aqueducts release water back into the canal on both sides of the room, creating a pair of waterfalls. A wall at the rear of the room is activated by a transparent sheet of falling canal water. A new path allows visitors to move from the parking area at Herberger Park up to the "Generator Room." The path takes visitors directly under the waterfalls as they move through the Generator Room. Visitors can move across a pedestrian bridge to the north bank of the canal. In addition to telling the story of the significance of water and "green" power in Arizona, the Waterworks at Arizona Falls is a destination of wonder along the Arizona Canal, filled with the sounds, sight and cooling sensations of moving water.



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