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Life

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2000



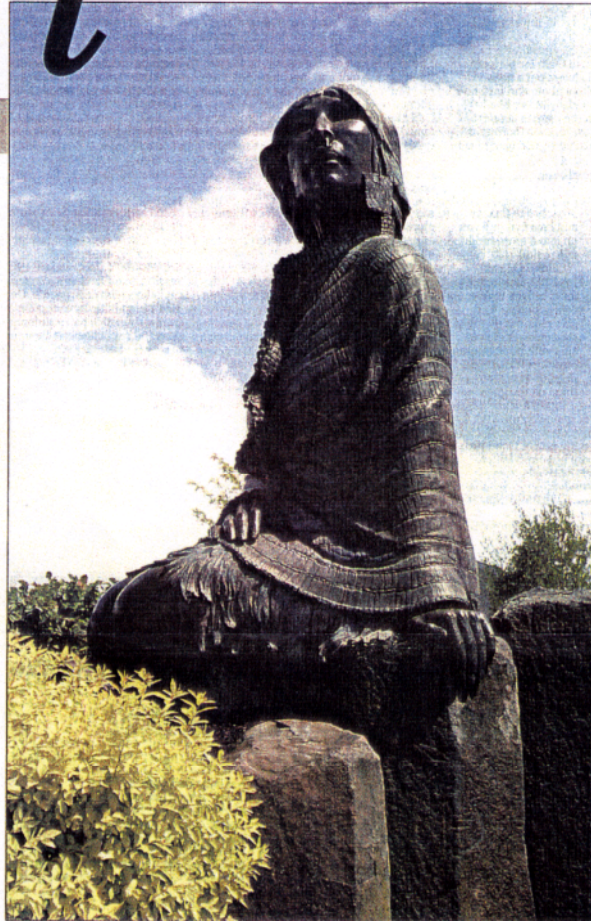
PUBLIC art IN CLARK COUNTY

FIRST IN A TWO-PART SERIES

Today:
Public art:
necessity or frill
Monday:
Is public art
worth the
hassles?



TROY WAWRYNEN/The Columbian
On loan: Clark College has borrowed this piece, James Lee Hansen's "Naga Spore No. 2," among others, from the Gates Estate.



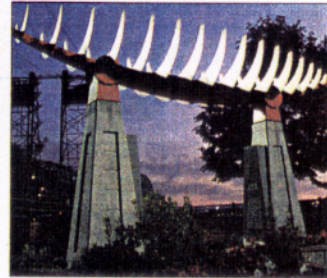
TROY WAWRYNEN/The Columbian
The influence of "Ilchee": This massive bronze on the north Columbia River shore represents the Chinook Indian's "Moon Girl" as well as Vancouver's fledgling efforts to create more public art.



TROY WAWRYNEN/The Columbian
Wooden frog: Hough Elementary kids gave this downtown piece its name in 1982: "Phroggy."



TROY WAWRYNEN/The Columbian
Namesake: A local group raised \$70,000 recently to commission this bronze sculpture of the British navigator Capt. George Vancouver, the source of this city's name.



KIM BLAIS/The Columbian
Vancouver monument: Besides the statue in front of City Hall, Vancouver citizens also have built this "Voyage of Discovery" boat to commemorate Capt. George Vancouver's influence on the city.

Local art aficionados and city officials agree that public art is good for the soul and that Vancouver should loosen its purse strings

Story by
Brett Oppegaard
of The Columbian

When community leaders unveiled the 7-foot-tall, 700-pound bronze "Ilchee" statue on the Columbia River waterfront in the mid-1990s, many hoped this privately funded piece would be monumental in form as well as function, motivating citizens to create a cultural identity here like the people of Copenhagen have done with their "Little Mermaid" or New Yorkers with their "Statue of Liberty."

In Clark County, though, cultivation and refinement in the arts traditionally comes at a slower pace. Case in point: Virtually every major city in America has a public art program to finance new works, including Seattle, Portland, San Francisco,

San Diego and Los Angeles. In Washington state, every city with more than 70,000 people has such a program except one: Vancouver, which has nearly twice that many residents. And this isn't just a concept for large metropolitan areas. Washington cities that fund public art include some less than a third the size of Vancouver, such as Olympia, Lynnwood and Edmonds, and even smaller towns, such as Bainbridge Island and Mercer Island, which have only about 20,000 people each.

Without any such government support, cities in Clark County have had to rely upon private donors and state purchases to provide the smattering of public artwork found

here. Although relatively sparse, this local landscape now seems involved in a transformation of sorts, as more pieces keep appearing — albeit slowly — amid the allure of "Ilchee."

Sculpture Garden on Broadway

Mary Granger was one of those who attended the "Ilchee" unveiling, partly because the group she helped to create, the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington, financed the plaza around the sculpture, partly because her father's R.F. Petersen Memorial Fund contributed to the effort

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Avril Massey at 360-735-1141 or 360-576-2956
- SCULPTURE GARDEN ON BROADWAY
Nancy Sourek at 360-694-2550
- VANCOUVER CITY GOVERNMENT
Pam Brokaw at 360-696-8297

Get in on the fun — you, too, can write a Harry Potter adventure

DAVE BARRY



I am NOT jealous of the woman who writes the Harry Potter books. It does NOT bother me that her most recent book, "Harry Potter and the Enchanted Royal Check," has already become the best-selling book in world history, beating out her previous book, "Harry Potter Purchases Microsof."

It does NOT make me bitter to know that this woman's books are selling like crazy, while my own books — some of which took me HOURS to write — have become permanent nesting grounds for generations of bookstore-dwelling spiders. And I disagree with the critics who charge that the Harry Potter

books teach witchcraft and Satanism. Yes, I'm aware of the recent case in Pittsburgh, where a 9-year-old boy recited a so-called "magic spell" from a Harry Potter book, and his piano teacher turned into a singing walnut. At first glance, this incident seemed alarming, but it turned out that there was a "perfectly innocent explanation," according to a police source, who spoke on the condition that his head be changed back to its normal size.

So as far as I'm concerned, the only problem with the Harry Potter books is that they're not being produced fast enough. Booksellers have already been swamped with

orders for the NEXT Harry Potter book, which hasn't even been written yet! So I'm thinking: Why should the Harry Potter woman get to write all the Harry Potter books? Any professional writer can do it! All you need is your plucky British schoolboy characters, your forces of evil, your ominous foreboding, your grave peril, and your totally unexpected plot twists. In fact, I'm going to write the next Harry Potter book right now:

CHAPTER ONE

Harry Potter awoke with a start. Outside Hogwarts Castle, it was

dark and ominous. In his mind, Harry mentally reviewed his situation for the benefit of people who have not read the first four books in this series. He was a plucky young wizard with magical powers living in England, a small foreign country that speaks English, but with a lot of slang. He was in grave peril from forces of evil.

"Blimey, Ron!" he said to Ron Weasley, with an English accent. Ron and Harry were mates, which in England has a different meaning. "Crikey, Harry!" said Ron. "You look as pale as a blooming ghost!" "Cor!" said Harry, as he fingered his lightning-bolt-shaped forehead

scar, which he received as a baby when his arch-nemesis, the evil Lord Voldemort — who was always trying unsuccessfully to kill him — had attacked him with a powerful deadly curse, which incredibly, had not been successful. "I just had a foreboding that Lord Voldemort is going to try to kill me again, as he has in every book so far in this series!"

"Well," responded Ron, "Duh!"

The two chums laughed in a plucky British manner, little suspecting that there were going to be some totally unexpected developments in the chapters that lay ahead.

BARRY, page D12

PUBLIC art IN CLARK COUNTY



Photos by TROY WYRHYEN/The Columbian

Bond ambition, above: A sculpture of seminal aviator **Carlton Bond**, who commanded **Pearson Field** from 1929-33 and again from 1938-40, was commissioned by local enthusiasts in 1997. They raised \$12,000 to pay for the piece.



Nurturing art, right: "Pioneer Mother," placed in **Esther Short Park** in 1928, reportedly was the city's first piece of public art.

Art

Private donors and state provide some pieces

From page D1

and partly because she for years had hoped Vancouver would recognize the broad value of public art.

"We just can't have enough of it," Granger said. "Art feeds the soul. It inspires imagination. It makes us think about something other than the news of the day. ... That doesn't mean there aren't other needs in this community, too. But art has to have its place."

From the first look Granger had at "Ilichee," she said she felt the need to bring more art, especially outdoor sculptures, to Vancouver. She brought together a committee of influential friends and convinced the city to designate a strip of land at East Ninth Street and Broadway as a sculpture garden.

Since then, Granger and her group have raised more than \$100,000 and installed three modern pieces at the site: Don Wilson's "Wheel of Fortune," James Lee Hansen's "Glyph Singer No. 3" and Beth Kohler's "Winged Woman." Granger said her group will place a fourth piece, a yet unnamed bronze by Manuel Isquierdo in the Sculpture Garden on Broadway next spring.

Other local efforts

Meanwhile, the Friends of Vancouver recently raised and spent \$70,000 to create a statue of Capt. George Vancouver, which has been installed in front of Vancouver City Hall until a permanent site is chosen. Avril Massey, chairwoman of the group, says the money for the work came from grants, fund-raising events and private donations, including \$35,000 from local developer Elie Kassab, who built the 12-screen movie theater downtown.

Kassab also is involved in another piece of downtown artwork, making plans for a statue of Lewis and Clark as part of his proposed Lewis and Clark Tower, a five-story building at Seventh Street and Broadway that offers work-force housing. "It only takes two or three projects to set the tone," Kassab said. "I think that what we've done so far, every new building downtown is going to have art incorporated. ... This is extremely important for everyone. Public art is expected to be a partner with the non-profit group, which provides leadership, funding and advocacy for the arts in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties. The group's logo even has four interlocking strands symbolizing the four counties working together. Yet Clark County pulled out of the coalition once talks began about contributing money to the effort."

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Art programs at work

Most of the cities in this region that fund public art spend at least 1 percent of all major public construction budgets on new artwork. Under that plan, Vancouver were to build a new \$25 million city hall, \$250,000 of that would be spent on art.

This concept actually originated in the West in the late 1960s, with Hawaii passing the first legislation of its kind in 1967. Alfred Freis, then director of the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, said his state needed a program "fit for democracy" as opposed to the European standard "where art support grew out of the aristocracy." The program's goal was to embrace "those already involved in the arts, as well as those for whom art meant nothing," he said. Washington state was the next to pass such a directive, in 1973, followed by Oregon and Alaska in 1975, then 23 other states. Dozens of cities soon followed, including Portland. More than 130 public art programs are in operation in America today.

For its involvement in the fledgling Clark County relies almost entirely on the Washington State Arts Commission, which administers the state's 1 percent public art program. To date, the commission has helped to place about 200 pieces here in 50 locations, mostly schools, at a cost of about \$650,000. Those works include "The Walling Bell" on the Washington State University at Vancouver campus, "The Guardian" on the Clark College campus and the controversial "Reach for the Sky" sculpture at Battle Ground High School, which has raised issues in that city about arts funding.

Portland serves as a nearby example of a place that gets funding for artwork from state, federal and city sources and puts public art somewhere on its priority list. Eloise Damosch, public art director for the Regional Arts and Culture Council, which administers Portland's program, said Clark County originally was expected to be a partner with the non-profit group, which provides leadership, funding and advocacy for the arts in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties. The group's logo even has four interlocking strands symbolizing the four counties working together. Yet Clark County pulled out of the coalition once talks began about contributing money to the effort.

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Sounding the bell: The Washington State Arts Commission bought this sculpture, "The Walling Bell," for \$75,000 in 1995 to place on the local Washington State University campus.

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As evidence of how effective such programs are, and how stimulating their results can be, one merely needs to ride Portland's light rail MAX from end to end. The bare east-side line, from downtown Portland to Gresham, was built before Tri-Met had a public art program. The west-side line, from downtown Portland to Hillsboro, incorporates art in all 20 stations, including abstract images, glass etchings, American Indian baskets, a 30-foot-tall trophy that claims "World's Greatest," an artist-designed trail and an aural piece that amplifies the sounds of nearby wetlands.

"Many, many people would not choose to go to museums or galleries," Damosch said.

"By putting art where the public can interact with it, people can more easily appreciate what artists bring to our lives. Artists really think about all aspects of existence and turn those thoughts into such wonderful expressions. ... What people put in their homes, speaks to them individually. What we all put out in public, speaks about the larger issues we share."

Developing public art here

Although Vancouver's city government doesn't have a specific program to finance public art, it has started giving a modest amount of arts grants each year. As part of that fledgling effort, Vancouver gave \$5,000 to the Hough Foundation earlier this week to help the group create specially tiled pedestrian entryways along the sound wall that separates Hough neighborhood from the nearby commercial developments. Vancouver also has helped with maintenance and provided city crews to install privately donated pieces.

Pam Brokaw, the city's cultural services manager, said the two-year-old arts grants and the creation of the Vancouver Cultural Commission three years ago indicate the city has begun to recognize the importance of developing arts here and to put some resources toward that goal. Brokaw said the commis-

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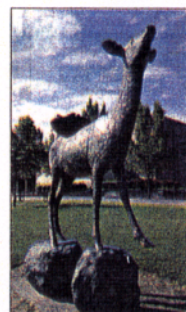
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Various arts leaders in this community have questioned whether Vancouver will ever find that perfect opportunity, or even seriously look for it. The Vancouver City Council earlier this week learned that city expenses were growing faster than income. Budget Manager Kent Shorthill predicted \$1 million-plus shortfalls each of the next five years. Traditionally in this city, arts programs are among the first to be cut when budgets are tight.

Council member Pat Jolota acknowledged, "We always talk about public art, but we don't want to spend any money for it. ... That's the bottom line." Jolota said although she philosophically supports more public art in the city, she and other council members have a tough time choosing artwork over roads, police officers and firefighters.

Council member Jeanne Lipton, who earned a bachelor's degree in fine art from Brooklyn College in 1974, said, "Art is necessary for the soul, no question, music and dance and all that. But if we have to choose our priorities, we have to look at a balanced budget and health and safety and roads."

Jim Moeller, also a council member, said he is among the people in this city who think development of the arts is a fundamental city service. "As a city, we need arts as breath," he said. "It's more



Natural wonder: This bronze depiction of a deer is shared by Chinook Elementary and Alki Middle schools.

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Fellow supporter Eleanor Van de Water, who was chairwoman of the committee that purchased "Ilichee" for Vancouver, said she, too, is among those who think the arts should be considered a fundamental function of government.

"Public art is an outward statement of our beliefs," she said. "It's a way for us to show what we value as a community. ... In general, art says to the world that we are multifaceted and not just interested in and concerned with provable phenomenon and finite things. There are aspects of human nature that are not nurtured by a scientific, factual, analytical approach."

Van de Water said that Vancouver historically "has leaned on Portland awfully hard for its source of ideas, places of entertainment, and for its appreciation of history." Yet she said that appears to be changing.

"Vancouver seems to be coming in to its own," she said. "I like the positive feeling now of hope and optimism and sensitivity and appreciation."

Major outdoor public art in Clark County

- **"Buckskin Brigade"**
Location: Over the east entrance to the Clark County Courthouse, 1200 Franklin St., Vancouver
Cost: Originally placed in 1941, replaced in 1990 for \$21,000, private donations
- **Burnt Bridge archway**
Location: In front of Burnt Bridge Creek Elementary, 14629 A N.E. 48th St., Vancouver
Cost: \$9,400 in 1983, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **Captain Vancouver statue**
Location: In front of Vancouver City Hall, 210 E. 13th St.
Cost: \$70,000 in 2000, private donations
- **Captain Vancouver monument, "Voyage of Discovery"**
Location: At the intersection of Columbia Street and Columbia Way
Cost: \$50,000 in 1992, private donations
- **Carlton Bond statue**
Location: At the entrance to Pearson Air Museum, 1105 E. Fifth St.
Cost: \$12,000 in 1997, private donations
- **"Gate I"**
Location: In Evergreen High School's courtyard, 14300 N.E. 18th St., Vancouver; viewing only during school hours
Cost: \$6,000 in 1975, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"Glyph Singer No. 3"**
Location: Sculpture garden on Broadway, at East Ninth Street, between Broadway and C Street
Cost: \$30,000 in 1997, private donations
- **"The Guardian"**
Location: On the Clark College campus near Gaiser Hall, 1800 E. McLoughlin Blvd., Vancouver
Cost: \$12,000 in 1976, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"Ilichee" statue**
Location: On the waterfront, west of McMenamins and Beaches, east of Columbia Shores condominiums
Cost: \$45,000 in 1994, private donations
- **"Long Spore No. 3"**
Location: In the courtyard of View Ridge Middle School, 510 Pioneer Ave., Ridgefield; viewing only available during school hours
Cost: \$5,700 in 1977, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"Matrix II"**
Location: On the playground at Riverview Elementary School, 12601 S.E. Riveridge Drive
Cost: \$3,400 in 1975, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"On the Way"**
Location: Bronze sculpture of deer between Chinook Elementary and Alki Middle schools, 1900 N.W. Bliss Road
Cost: \$30,000 in 1994, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"Parapodia"**
Location: On the Jentegaard Middle School campus, 35300 S.E. Evergreen Blvd., Washougal
Cost: \$7,000 in 1983, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"Passage"**
Location: An arch near the courtyard at the Clark County Skills Center, 12200 N.E. 28th St., Vancouver
Cost: \$12,200 in 1986, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"Penta-House"**
Location: On the playground at Fisher's Landing Elementary, 3800 S.E. Hiddenbrook Drive, Vancouver
Cost: \$17,500 in 1995, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"Froggy," the wooden frog**
Location: At corner of 12th and Main streets, Vancouver
Cost: Donated in the early 1990s, cost unknown
- **"Pioneer Mother"**
Location: On north side of Esther Short Park, Vancouver
Cost: \$10,000 in 1928, private donations
- **Prairie Falcon**
Location: On the east entrance to Prairie High School
Cost: \$16,000, in 1979, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"Reach for the Sky"**
Location: On the Battle Ground High School campus, 416 W. Main St., Battle Ground
Cost: \$25,000 in 1999, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"She Who Watches"**
Location: In front of the Grant House, 1101 Officers Row; moved from Marshall House in the late 1960s
Cost: Unknown
- **Shunway abstract sculpture**
Location: Near the main parking lot at the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, 3101 Main St.
Cost: \$29,000 in 1997, private and public donations
- **"South Main Landmark" brick arches**
Location: On the southernmost end of Main Street, at the intersection with Fifth Street
Cost: \$50,000 in 1984, public funding
- **"Sticks and Stones: River of Change"**
Location: At the main entrance of Frontier Middle School, 7600 N.E. 166th Ave.
Cost: \$29,300 in 1996, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"Thunderbird"**
Location: In front of West Junior High School, 1112 S.E. 136th Ave.
Cost: \$9,000 in 1978, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"The Walling Bell"**
Location: On the Vancouver campus of Washington State University, 14204 N.E. Salmon Creek Ave.
Cost: \$75,000 in 1995, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"Wheel Series No. 1"**
Location: Sculpture garden on Broadway, at East Ninth Street, between Broadway and C Street
Cost: \$25,000 in 1999, private donations
- **"Winged Woman"**
Location: Sculpture garden on Broadway, at East Ninth Street, between Broadway and C Street
Cost: \$22,000 in 1997, private donations
- **Youth Mural**
Location: On both sides of the Columbia Street railroad overpass
Cost: \$13,000 in 2000, private donations
- **Youth Diversity Mural, "Unity in Community"**
Location: On the Citizens Service Center building, 1313 Main St.
Cost: \$60,000 in 1994, private donations

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"If you're walking along the streets, just looking at blank walls and storefronts, there's nothing that's going to stop you and grab your attention," he said. "If there's a piece of art, though, it'll stand there and admire it."

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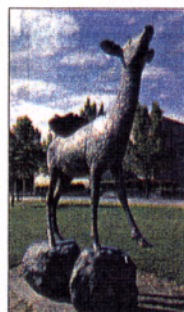
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Cost: Originally placed in 1941, replaced in 1990 for \$21,000, private donations
- **Burnt Bridge archway**
Location: In front of Burnt Bridge Creek Elementary, 14629 A N.E. 48th St., Vancouver
Cost: \$9,400 in 1983, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **Captain Vancouver statue**
Location: In front of Vancouver City Hall, 210 E. 13th St.
Cost: \$70,000 in 2000, private donations
- **Captain Vancouver monument, "Voyage of Discovery"**
Location: At the intersection of Columbia Street and Columbia Way
Cost: \$50,000 in 1992, private donations
- **Carlton Bond statue**
Location: At the entrance to Pearson Air Museum, 1105 E. Fifth St.
Cost: \$12,000 in 1997, private donations
- **"Gate I"**
Location: In Evergreen High School's courtyard, 14300 N.E. 18th St., Vancouver; viewing only during school hours
Cost: \$6,000 in 1975, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"Glyph Singer No. 3"**
Location: Sculpture garden on Broadway, at East Ninth Street, between Broadway and C Street
Cost: \$30,000 in 1997, private donations
- **"The Guardian"**
Location: On the Clark College campus near Gaiser Hall, 1800 E. McLoughlin Blvd., Vancouver
Cost: \$12,000 in 1976, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"Ilichee" statue**
Location: On the waterfront, west of McMenamins and Beaches, east of Columbia Shores condominium
Cost: \$45,000 in 1994, private donations
- **"Long Spore No. 3"**
Location: In the courtyard of View Ridge Middle School, 510 Pioneer Ave., Ridgefield; viewing only available during school hours
Cost: \$5,700 in 1977, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"Matrix II"**
Location: On the playground at Riverview Elementary School, 12601 S.E. Rivergate Drive
Cost: \$3,400 in 1975, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"On the Way"**
Location: Bronze sculpture of deer between Chinook Elementary and Alki Middle schools, 1900 N.W. Bliss Road
Cost: \$30,000 in 1994, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"Parapodia"**
Location: On the Jentegaard Middle School campus, 35300 S.E. Evergreen Blvd., Washougal
Cost: \$7,000 in 1983, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"Passage"**
Location: An arch near the courtyard at the Clark County Skills Center, 12200 N.E. 28th St., Vancouver
Cost: \$12,200 in 1986, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"Penta-House"**
Location: On the playground at Fisher's Landing Elementary, 3800 S.E. Hiddenbrook Drive, Vancouver
Cost: \$17,500 in 1995, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"Pony," the wooden frog**
Location: At corner of 12th and Main streets, Vancouver
Cost: Donated in the early 1990s, cost unknown
- **"Pioneer Mother"**
Location: On north side of Esther Short Park, Vancouver
Cost: \$10,000 in 1928, private donations
- **Prairie Falcon**
Location: On the east entrance to Prairie High School
Cost: \$16,000, in 1979, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"Reach for the Sky"**
Location: On the Battle Ground High School campus, 416 W. Main St., Battle Ground
Cost: \$25,000 in 1999, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"She Who Watches"**
Location: In front of the Grant House, 1101 Officers Row; moved from Marshall House in the late 1960s
Cost: Unknown
- **Shunway abstract sculpture**
Location: Near the main parking lot at the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, 3101 Main St.
Cost: \$29,000 in 1997, private and public donations
- **"South Main Landmark" brick arches**
Location: On the southernmost end of Main Street, at the intersection with Fifth Street
Cost: \$50,000 in 1984, public funding
- **"Sticks and Stones: River of Change"**
Location: At the main entrance of Frontier Middle School, 7600 N.E. 166th Ave.
Cost: \$29,300 in 1996, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"Thunderbird"**
Location: In front of West Junior High School, 1112 S.E. 136th Ave.
Cost: \$9,000 in 1978, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"The Walling Bell"**
Location: On the Vancouver campus of Washington State University, 14204 N.E. Salmon Creek Ave.
Cost: \$75,000 in 1995, part of Washington State Arts Commission program
- **"Wheel Series No. 1"**
Location: Sculpture garden on Broadway, at East Ninth Street, between Broadway and C Street
Cost: \$25,000 in 1999, private donations
- **"Winged Woman"**
Location: Sculpture garden on Broadway, at East Ninth Street, between Broadway and C Street
Cost: \$22,000 in 1997, private donations
- **Youth Mural**
Location: On both sides of the Columbia Street railroad overpass
Cost: \$13,000 in 2000, private donations
- **Youth Diversity Mural, "Unity in Community"**
Location: On the Citizens Service Center building, 1313 Main St.
Cost: \$60,000 in 1994, private donations