



Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum, *in association with the Smithsonian Institution*

Newsletter

Issue #72, Spring/Summer 2015

Copper Queen Plaza Park... "The Grassy Park Public Art Initiative"

In the last newsletter, we offered a visual tour through the "Grassy Park Revitalization Project." In this newsletter, we offer a personalized tour through the Grassy Park Public Art Initiative!

High on our wish list was a bronze sculpture by Bisbee metal artist Robert Wick. A nationally renown artist, he knew that we could not afford to purchase a Wick sculpture; however, being the very generous man he is, Bob gifted *The Mountain Walks*, an anthropomorphic bronze standing approximately 12 feet high, to the Museum on long-term loan, a true centerpiece for the Grassy Park Public Art Initiative!



Last summer, Mayor Adriana Zavala Badal brought Sloane Bouchever to my office here at the Museum. An artist himself, and a strong advocate of public art in our community, Sloane was so excited about the plans for the park that his plans to establish a \$50,000 challenge grant for public art in Bisbee transformed into a \$50,000 donation to

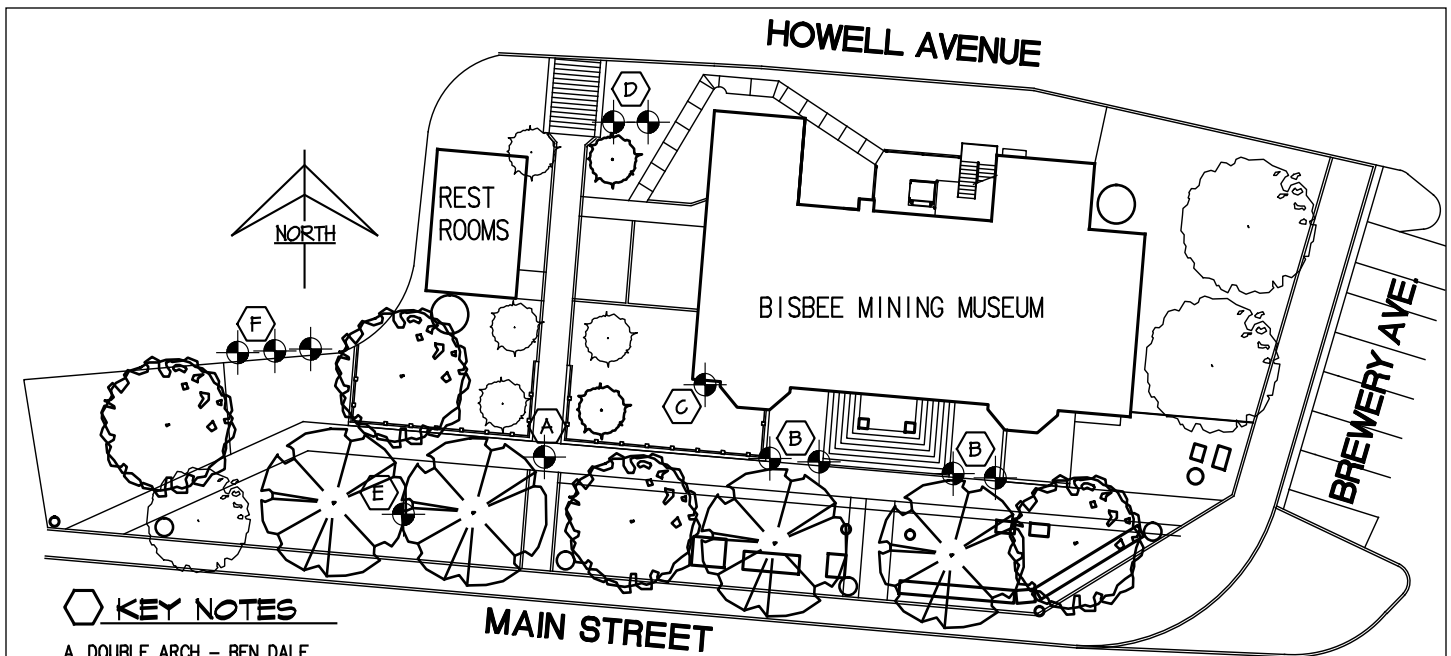
the Museum for the Grassy Park Public Art Initiative. Both of us eager to share our respective visions for the Park - mine bringing HISTORY and art together in the Park and his bringing ART to a very public and historic park in Bisbee, we found it exciting and very, very easy to come up with a plan to spend the entire amount... and we both agreed to include lighting the featured art in our overall plan! We talked with a number of artists and community members, then presented the draft plan to Bisbee's City Council, receiving unanimous approval! The art plan, graciously outlined by architect Albert Hopper with his super CAD drafting skills, is presented on page 2 of this newsletter.

Copper Queen Plaza Park, its official name, has an inherent formal layout defined by the sidewalks and well-defined grass and garden areas. This is clear on the park plan and this underlying separation of spaces allowed for multiple pieces of art in a relatively small space.



Artist Bob Wick & Museum
Director Carrie Gustavson

Bisbee artist Robert J. Wick
The Mountain Walks
www.robertwick.com



KEY NOTES

- A. DOUBLE ARCH - BEN DALE
- B. ZEE COPPER MINERAL SCULPTURES (4)
- C. POE INSTALLATION
- D. CONCRETE CHESS TABLE (2) & BENCHES
- E. SCULPTURE COMMISSIONED FROM LOCAL ARTIST
- F. BANNER ART, ROTATING ANNUALLY

PROPOSED ART IN PARK PLAN

SCALE: 1"= 30'-0"

REVITALIZATION OF COPPER QUEEN PLAZA "GRASSY" PARK



Commenting on his work, Bob believes that "we humans are structured like the earth we come from. The earth has strata of rocks and dirt. Our strata are genetics and personal environment." Continuing, Bob wrote that he was "... touched by the realization that the outside world of nature and the inside world of man are one and the same. It has laid the foundation for the vision which came forth in my sculpture and art."

(adapted from: Robert J. Wick, *Living Bronze Sculpture. Earth. Life. Man*)

Artwork by Tucson's artist Zee also made the "must have" list. The only non-Bisbee artist represented in Grassy Park, our intent in including Zee's mineral sculptures is twofold: to bring our the Museum outdoors and to bring our

copper mining history and art together in the stunning use of Arizona copper mineral specimens with their rich veins of malachite (green), azurite (blue), cuprite (reddish brown), and the metallic shine of native copper, mounted on steel pedestals, and transformed into copper art. Everyone stops to touch and "pet" the minerals!

The third sculpture for the Park represents art inspired by history! One of my favorite stories from reading through the old *Bisbee Daily Review* newspapers in the Museum's Shattuck Memorial Research Library is about the fly-swatting contest of 1912 (excerpts from the newspaper are presented in the column to the right!)



Polishing specimens & delivery of Arizona Copper Mineral sculptures



Swat a Fly Cop a Prize

**Champ for
Month Gets
\$10**

**The Bisbee
Fly-Swatting
Contest of
August, 1912**

"In August, 1912, the Commercial Club of Bisbee went public with a novel method of fly control. The seriousness of the continuing typhoid problems experienced

in Bisbee around the turn of the century found some relief in humor as well as creativity.

"The rules for a "systematic campaign of extermination" against those "advance agents of pestilence" were quite

straightforward... and the pestiferous little nuisances must now take the consequences.

"They will be bottled and trapped and caught, done up in packages and duly measured up and counted... It makes no difference how the dead flies are obtained or where within the district. They may be killed either with sticky fly paper, caught in traps or just swatted with a swatter, folded newspaper, or any other fly-killing device. If caught on sticky paper, however, they must be picked off, the committee not volunteering to do this work for the contestants.

"When a contestant desires to turn in his or her proof of prowess as a fly exterminator, the flies are to be placed in... a pasteboard box. The county health officer will be the judge of the contest and will count and measure flies that are killed."

"Bisbee has taken a position at the front in advance of all other cities in the southwest in war upon the fly and typhoid fever germs..." Bisbee Daily Review, August, 1912

"The anti-fly crusade is at its end. Richard Phillips was the winner of the competition, exterminating within 5,000 of 500,000 flies."

Bisbee Daily Review, September 3,

1912

The effectiveness of such a campaign? Alas, "more flies this year than last, despite a more aggressive fly-swatting campaign among the public generally..."

Bisbee Daily Review, June 8, 1913
page -3-

Bisbee is well-known for its history; after all, Bisbee is a town that copper built and the wealth of that heritage is reflected in its well-preserved historic landscape. Today's Bisbee retains that wonderful cityscape overlaid with a creative ambiance nurtured by many of the artists who call Bisbee home. But imagination and creativity also have a long history in Bisbee as witnessed in a very intriguing solution to biannual typhoid epidemics, concocted in August 1912! Thus the inspiration for the fly sculptures by Bisbee Artist Poe Dismuke. The storyboard for the fly-swatting contest and the sculptured 18" and 24" long "pestiferous little nuisances" have been enjoyed by those who catch a glimpse of them.



Everyday on my way to the post office I see folks chatting about the story, smiling, and taking pictures!

Commenting on what inspires his art, Poe wrote that "the mechanical madness that took root in grandpa's basement continues to push me in new directions with diverse influences guiding the



Bisbee Artist Poe Dismuke in
his studio
www.SamPoegallery.com

aesthetic. I draw on everything from Marx Brothers to Marks Toys, from Calder to Keaton, and from Rube Goldberg to Andy Goldsworthy."



Bisbee metal artist, Ben Dale, in studio and at Park install

Well-known Bisbee metal artist and blacksmith, Ben Dale, was commissioned to create a double arch over the sidewalk intersection. Ben's concept was to create an architectural sculpture to "bring the Museum outside." Each column has an exhibition case, and we are, indeed, bringing the Museum outside with a series of planned, small exhibits! As you can see from the picture on the lower right, this magnificent piece is a 70% scale model of the Museum's entrance portico (see photo on pages 2 & 3), truly tying together the National Landmark building, now housing the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum, with Bisbee's 21st-century art traditions!

Ben's philosophical approach is very simple and straight forward: he loves Bisbee, has over 30 years experience, and wanted to create a piece for Bisbee! This sculpture anchors the four quadrants of the Park, bringing together into a cohesive whole the built environment, the landscaping, and the art!

Common to many urban parks are outdoor chess tables (see images to the right). Dick Penick, AKA Concrete Dick, is an artist who has been a member of the Bisbee community for over 30 years. His concrete gargoyles have become iconic in the region. They are winged, scaled, naughty, and fun. Concrete Dick brings this same sense of fun, now combined with history, to Grassy Park. Again in the spirit of blending history and art, the base of the chess tables are modeled after the balustrade fronting the 1931 Cochise County Courthouse.

The final art project in the Grassy Park Public Art Initiative is what we have nicknamed the "banner art," also pictured to the right. We wanted to include the many Bisbee artists who work in two-dimensions, be it oil

or acrylic, photography, or graphic design. We have planned this part of the Public Art Initiative to be in the form of an annual competition, showcasing a new Bisbee artist each year. A small jury committee was formed, combining the many voices of Bisbee with our outside expert, Robert Booker, Executive Director of the Arizona Commission on the Arts. For all our members who live in Bisbee, stay tuned to see the artwork coming in the Summer of 2016!

In the Spring, we put out a request for digital images from Bisbee artists. Sam Wollcott was this year's winner (see images on right)! Sam, with her husband, Poe Dismuke, own the SamPoe Gallery on Main Street in Bisbee. Again, a noted Bisbee artist, Sam seeks the edge between abstraction and form, and her work is informed by Rembrandt, Goya, Giacometti, Bacon, Diebenkorn and Keifer. Her work also addresses the precarious nature of local places and the hardscrabble lives of those who came before. Capturing both what has endured and what will be lost to time she works in many media, always seeking new approaches to her subjects.

Sam has won many national awards including Sausalito Art Festival's First Place in Painting as well as three





Upper left, Dick Penick, AKA Concrete Dick, and Raul Hidalgo, City of Bisbee Public Works, at the chess table install.



Lower right, Sam Woolcott and Robert Gaethje, Bisbee Council on the Arts & Humanities board member, at the banner art install.



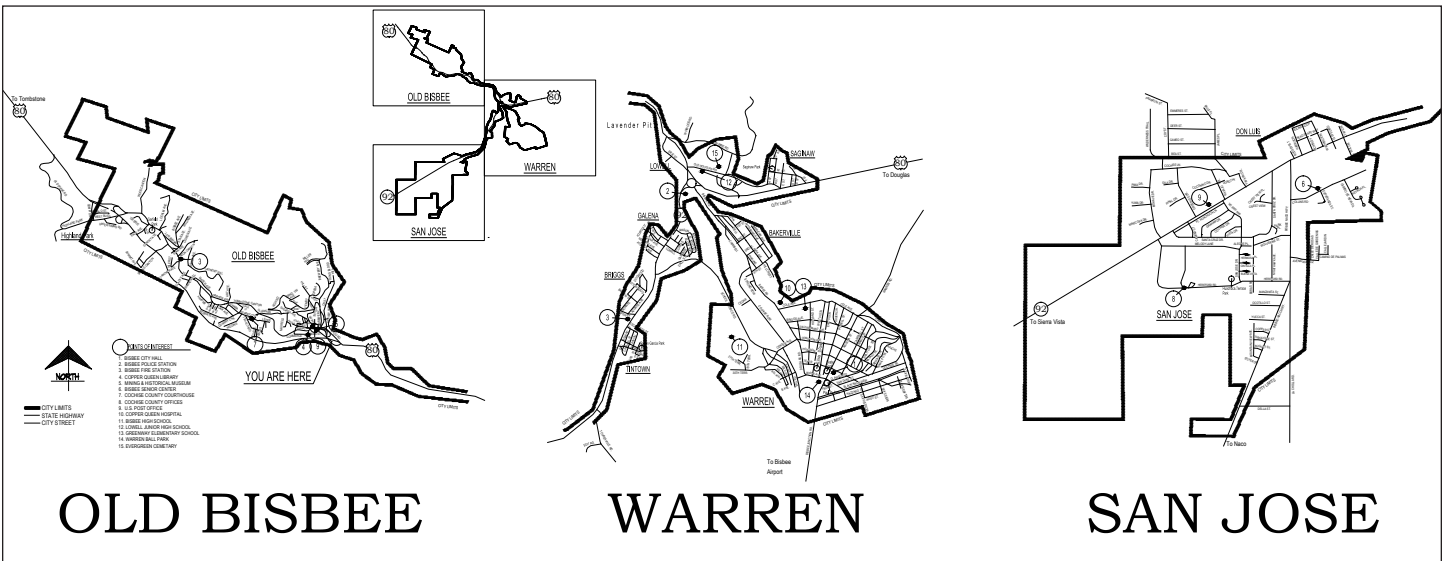
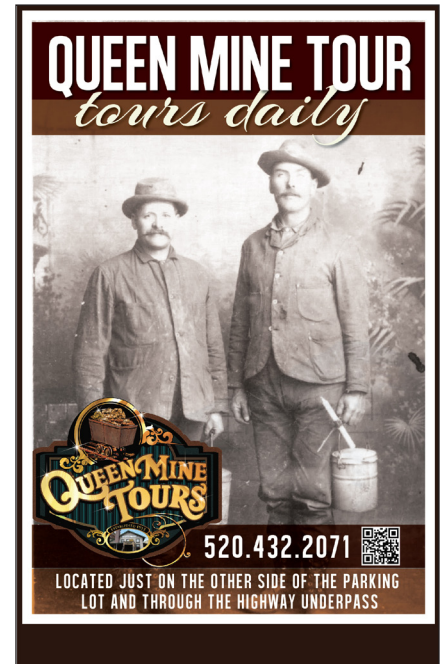


awards in Drawing. Most recently, she was honored with a blue ribbon in Painting from the Scottsdale Art Festival where she has also won First Place awards in Mixed Media, and Drawing & Pastel. Locally, Sam won Best in Show at the Bisbee Plein Air Competition (2004 and 2007), along with the Bisbee Artist Award.

We wanted to thank our donors to both the Grassy Park Revitalization Project (the subject of the last newsletter that you can read online at www.bisbeemuseum.org) and the Grassy Park Public Art Initiative. Though technically perhaps not considered a beautiful work of art, the existing “kiosk” with its faded and definitely out-of-date list of businesses in Old Bisbee was also refreshed and repurposed. Facing the sidewalk are the project donor boards with a map of the Historic District. Facing the street are two informational posters for the Museum and the Queen Mine Tour with a map encompassing all of Bisbee (see below)! Here we would like to thank project architect, Albert Hopper, for the wonderful maps and Bridgette Shanahan, graphic artist extraordinaire, for the beautifully done posters!



Brent Weller of Hodges Glass and Matt Gurney of City of Bisbee Public Works installing the lexan protection for the maps (left).





Charles & Peggy Morris work as a team greeting visitors at the admissions desk and in the Museum Store.

What do they have to say about themselves? “Like some of the other volunteers, I was born in the old hospital next to the Museum. Although I have lived in Europe and in different states, I have ended up back in good ole Cochise County. Charles moved to Bisbee when he was seven. He has also lived in other states, but also ended up in Cochise County. Bisbee is home to both of us even though we now live in Sierra Vista. We enjoy our day at the Museum.”

Peggy Morris

**Now that we have a beautiful park,
would you like to help City of Bisbee
maintain it?**

The Bisbee Rotary Club is sponsoring Mary Ferguson’s efforts to raise \$5,000 to purchase John Deere platform mower for City of Bisbee Public Works, Parks Division.

To make a donation,
send your check to

Bisbee Rotary Charities
P.O. Box 21 Bisbee Arizona 85603

Please write “lawn mower” on the check.

All donations are tax-deductible.

Having Fun with the Museum Volunteer Family!

Is There Any Place in Bisbee to Buy a Shirt?

Growing up in Bisbee back in the middle of the last century was a really great experience. We had everything we could need. We had grocery stores all over town. Safeway in Bakerville, Hogan’s Market, the Midtown Market, Moore’s Grocery, Watkins Market, and more. You could buy clothing everywhere. I don’t mean a T-shirt with giant flies pictured, or spooky guys in the Queen Mine. No advertising, or funny sayings. I mean a real shirt with buttons and a pocket.

I remember there was the J. C. Penny Store on Main Street. It was a marvel of technology back in the 50’s and 60’s. You could buy a shirt, many shirts as a matter of fact, give the clerk your money, and the clerk would put your money in a little cylinder and stick it in a pipe where it was sucked up to the second floor. There, someone who was never seen would figure out what you bought and how much it cost and put the right change in the cylinder. The pipe somehow knew where in the store you bought your shirts and, “shwoosh!” you had your change and you were on the way with your new shirt, or whatever.

P. D. Mercantile sold shirts, and suits, and lots more. Holway’s Mens store had it all. Even shoes I think. There were other stores in Bisbee, Lowell, and Warren where you could buy a shirt. The San Jose area hadn’t been discovered yet so people who lived out there had to drive into town. Or take the bus. But they would have to get to Briggs to catch the bus, but that’s another story for another time.

There were no antique stores that I recall. I would probably go there to look for a shirt, but my wife would end up with more Fiesta Ware and I don’t think they sold shirts. I don’t remember any Museums, or Mine Tours. That’s where you get the “fly” shirts and the “spooky guy” shirts. No collars, or buttons here.

And why is this important? As my wife and I were getting ready to go to our volunteer job at the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum I got to thinking about lunch. We usually eat in Sierra Vista, which we now call home, and get to the museum with moments to spare before our shift begins. They have the “fly” shirts, but I digress. Here’s my problem. We have other business in Bisbee before lunch, and we will miss lunch in Sierra Vista. There are several nice places to eat lunch in Bisbee, but today I’m thinking Jimmy’s Hot Dogs would be nice. Actually, my wife said we were eating at Jimmy’s, and if I said, “No.”, it would be off to buy more Fiesta Ware if you get my drift. Again, I digress.

In case you haven’t been there, Jimmy’s has a wide assortment of really good things to eat. My favorite is the fried shrimp, but today it will be Hot Dogs, since we don’t want to greet Museum goers with fish breath. Jimmy serves his hot dogs with your choice of condiments. My way is with the spicy brown mustard, the bright green pickle relish, and chopped onions. On the side will be a generous portion of their home made fries, and a soda.

All of this would be unimportant if it were not for the fact that I cannot eat a hot dog without adding a spicy brown color, or bright relish green, or catsup red off of the fries to the sounding areas including whatever I happen to be wearing. Since I don’t usually carry a change of clothing with me that takes me back to the premise of this note. Is there any place in Bisbee to buy a shirt?

Charles Morris

An Invitation Bisbee – Tesoro de Arizona Bisbee – Arizona's Treasure Join us for dinner and a concert with friends and fine food, featuring a musical performance by Tesoro



Tesoro's electrifying music of southern Spain brings the sounds of rumba flamenco to Bisbee!



per person \$300 for reserved table for six
Reservation deadline September 18, 2015

September 26, 2015
Bisbee Historic District
1st Presbyterian Annex
5:30—9:00 PM

Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum Annual Fundraising Dinner, Concert & Silent Auction

Make checks payable to
Bisbee Council on the Arts & Humanities
PO Box 14, Bisbee AZ 85603
or call Museum staff at [520] 432-7071
to purchase your tickets by credit card



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The Grassy Park Public Art Initiative... & more