

New artwork installed at Chico's Parkside Terrace Apartments

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CHICO -- Parkside Terrace Apartments welcomed two new residents last week, but they were locally created art pieces rather than humans.

The city dedicated two public art pieces, a metal sculpture by Owen Gabbert and a tile mural by Janice Hofmann, at affordable housing Parkside Terrace Apartments on Hardford Avenue.

The Affordable Housing Development Corp., builder of the apartments, commissioned Gabbert and Hofmann, both of Chico, for the artwork.

Gabbert's 12-foot sculpture is made of stainless steel and prismatic glass, and depicts peregrine falcon and salmon attached to an open obelisk. The glass casts rainbows on the surfaces below.

It is titled "Per I figli del mio cuore" meaning "For the children of my heart" and speaks to the hundreds of children living in the neighborhood and attending adjacent Little Chico Creek Elementary School, according to the artist.

Because the sculpture is installed on property owned by the city, AHDC donated it to the city, and included the cost of future maintenance.

Laurie Doyle of AHDC said, "We were excited to have the opportunity to work with local artists to develop this beautiful artwork and hope that they will be enjoyed by the residents of Chico for many years."

The second work is made of ceramic and glass tile, and located in the apartment complex's community room. The mural depicts plants and wildlife that live in the ecosystem in which Parkside Terrace is located.

At the first workshop, residents joined naturalist John Aull from the Chico Creek Nature Center for a discovery-walk to identify and discuss species native to the area.

Both artists have done work for the city previously.

Gabbert's "Fred and Ginger" stands in City Plaza, created from a portion of one heritage elm tree removed from the plaza.

Hofmann most recently conducted a tile project in Annie's Glen bikeway tunnel, featuring 1,300 tiles made by community youth and adults.