



*City of Arts & Innovation*

## News Release

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### **Riverside and local artist collaborate to feature art on major underpass**

**Riverside, Calif.** – The Riverside Metropolitan Museum recently installed new art pieces on the Magnolia Avenue Underpass. The medallions were designed by a local artist Cosme Cordova and depict the Magnolia flower which is abundant throughout the City.

“As the city of Arts & Innovation, Riverside appreciates that art exists not only in galleries and museums, but where we live, work and play” said Mayor Rusty Bailey. “The installation of public art provides an opportunity for residents, visitors, artists and organizations to share in our city’s cultural expression through the arts.”

The Magnolia Grade Separation Underpass project was completed by the Public Works Department to improve traffic flow and public safety response times. It also added bicycle lanes. Unique to the project was the incorporation of art niches along the wall for later installation of the medallions to enhance the aesthetics of the underpass with the inclusion of art.

“The medallions add a touch of class to an already gorgeous underpass. It is amazing how a creative touch of art can add such value,” said Councilmember Ken Gutierrez, Ward 3.



Cosme, a Riverside resident since 1977, designed the pieces depicting the Magnolia flower as a tribute to his parents who brought him to Riverside. The collaboration between the artist and the City is a testament to the commitment to provide local artists an opportunity to showcase their art.

“It is very exciting that my art is a permanent feature and hopefully it will encourage other collaborative efforts between local artists and the City on future projects,” said Cosme.

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