

Memo



Date: February 2, 2011
File: 1340-40
To: City Manager
From: P. McCormick, Planner Specialist, Urban Design
Subject: Public Art Committee Annual Report for 2011

Recommendation:

THAT City Council receive for information, the 2011 Annual Report of the Public Art Committee dated January 22, 2010,

Purpose

To update Council on activity in 2010 related to the Public Art Program and to provide an overview of expected activity in 2011, as well as to receive presentations from representatives of the agencies that received funding under the Community Public Art Program in 2010. Lori Mairs from Cool Arts Society, and Candace Giesbrecht from Canadian Mental Health Association will give the presentations.

Background

Public Art Program

Council recognizes that the quality of Kelowna's public realm can be enhanced through the provision of works of art in public places and that provision of such works can also increase community identity as well as awareness and appreciation of the arts generally.

Council has therefore established a Public Art Program to acquire art for public display. The Public Art Program had its inception in 1997 and since that time, annual funding in support of the program has been allocated by Council. This funding has contributed to the commissioning of more than 35 works of public art.

Council has also deemed it appropriate to seek professional and community advice on the disbursement of dedicated funding through the establishment of a Public Art Committee. The Public Art Committee is an Advisory Committee of Council.

Program Activity 2010

Bear - This artwork (Attachment 1) was installed in September, 2010 in conjunction with the official opening of Stuart Park. Designed by Rhode Island, USA artist, Brower Hatcher, Bear is a tribute to Kelowna's settlement on the shores of Okanagan Lake. The theme of the artwork is a grizzly bear: "Kelowna" being an English translation of the Okanagan/Syilx First Nation word for

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“female grizzly bear”. Within Bears’s body are objects that represent periods of Kelowna’s history. The boat-like shape is a reference to the role the lake has played in the evolution of the community and the shaping of its identity.

Whispering Leaf - Designed by Okanagan artist Ed Gooden of Metal Dreams Design, the ornamental leaf-shaped pergola (Attachment 2) was installed in Knowles Park. It features a passageway of pillars supporting an open lattice. It provides a shaded resting spot to enjoy the park gardens and the newly created hedge maze. The metal trellis complements the existing rose arbour at the entrance to the park.

At the recommendation of the Committee, the City of Kelowna Public Art Program provided \$5,000 to assist in the fabrication and exhibition of the artwork. Support for the project was also received by the Diggers and Weeders Garden Club.

Public Art Brochure

The public art brochure was updated in 2010. It replaces the version from 2008. Funding of \$8,000.00 was provided from the Public Art Program. The layout was done by Pulse Group Media & Communications Ltd. of Kelowna. The Public Art Committee and staff from Community and Media Relations, Infrastructure Planning, and Cultural Services provided input.

The brochure includes works owned by the City of Kelowna but also includes privately-owned works not in the collection that are accessible to the public. The brochure also includes an updated map to assist in locating the identified artworks.

There are 13 additional artworks in the new brochure. These are:

- # 1 Levels;
- # 14 Dancers IV;
- # 15 Bear;
- # 16 Flexible Curves;
- # 26 Pride Mural
- # 28 Cathedrals;
- # 35 Okanagan Blessing Mural;
- # 36 Whispering Leaf;
- # 38 Zephyr;
- # 39 Standing, Leaning, and Reclining
- # 41 Fulfillment;
- # 43 Conquest
- # 46 Communities in Bloom Mural

Of these additions, Pride Mural, Cathedrals, Okanagan Blessing Mural, Whispering Leaf, Fulfillment, Conquest, and the Communities in Bloom Mural are by local artists.

Community Public Art Program

Community Public Art is a collaborative process between an artist and the community. As such, it is a way for the community to creatively express its needs and aspirations. The program is promoted and administered by the City of Kelowna Cultural Services division with funding from the Public Art Program. Proposals submitted must meet the terms of reference set out and are evaluated by the Public Art Committee. The Committee reviews the proposals and makes a recommendation to Council with regard to their merits. Proposals must be endorsed by Council to receive funding. Projects for 2010 were:

Fulfillment - this metal artwork (Attachment 3) by Lake Country artist Ed Gooden is mounted on a wall that encloses an outdoor area for the Canadian Mental Health Association's (CMHA) Willowbridge supportive housing facility (330 Boyce Crescent).

The project was a collaborative process that included CMHA staff, and formerly homeless people who were housed in the former Willow Inn in the winter of 2007. The project also involved a local media artist who produced a short documentary about the process. In the first phase of the project, CMHA's ArtWorks Studio staff and Homelessness Outreach staff facilitated sessions with participants and the artist to generate ideas for the artistic concept. As part of this first phase, participants also joined the facilitating team on an outing to gather scrap metals for the project. In the second phase, the artist presented concepts to the participants. A final concept was determined based on input from the Willow Inn stakeholder group.

The artwork is now included in the City of Kelowna public art collection and a copy of the video has been given to the City. The video will be used by CMHA to promote understanding about mental health and homelessness. Additionally, it will serve to demonstrate the value of public art as a collaborative, community-based process.

Sand Spiral - This was a proposal from the Cool Arts Society, a local non-profit organization that provides fine art opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. The project was an ephemeral artwork constructed in conjunction with the Fat Cat Children's Festival, held at Waterfront Park on June 12 and 13, 2010.

The artwork was conceived by local artist Lori Mairs. It was etched in the sand at Tugboat Bay Beach in reference to the fortieth anniversary of an artwork created by Robert Smithson entitled 'Spiral Jetty'. This work, located in the Salt Flats of Utah, USA, was in direct response to the environmental and political culture of the time. The project lead by Cool Arts artists, and executed with community cooperation, honours the original inspiration of environmental awareness while demonstrating social responsibility and community participation. In creating the artwork, participants of a wide range of age and abilities shoveled sand to build the shape and carried buckets of water from the lake to define its form (Attachment 4).

The event was well-attended by Cool Arts participants as well as the public on hand for the festival. Emphasis was on both the creation of a distinctive form, and on working cooperatively and experiencing a deep sense of community through fellowship around a shared activity.

Upon completion, the artwork was left in place for the sand to return to its natural state. However, its construction was videoed and over 400 photos recorded the event and used to make art cards. The video and the art cards have been presented to the City as a legacy of the project. The video has also been made available to the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce for promotional purposes.

One Block at a Time - 2010 also saw the completion of the One Block at a Time project initiated by Communities in Bloom that was funded by the Public Art Program under the 2009 Community Public Art Program.

The project's aim was to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the 400 block of Leon Avenue and included a mural by local artist Graham Chambers on the east face of a building at 420 Leon Avenue, as well as a series of panels painted by Westbank First Nations youth that were mounted on the wall of the Ki-low-na Friendship Society at 442 Leon Avenue. The final installment was eight paintings (Attachment 5), each painting applied directly to one face of four double-sided

metal banners and painted by a local artist. Pairs of banners were mounted on poles on the south side of the street.

It is noted that Council also endorsed funding for The Body Mapping Project proposed by the Living Positive Resource Centre. However, the applicant did not proceed beyond the application and no funding was awarded from the Public Art Program for this project.

Maintenance

Fruit Stand, located along the Cultural District Artwalk, was vandalized in the summer of 2009. Extensive damage was the result of an attempt to dislodge one of the pieces from its moorings. Repairs required that the piece be returned to the artist's Vancouver studio where it was repaired. City staff worked with the artist to strengthen the anchoring system by which the artwork is attached to its base. The piece was re-installed in summer, 2010.

It was subsequently damaged in the fall. It was again removed for repairs by staff. It has since been returned to its location along the Artwalk.

Other artworks in the collection are under a program of on-going maintenance administered by City staff.

Program Activity 2011

Projects for 2011

The following projects and activities are anticipated in 2011:

1. **Old Mill Creek Bridge** - the Public Art Committee's recommendation to award this project to Ottawa artist Karl Ciesluk for his piece entitled 'Driven', was endorsed by Council in September, 2010. Staff is working with the artist on the terms of a contract and it is expected the artwork will be installed in the fall of 2011;
2. **CN Station** - this is a jointly-funded project between the Public Art Program and the train station developer; the total budget is \$30,000.00 to be shared equally between the parties. The artwork will commemorate the role that the railway played in the economic development of the region. A Request for Proposal will be posted shortly. After reviewing submissions, a recommendation from the Public Art Committee regarding a preferred artwork will be forwarded to Council once the submissions have been reviewed.
3. **A comprehensive review of the Public Art Program** - the Public Art Program has been in operation since 1997. A review of the program would be timely to ensure it delivers the best possible outcomes for the community. A proposed terms of reference to hire a consultant to undertake such a review will be forthcoming in a separate Report to Council.
4. **Glenmore Bypass** - this re-alignment of Glenmore Road was constructed last year; possible public art locations along the length of the bypass are being explored by the Committee; it is expected an RFP will be issued later this year followed by a recommendation to Council once a preferred concept is identified by the Committee;
5. **Kelowna Art Gallery exhibition** - discussions have begun with the Kelowna Art Gallery with regard to a possible exhibition to take place this summer at the Art Gallery. The purpose of this exhibition would be to profile the Public Art Program and to promote public art in Kelowna. Details of this initiative will be forthcoming in a separate Report to Council;

6. **Community Public Art projects** - two submissions have been received; the proposed projects will be reviewed by the Committee in February and a report to Council outlining the Committee's recommendations will be subsequently forthcoming.

Committee Vacancies

The Terms of Reference for the Public Art Committee provide for a committee of 11 members. The Committee's term coincides with that of Council, expiring on December 31, 2011.

Elizabeth Balderston chaired the Committee throughout 2010. Ms. Balderston stepped down as Chairperson in January, 2011 and was replaced by Amanda Parks. 2010 also saw three resignations, leaving three vacancies on the Committee as it heads into 2011.

As of February 1, 2011, the following members filled eight positions on the Committee:

- Amanda Parks, Chairperson
- Jane Everett, Vice-Chairperson
- George Kroker, Vice-Chairperson
- Francisco Carreón Argudin
- Elizabeth Balderston
- Kirsti Jarrett
- Mary Lund
- Phred Martin

The Public Art Committee staff liaison is in the process of reviewing applications on file and it is expected a report to Council will be forthcoming shortly with one or more recommendations to fill the vacancies.

Internal Circulation:

Manager, Cultural Services

Manager, Parks and Public Spaces

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Personnel Implications:

Technical Requirements:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Considerations:

Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by:

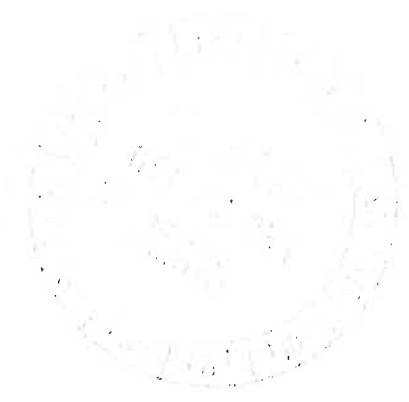


P. McCormick, Planner Specialist, Urban Design

Approved for inclusion:



cc:
General Manager, Community Sustainability
Director, Infrastructure Planning
Director, Community and Media Relations
Manager, Cultural Services



Attachment 1: *Bear*



Attachment 2: *Whispering Leaf*



Attachment 3: *Fulfillment*



Attachment 4: *Sand Spiral*



Attachment 5: Communities in Bloom Banner; *The Monarch's Return* by Lynden Beesley



Sand Spiral

Cool Arts

in collaboration with

Lori Mairs





the first meeting



We walked to the beach

~Sand SPIRAL ~
 a Cool Arts Project
 at the Fat Cat Children's Festival



Cool Arts and Lori Mairs are doing this project together.

This is a public art project with the city of Kelowna. Rose Sexsmith from Hanna's Lounge and Grill is our sponsor.

This sand sculpture is called ephemeral eco art. That means it is made of natural materials and is not meant to last. It will disappear because people will walk on it or the lake water will wash it away.

There will be lots of photographs taken. The best photos will be given to the city of Kelowna to keep in their public art collection.

Please bring the following:

garden bucket



shovel



lunch



hat



Saturday June 12

Meet at Waterfront Park (north end)

Tugboat Beach

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

ALL Volunteers & Artists

to make SPIRAL



Friday June 11

Meet at the Dolphins

1:00 pm

hand out notices

For information about this project contact:

Lori Mairs @ 250-764-8335

art@lorimairs.com

about Cool Arts:

info@coolarts.ca

plain language notice to
 take home.



Getting to know the parks crew



How to make the spiral, working the sand, digging, adding water and cooperation.



Handing out notices
inviting people to come
to our event at the Fat
Cat Children's Festival.



Cool Arts tent & educational poster

Sand Spiral

~A Cool Arts Project~

Fat Cat Children's Festival Waterfront Park, Kelowna BC June 12, 2010



Spiral Jetty, Robert Smithson, Great Salt Lake, Utah, 1970

Our Sand Spiral is ...

Eco Art: because we have used the natural materials found on site. Nothing has been brought in to enhance or change the available materials. We use sand, water and our hands to construct our spiral.

Public Art: because it is located in public space and we have invited the community to join us in making the art. Anyone can see this art because it is not behind a door or inside a building.

Ephemeral Art: because it will disappear. Indeed that is our intention. Once we're done making our spiral we will walk away and that will be the end of our involvement with the art. Our spiral will disappear because the wind or the water may erode it, people or animals may walk on it and it will eventually return to just being sand on the beach.

-This is the 40th anniversary of the construction of Spiral Jetty.
-It is one of the most recognized works of ephemeral, public art in western culture.

-It was made with bulldozers and earth from the site.

-The coil is 457 meters long and 4.5 meters wide and stretches out onto the Great Salt Lake in Utah.

-Spirals are found in many places; seashells, pine cones and even as a part of our body in the inner ear.

-Spiral Jetty can be seen from space.



~Artists~

Dylan
Mirde
Jordhi
Emma
Mica
Katherine
Katharine
Lana
Heather
Ewan
Gardi
Rob
Lara Miller

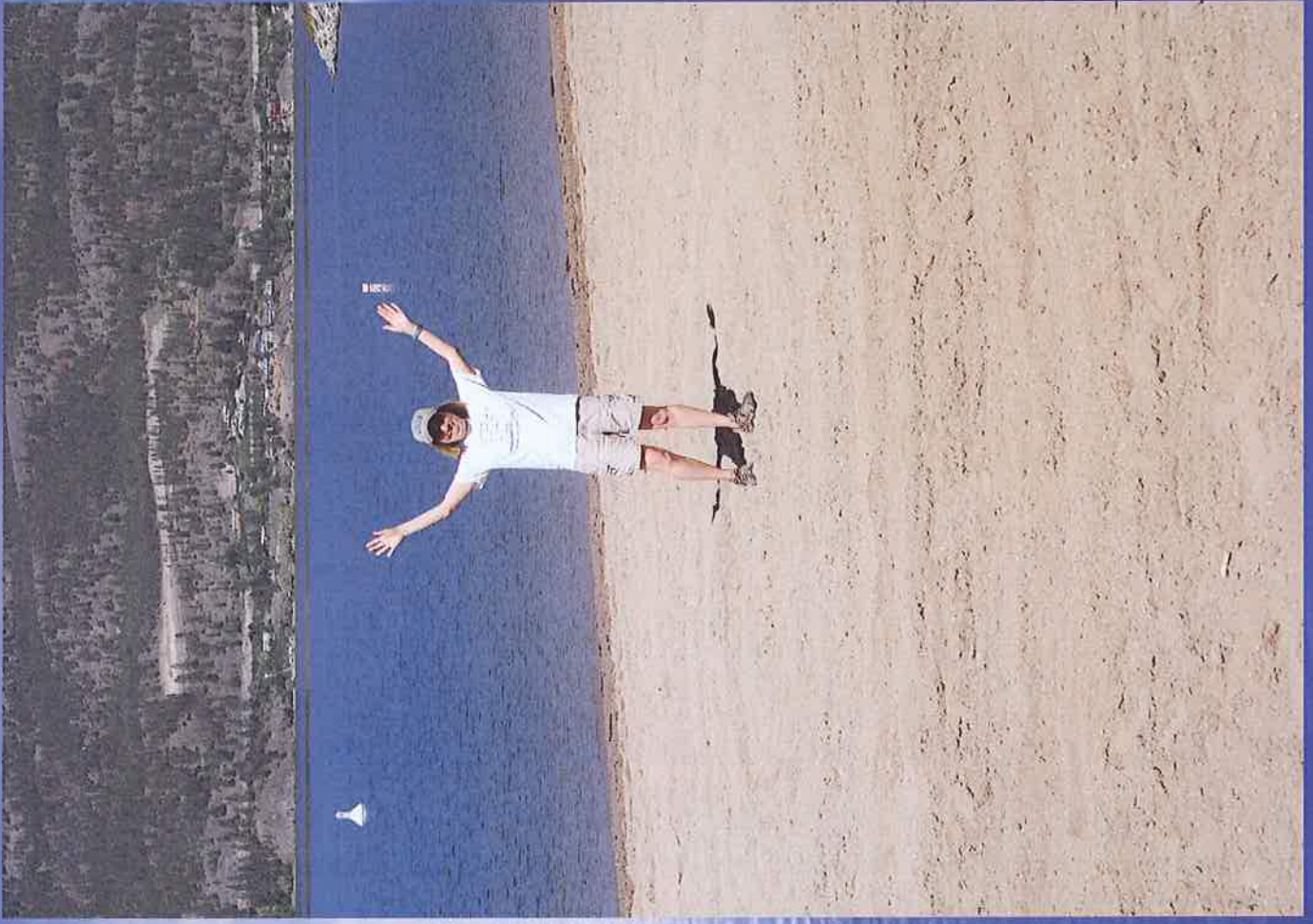


Educational poster
and information
about the project.



This project is made possible with support from the City of Kelowna Public Art Program and by generous sponsorship from Hanna's Lounge and Grill. A special thank you to the volunteers, staff and family members who have given their time and talents to the preparation, production and construction of this work.

our pallet





we had to start somewhere...



Buckets of water to
keep the sand pliable

digging





digging trenches for height



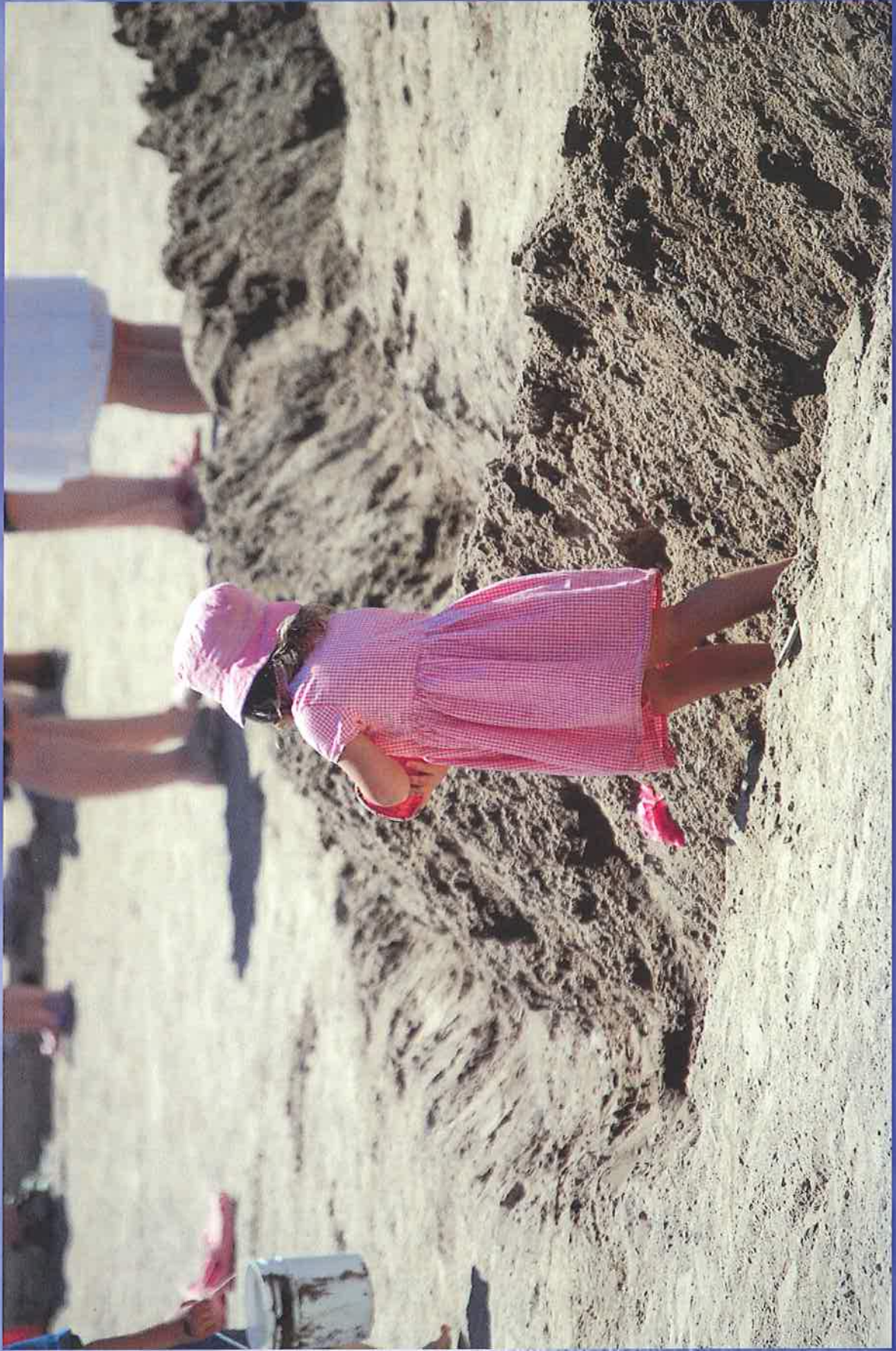
negotiating the terrain in the 4 X 4



the bucket work built waterways



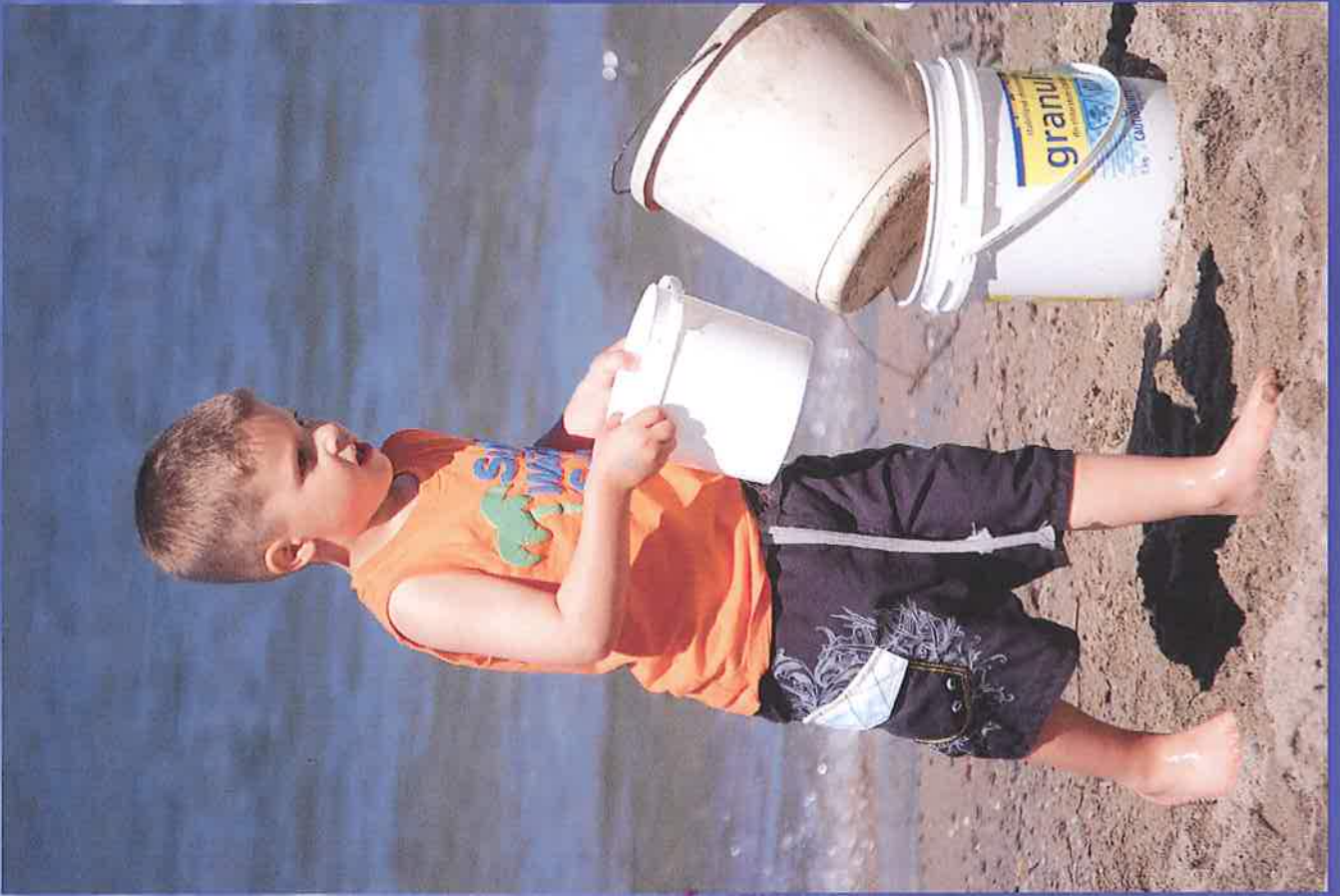
everyone included















shovelling was easier for the taller kids



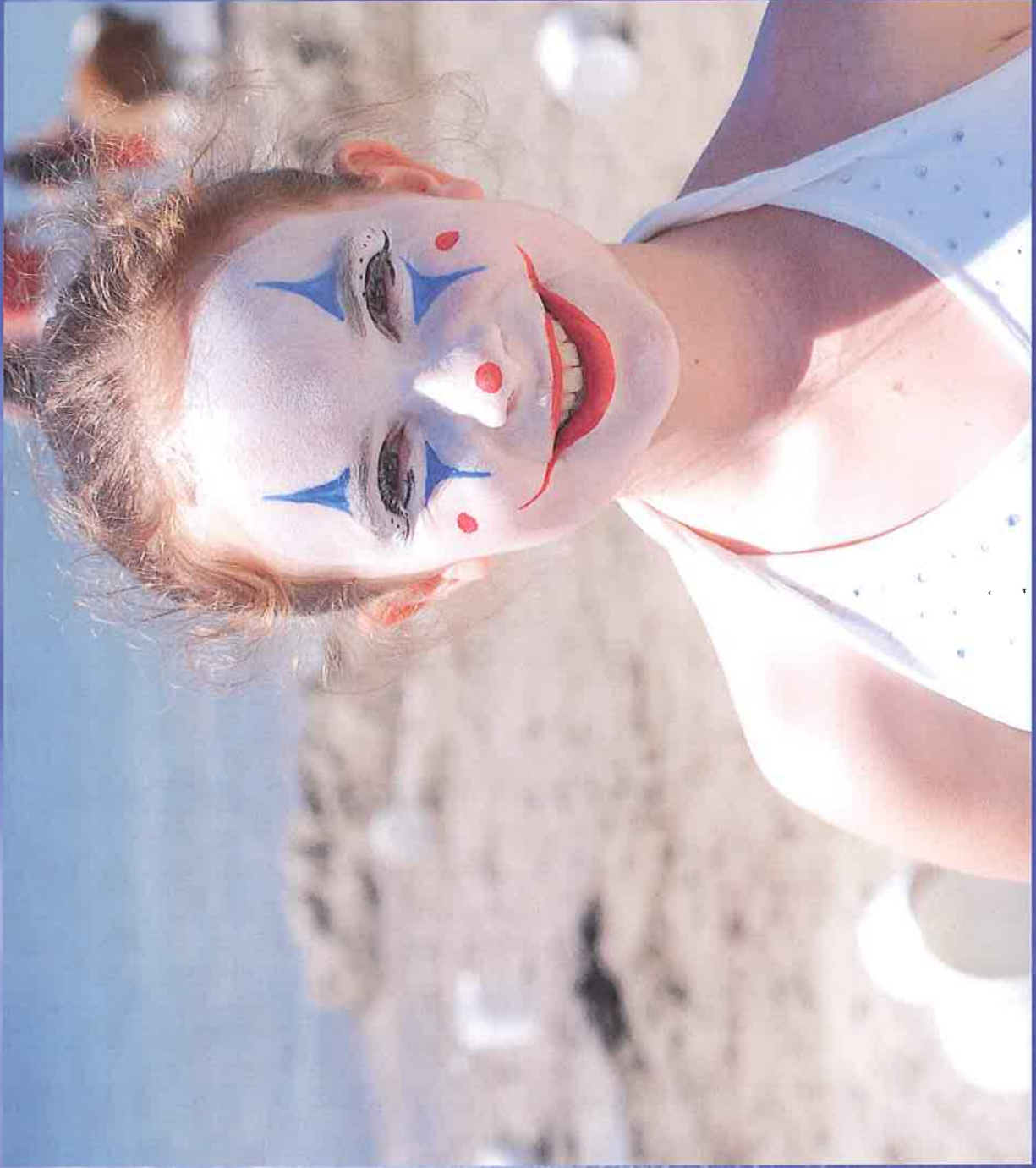






even had a
dog help with
the digging











mardi gras players came to our spiral



they danced and played music



Dorothee visited our project





The artists

Are you a fan of Inspiration?
Are you a fan of Determination?
Are you a fan of Acceptance?
Then you are already a fan of
Special Olympics.
Get involved.
Volunteer, Donate, Participate.
www.specialolympics.org















just a few of us.....



nearly finished.....

done!





our spiral mimics the boardwalk

