



around town

By Catherine McHale

Community Corner at Sculpture Park



Scott comments, “The garden was designed for community interaction, with comfortable flow and circulation connecting old town and Cottonwood Square.. It was also important to make sure guests to the garden had reason and opportunity to gather, or just contemplate in a multitude of seating or gathering options throughout the garden. The planting design has interests in all seasons, with strong sculptural structure of the primary trees, and an ever-evolving bloom sequence of the flowers, along with wonderful fall colors.”

Scott had always designed the area with the possibility of bringing sculpture onto the site. Shortly after completion of Community Corner, a Sculpture Park Committee was formed with the aim of bringing artworks into this same beautiful park area.

The committee was pulled from different community members – residents, members of Niwot Community Association, Niwot Business Association, Niwot Cultural Arts Association, and West Cottonwood Home Owners’ Association and included Chuck Klueber, Scott Deemer, Catherine McHale, Lisa Rivard, Anne Postle, Laura Skaggs and Nicholas Whitaker (later succeeded by Asher Panian). As with many things in Niwot, the success of initiatives and activities such as these is dependent on local volunteers from residents and the business community.



What was once a green but blank corner of Niwot has been transformed over the last eighteen months. The area, which lies on the corner of 79th St and Niwot Road, and borders the 3 way stop junction, was a quiet contrast to the relative bustle of the Cottonwood Square and 2nd Avenue areas of downtown, but provided no reason to stop, linger or even pass through.

For this reason and for others, the town of Niwot has, for the last few years, been implementing a goal of “connectivity” between the Cottonwood and 2nd Avenue areas - and the area now know as Community Corner has become both a literal and figurative link between the two parts of town. It has also added to the existing interest of the beautiful tree sculptures which also welcome people into town on Niwot Road.

The area’s development started with the design and construction of a beautiful landscaped park area which encourages people to linger in this previously empty corner.

Scott Deemer of Outdoor Craftsmen was selected as the visionary behind the landscape planning and creation. Outdoor Craftsmen is a design and build company recognized for the creation of beautiful outdoor living spaces.

The town has also benefited hugely from a generous donation of time and labor from Outdoor Craftsmen for the completion of the project and subsequent installation of artworks.



After researching similar public art programs locally, a call for artists initiated by the committee produced a wonderful first round of applications for the initial installation. Seven pieces were selected to be homed at the park on a consignment basis and reflected a wide range of styles and media.

Each sculpture – the placement, size, scale and mass of each piece – was chosen through envisioning how the public could experience the space. The current sculptures are all in place for several more months (although at least two now have a permanent home there after being donated by generous Niwot benefactors). Another call for artists later in the year will select new pieces to find their temporary home in Niwot for 2020.

After a successful launch in October 2018, the Sculpture Garden continues to mature and invite space to rest, gather and contemplate, and has truly become a beautiful corner of a beautiful town. With plenty of seating, Left Hand Chairs, a Little Free Library, and at walking distance to restaurants, coffee shops and stores, this little corner has become a very special focal point in downtown Niwot.

Scott Deemer feels that “It has been a real honor to be included in creating a new interest in fine arts in our community. My hope is that we are helping the community experience art on a grander scale in our own home town.”

Another representative from the Sculpture committee commented that Niwot “is truly becoming a community with a strong arts focus. We have First Friday art walks, the Why Not Niwot juried art show, our murals and now a world-class sculpture garden. In addition, the ability to appreciate art in the beautiful outdoors and this beautiful landscaping makes it really special.”

Community Corner at Sculpture Park is located at the corner of 79th St. and Niwot Road in Niwot. Further details about the current sculptures (many of which are available for sale) can be found at www.niwot.com/sculpture