

HONORABLE MENTION

THE COLORS OF PALMDALE

The earth tone hues of the scenery

Beautiful shades of green, tan
and brown

The Spring Wildflowers

Orange, Purple, and Yellow

Bright as the warm sun.

The People

A Kaleidoscope

Fair to dark: Pale to warm shades

Forming a mosaic of diversity.

-Terri Pittman, Palmdale

As generations pass generations

And the gifted come and go,

The Imprints from our deeds will

Leave more than all words stated.

Memories there left behind, the

Keys to a better future from deeds,

Not all good words we've spoken.

As children will learn better ways

By deeds of wisdom taught then to

Walk in a new, but still dawning

Day which holds for all

The hope to a brighter future.

-Dave Ostman, Littlerock

ABOUT PALMDALE'S PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

As the City of Palmdale continues to strategize effective methods to increase community engagement, pride and identity, public art emerged as a practical and creative outlet to both engage and inspire the community.

VISION

Through the Public Art Initiative, Palmdale will strategically shape its physical and social character through arts and cultural activities. The Initiative will animate Palmdale's public and private spaces, rejuvenate structures and streetscapes, improve local business viability and public safety, and bring diverse people together to celebrate, inspire and be inspired.

In strengthening its unique identity as a vibrant, prosperous desert community, highlighting its rich cultural heritage, and positioning itself as a destination for families and businesses, Palmdale will not only emphasize its existing talent and creativity, but also educate its residents and foster a strong sense of civic pride. It will be a cultural resource that acts to enhance our commercial vitality and economic stability.

The end result of this vision will be a city laced with a unified artistic concept that improves our quality of life, encourages creative activity, fosters strong community identity and sense of place, increases public safety, and revitalizes and encourages economic development.

• Identity

Palmdale's Public Art Initiative will highlight the landscape, urban form, history and culture that make Palmdale distinct. As the permanent and ongoing record of what we hold important, it will reflect and communicate our values, enrich the lives of the people in our community; and reinforce the City's identity to create a memorable urban landscape.

• Diversity/Inspiration

Palmdale's public art will celebrate its residents by reflecting, encouraging and inspiring creativity, ideas, new hope, civic values and aspirations to foster interaction among diverse community members, improve public spaces, and strategically reflect and shape the physical and social character of Palmdale.

• Accessibility

Palmdale's Public Art Initiative will ensure that its citizens have access to create, enjoy and participate in the arts through programming opportunities, cultural offerings and public art in both public and private spaces that enhance our cultural heritage, diversity and core values.

• Economic Impact

Palmdale's Public Art Initiative will inspire creativity, ideas and new hope, all of which foster the innovation that lies at the center of revitalization. It will ensure our commercial vitality and economic stability through job creation, tourism, and attracting new business, providing highly valued services to residents, and attracting businesses and individuals who can foster and facilitate prosperity for all citizens.

• Design Integration

Palmdale's Public Art Initiative will reflect the City's commitment to excellence in design, architecture and art. Utilizing the unified theme of the City's General Plan and incorporating it throughout the City to reinforce design and development principles, it will contribute to the unique characteristics of our neighborhoods, creating a beautiful, sustainable and livable Palmdale.

• Education

Palmdale's Public Art Initiative will create and establish opportunities for residents of all ages to participate in the arts in a variety of ways to promote awareness, knowledge, understanding, dialog and enjoyment, and to encourage greater creative activity.



Walk on Words

POETRY CONTEST



AUGUST 22, 2013

HONORABLE MENTION

PERFECT FLOWER

I used to be like a seed,
small and still new.
Now I am like a flower,
growing into the world with you.
I start to spread leaves of power,
and change into the color of blue.

Now I grow into a tower,
where I can see the view.
I grow and grow by each hour,
until I'm finally a perfect flower.

—Salma Fawzi,
Age 13, Palmdale

It's too late,
no questions to be asked
The one I see in my reflection
seems to be masked
The days I have lived
are now a massive blur
Lines on my face seem to grow
Everyday is a day to endure
Yet I smile to the Heavens,
just waiting to fly
Ready to meet
my savior in the sky
—Stephanie Estanislao,
Age 13, Palmdale

The trees whistle up
on different trees
You can hear the trees breeze
When the wind blows
The leaves fall off
You can make a pile
You can hide in them

—Kenneth Wheat,
Age 9, Palmdale

Life

*Life is an amazing thing,
Because of all the joy it can bring
It should not be taken for granted
To me it's something enchanted.*

*Life can sometimes be hard,
Even if you think with your heart.
However, Life is so incredible that*

We should never be so terrible

To mistreat it.

*To me, Life is a gift from God,
That I embrace fully with awe.*

—Rosemarie Giron,
Age 13, Palmdale

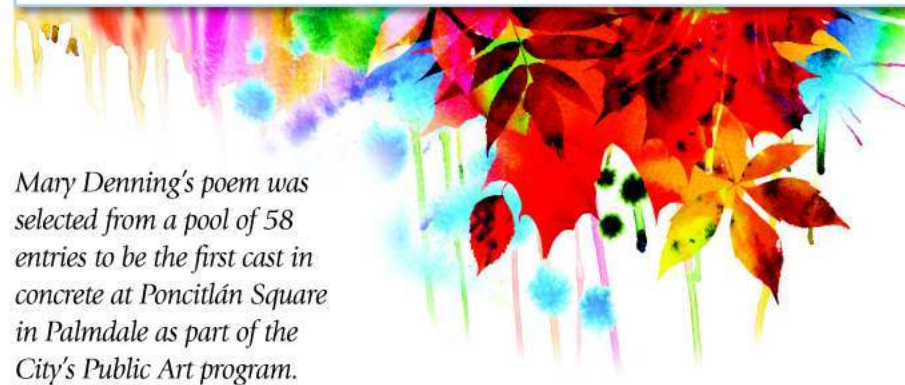


WHAT BEAUTY HOLDS US CAPTIVE HERE

Might the ancient Antelope know
Or ask the smart Black Crows
Windy echoes from long ago
or ghostly herds of deer that flow
But stopped to graze and disappear
Kitanemukes of old revered
Snowcapped mountains so near
And Joshua trees and cacti rare
Where golden poppies fare
And mix with Blue Lupine to pair
They said a rainbow led us here.

—Mary Denning, Lancaster

Mary Denning's poem was
selected from a pool of 58
entries to be the first cast in
concrete at Poncitlán Square
in Palmdale as part of the
City's Public Art program.



HONORABLE MENTION

*The rising sun so radiant,
provides a warmth we all rely on,
then the end of day shares glory
as the sun ignites the horizon.
Trees and flowers touch the air,
birds and cloud dance playfully,
and on the days with fertile rains,
we witness life's true majesty.
Chiseled mountains, tall and proud,
embrace their hidden pools of glass
as hope forever whispers,
peace lives in each blade of grass.*

—Vince Pirozzi, Palmdale

COURAGE

It is being big enough to say sorry
when you are actually at fault
Stand up tall against injustice
doing right in spite of fears
Forging on to follow your dreams
when everything seems out of reach
Getting up, starting over again
though blinded by tears & hurting
Seeing the amazing beauty in life
Feeling the wondrous triumphant
spirit of what it is to be a man!

—Elena Pimental, Palmdale

DESERT AT DAWN

I took a walk to clear my head,
And found my soul soothed
instead,
I saw the beauty of the desert dawn
And instantly knew I could go on,
My stress, my worries melted away,
And I was ready to face a new day.

—Linda Hamilton, Palmdale

TRIBUTE TO THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

One day I walked in a cemetery
Your name on a grave made me cry.
We will never forget, I told myself
As I hung my head, closed my eyes.

How many other graveyards

Carry your brothers,

There are so many others?

The mothers and fathers,

Waiting for the door to knock,

Saying their boy was coming home,

But no, his name became

Unknown.

—Carol Hill, Lancaster