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NEWS RELEASE

Public Art Piece at Westside Natatorium Receives CODAAward of Merit

EL PASO, Texas – The Museums and Cultural Affairs Department is excited to announce that the public art sculpture at the entrance of the Westside Natatorium, *Marquise* by Marc Fornes, has received an award of Merit for Institutional Artwork in the CODAworx International CODAAwards.

The public art piece transforms a standard building entrance into a spatial experience and visual icon. Gridded wavy petals comprise the brightly-colored canopy as well as its self-supporting structure. The billowing structure opens where it touches the ground to form a seating area with benches, extending a point of entry into a welcoming social space.

“It is exciting to receive this type of recognition for El Paso’s Public Art Program,” said Managing Director of Museums and Cultural Affairs, Libraries and Tourism Tracey Jerome. “*Marquise* is a beautiful example of how artwork can transform a location and create its own identity.”

This year the CODAAwards received 435 entries from 26 different countries around the globe, representing over \$118 million in commissions. Merit winning projects were found from as far away as China to Nashville and from Houston to Australia. The merit winners exemplify the best of what can happen when artists and design professionals collaborate to create artful spaces in our built environment.

“The CODAAwards recognize the importance of collaboration, and honor the design and art professionals whose collective imaginations create the public and private spaces that inspire us,” said CEO of CODAworx Toni Sikes.

Marquise was created using funding from the City of El Paso’s Public Art Program. Since 2006, the City has dedicated two percent of every capital project to site-specific public art. More than 50 public art projects have been completed since the program was started. This is the sixth time CODAworx has recognized pieces in El Paso’s Public Art Program.

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