

**Public Art Application**  
**Dominion Heights Art Component**  
**DUE: No later than 5:00 pm, January 30, 2012**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

NAME: VAERIE THEBERGE  
 ADDRESS: 3815 32nd ST  
MOUNT RAINIER W.D 90712  
 TELEPHONE/CELL: (202) 468 8830  
 EMAIL: Valerie@theberge.com  
 TEAM MEMBERS (if any): SHAWN SHICKHAUER

**ARTISTIC CONCEPT**

- Provide a vision statement (no more than 150 words):

*See attached*

- ✓ Attach a drawing on 2 foot by 3 foot paper. The drawing should identify dimensions, elevation, and orientation.
- ✓ List construction materials:

✓ **CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE** (135 days)

- Provide a timeline of for the construction of the project that will be used to assess progress.

✓ **BUDGET** (Up to \$17,500.00)

- Provide a budget for the project.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

- Attach your resume or other evidence of qualification to meet the conditions of the RFP, including training, awards and honors.
- Attach photographs of prior works of art. If works are available or on display, provide information about the locations and times that the artwork may be viewed.
- Provide 3 references who are familiar with your artistic work and your ability to meet deadlines:

Name	<i>See</i>		
Address	<i>attached</i>		
Phone	<i>documents</i>		

Send all above in one package to \_\_\_\_\_



## DOMINION HEIGHTS PUBLIC ART PROJECT

Dear Art Selection Committee

Please find enclosed my application for the Dominion Heights Public Art Project. I created mosaic sculptures for the nearby Hayes Park and spent much time with my family in the area surrounding the new housing development. I am very interested in this project and believe my work would highlight the intersection of N. Monroe and Lee Highway as a unique location with a culturally diverse community.

I have been working as a professional public artist creating mosaic murals and sculptures for over 12 years and my work may be found in private collections, public settings and museums in the United States and Asia. A few other projects in Virginia, in addition to the Hayes Park project, are 160 foot mosaic outside the Crystal City Metro under Jefferson Davis Highway and a 40 foot mosaic on the exterior of a pedestrian underpass in Reston, Virginia. (Please see images included in this package.)

Mosaic is a perfect medium for the Lee Highway median as it requires no maintenance and is suitable for outdoor areas with extreme weather fluctuations. All of my projects have been completed on time and within budget and I have excellent references.

Thank you for reviewing my application. I am excited about the possibility of creating artwork for this location.

Sincerely,

Valerie Theberge



## DOMINION HEIGHTS PUBLIC ART PROJECT

### VISION STATEMENT

In designing artwork for the Cherrydale, Maywood and Maywood Mews neighborhoods I designed work that reflects what is unique about this area. There is an intimate small-town feel of the neighborhoods with historic houses and tree-lined streets that is at the same time within a few minutes of the nation's capital. These sculptural shapes are organic pieces that create a calm and fluid atmosphere. The pieces will be artfully carved and covered in rich mosaic tiles. The interior consists of soft, meditative colors and the exterior compliments this with more vibrant and expansive artwork. This is meant to be a reflection of our internal and external worlds, life in our homes balancing life in our communities. The shapes are solid sturdy objects and evoke a feeling of confidence and security and have a lightness to them that gives the viewer a sense of whimsy. The same is true for the development of this area. Steeped in history there is a strong historical foundation that is augmented by contemporary creative entrepreneurial spirit.

### MATERIALS

Polystyrene, mortar, fiberglass mesh, grout, cement, reinforcing bars, breakaway posts and anchor, mosaic tile.

- Sculptures will be sturdy load bearing forms
- Sculptures will be polystyrene interior covered by 1 inch cement and mesh on exterior
- If impacted by a vehicle the low density of the sculptures with breakaway posts will cause minimal damage to the vehicle.



## DOMINION HEIGHTS PUBLIC ART PROJECT

### BUDGET

**\$17,500**

#### Design fee

**\$1,100**

(drawings, graphic designer, rendering images full-scale)

#### Materials

**\$2,650**

(tiles, mirrors, mesh, adhesive, cutters, diamond saw)

#### Artist's insurance

**\$350**

#### Building of substructure and base

**\$3,200**

#### Labor and studio overhead

**\$6,800**

(2 mosaicists – 4 weeks)

#### Studio rental, overhead and administration

**\$600**

#### Transportation of artwork to site

**\$900**

#### Installation

**\$1,900**

(materials, labor, 3 people, equipment rental)

### CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

**77 Days**

45 days to build substructure and allow it to cure sufficiently,  
30 days to apply mosaic on sculpture and  
2 days to install artwork.



## **AWARDS and GRANTS**

- 2011 Prince George's Arts Council Grant
- 2009 Fulbright Senior Specialist Roster
- 2007 Prince George's County Arts Council Grant
- 2006 The Community Foundation Grant
- 2006 Prince George's County Arts Council Grant
- 2005 Prince George's County Arts Council Grant

## **PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS**

- 2011 Melrose Skatepark, MD 6'x12' exterior wall.
- 2011 Glut Coop MD 5'x6' exterior wall piece.
- 2011 Rockville Town Center, MD. 15' mosaic fountain.
- 2010 Reston Community Center, Reston, VA. 12 X24' mosaic on underpass wall.
- 2010 Gwendolyn Britt Senior Center, Brentwood, MD. 10 x 30' interior mosaic.
- 2010 Clayworks, Baltimore, MD. 3 x 3 foot mosaic sculpture.
- 2010 Magruder Park, Hyattsville, MD. Two 5' mosaic benches.
- 2009 Rio Vista Recreation Center, Peoria, AZ. 45' x 10.5' interior mosaic mural
- 2009 Vansville Community Center, MD. 10.8' x 4.8' mosaic mural
- 2008 Radiance, Crystal City BID, VA, 160' x 20' Freeway Underpass.
- 2008 Aurora Art in Public Places, Aurora, CO. 6' x 1.5' mosaic bench
- 2008 Artist Residences, Housing and Urban Partnership, Hyattsville, MD 195" x 14" mosaic band for outside of Artist's Housing building
- 2007 Jungle Scene, Prince George's County Art in Public Places, MD, 6' x 8' entrance mural.
- 2007 Totem Poles, Prince George's County Art in Public Places, MD, Two 2' x 9' mosaic totems
- 2007 Gateway Art Center, Brentwood, MD, 7' x 9' Mural, Community Foundation Grant
- 2007 Reception Area, Prince George's County Art in Public Places, MD, 5' x 6' mosaic mural.
- 2006 Transformation, Prince George's Art in Public Places, MD. 12.5' x 5.5' wall mural.
- 2006 Flowers and Stars, Sitar Center for the Arts, Washington, DC, 10' x 6' column.
- 2006 Four Seasons, Silver Spring International School, MD, 4 panels, 3' x 5' each.
- 2005 Mosaic Bench, Grant Award Prince George's County Arts Council, 5' x 1.5' x 2'.
- 2005 Curb Appeal, Home and Garden's Episode May 2006, VA, 7.5' x 7" steps and stones.
- 2005 Mosaic Donor Wall, Sitar Center for the Arts, Washington, DC, 4' x 6' wall frame.
- 2004 Sphere of Earth, Hayes Park, Arlington County Parks and Recreation, VA, 2.5' diameter.
- 2004 Sun with rays, Hayes Park Arlington County Parks and Recreation, VA, 8 foot diameter.
- 2004 Hillman Barber Shop Sign, DC Commission on the Arts, Washington, DC, 9' x 3' sign.
- 2003 Entrance Mural, Patricia M. Sitar Center for the Arts, Washington, DC, 8' x 10' mural.
- 2001 Tropical Fish, Tsing Yi Ferry Terminal, Hong Kong, 8' x 15' exterior mural.
- 2001 Iguana, Sham Shui Po, Hong Kong, 8' x 12' exterior mural.
- 2001 Turtles, Au Mun Shan, Hong Kong, 8' x 12' exterior mural.
- 2001 Viceroy Restaurant, Sun Hung Kai Center, Hong Kong 6' x 24' interior mural.
- 2000 New Creation, Pondicherry, India, 3 balconies: 5' x 3' each.
- 2000 Lisboa Spa, Macau China, 7' x 10' floor mosaic.

## **PRIVATE COLLECTIONS**

Mr. and Mrs. Drake, California, 2012  
Mr. Raben, Washington, DC 2011  
Ms Gordon, West Virginia 2010  
Mr. and Mrs. McNamara, Maryland 2010  
Mr and Mrs. T Smith, Maryland 2009  
Mrs. C Geerhart, Maryland 2009  
Ms. N. Piccard, Rhode Island 2008  
Mr. and Mrs. Wisloff-Nilssen, Florida 2008  
Mr. D. Dolley, Maryland 2007  
Ms. E Briggs, Sweden 2006  
Mr and Mrs Vornoff, New Jersey 2006  
Mr and Mrs Rosen, California 2006  
D. Sobeloff, Maryland, 2006  
Mrs. Nancy Harrelson, Maryland, 2006  
Mr. Kamran Niam, Karachi, Pakistan 2006  
Mr and Mrs Woolf, Virginia, 2005  
Ms. F. M. Green, Washington, DC 2005  
Ms. P. Wrightson, Washington, DC, 2005  
The Carothers Family, Massachusetts, 2004  
Mr and Mrs Mitchell, Maryland, 2004  
Ms H. Begg, Washington, DC 2004  
Mrs. T Wong, Maryland, 2004  
D.E. Bernhardt, Washington, DC 2004  
C. Fiermonte, Washington, DC 2004  
The Lovatt Family, South Carolina, 2004  
Mr and Mrs Khalil, New York, 2004  
Leung Residence, Hong Kong, 2001

## **EDUCATION**

Luciana Notturmi Mosaic School, Ravenna, Italy  
Certificate in Stone and Smalti Mosaics (2005)

Hong Kong University, HONG KONG, S.A.R.  
Masters of Arts: Comparative Asian Studies (1999)

Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts, Hangzhou, CHINA  
Certificate of Chinese Painting & Calligraphy (1992)

San Francisco Art Institute, California, USA  
Bachelor of Fine Arts: Painting, Drawing, Art History (1992)

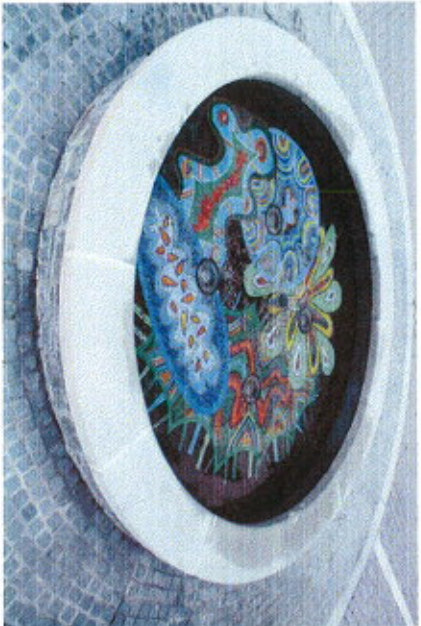


## **PUBLIC ART REFERENCES**

Angela Fox  
President and CEO  
Crystal City Virginia Business Improvement District  
Tel: 703-412-9430  
Email: [afox@crystalcity.org](mailto:afox@crystalcity.org)

Anne Delaney, Exective Director  
Initiative for Public Art Reston  
Tel: (703) 467 9797  
Email: [AnneDelaney@publicartreston.org](mailto:AnneDelaney@publicartreston.org)

Darilyn Marinelli, Director  
Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
Tel: 301-446-3420  
Email: [Darilyn.Marinelli@pgparks.com](mailto:Darilyn.Marinelli@pgparks.com)



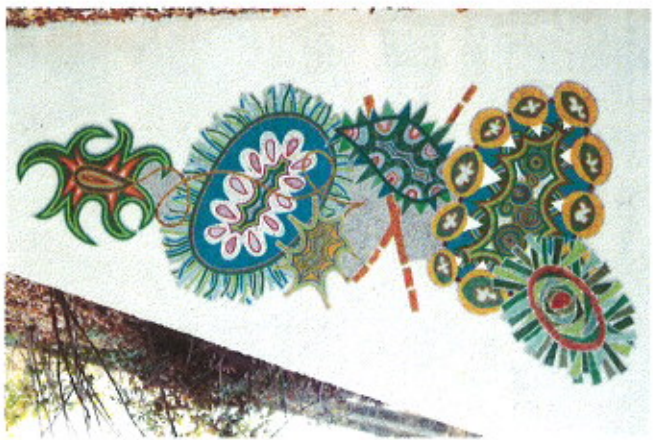
Valerie Theberge, 2011  
Rockville Town Center Fountain  
15' in diameter, Glass and mirror tiles  
Rockville, MD

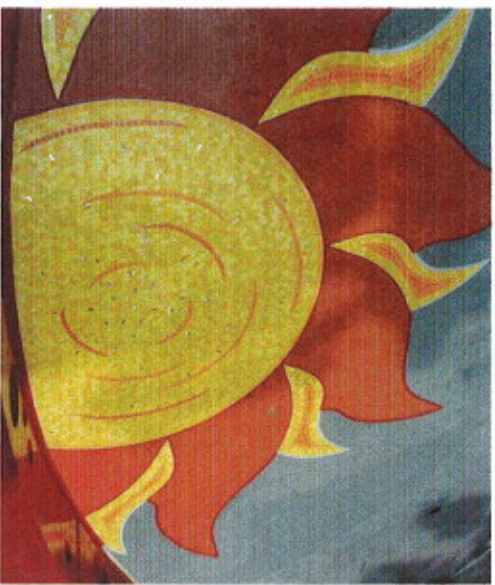
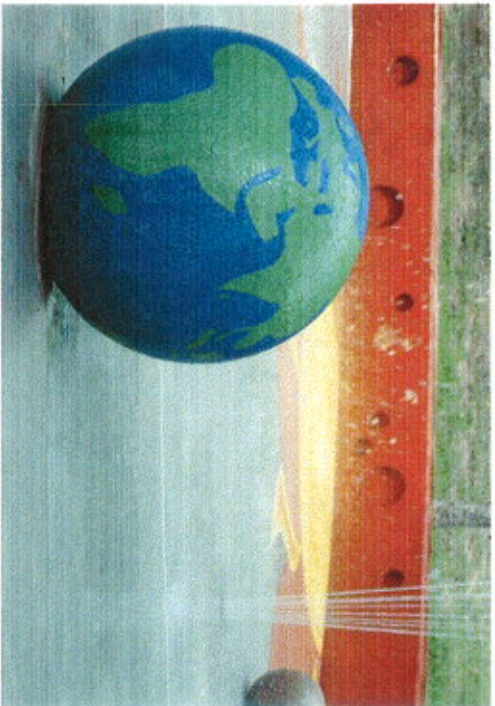




Valerie Theberge, 2006  
5' x 9', Tiles, mirror, and stained glass  
Sitar Center for the Arts, Adams Morgan, Washington, DC

Valerie Theberge, 2010  
Two 15 x 8 foot pieces and one 3 x 10 foot (center).  
Glass, stained glass, mirror  
Reston Art in Public Places, Reston VA

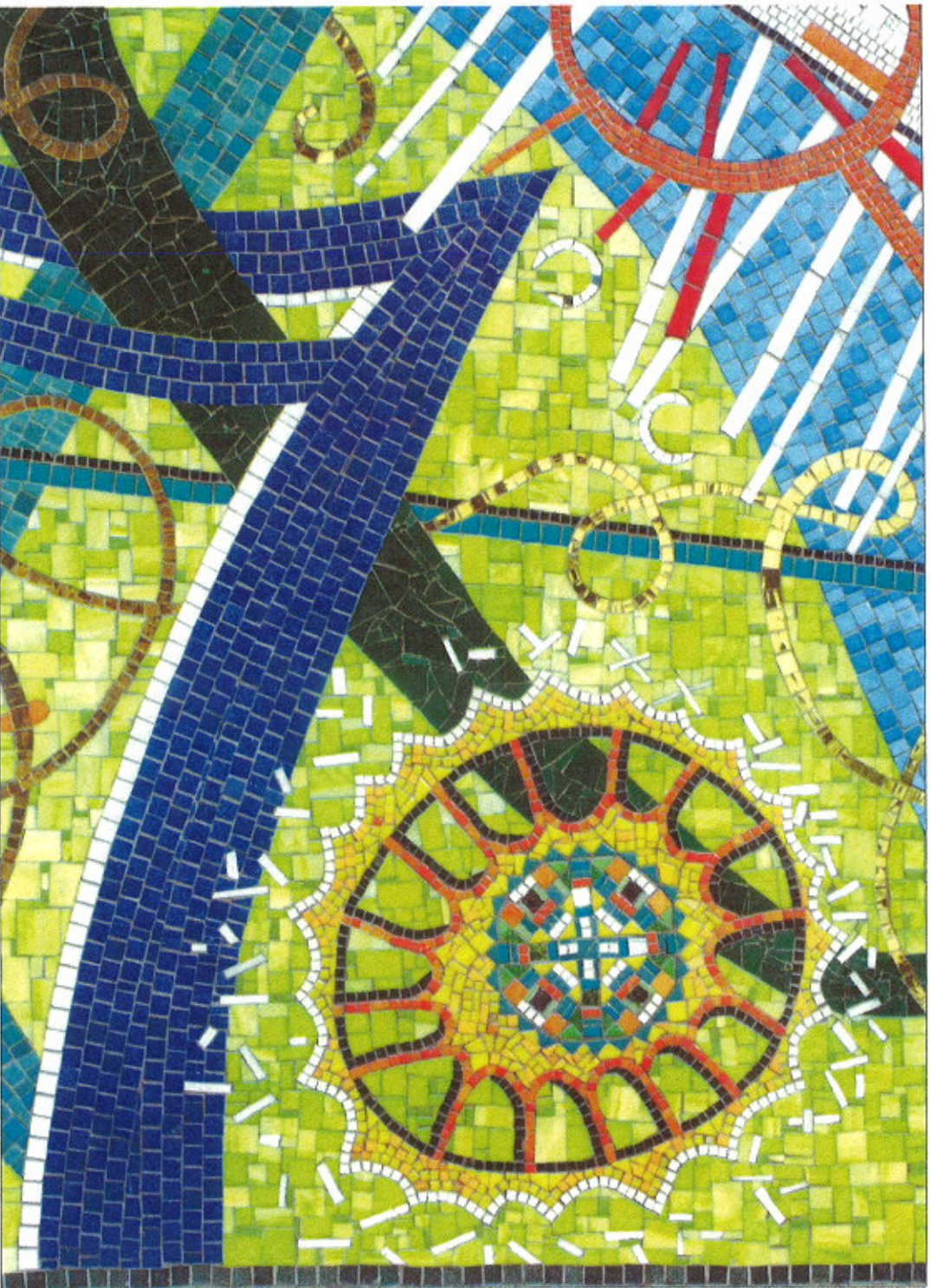




**Sun and Globe 2004**  
8' in diameter  
Glass and mirror tiles  
Arlington, VA



**Valerie Theberge, 2010**  
Memorial sculpture  
3 x 3 foot  
Glass, stainglass  
ceramic and mirror  
Clayworks, Baltimore, MD



# Visual Dance

CREATING THE GIFT OF PUBLIC ART | BY POLLY NELL JONES

Valerie Theberge creates her work seated on the floor, painstakingly bent over a fiberglass mesh canvas, surrounded by her palette—not paint tubes, but containers of color-separated glass tiles. Part sculptor, part engineer, all artist, she honors the 4,000-year-old mosaic heritage while infusing it with a fluid and whimsical energy. Her expressive designs soften the hard medium into an inviting visual dance for the viewer. Lucky for us, many of her works are large-scale public arts projects viewed by thousands of people a day.

Valerie recalls one of her early academic art experiences in a drawing class at the San Francisco Art Institute. When an instructor asked students to

bring “something you’re interested in,” she showed up with crayons.

“That’s how out of it I was,” she says with a laugh. But her talent was recognized and encouraged, and she graduated in 1992 with a B.F.A. in painting, drawing and art history. Valerie spent most of the next decade in China where she studied painting at the Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts in Hangzhou. Even though she says she did not “take to the art,” she earned a Certificate of Chinese painting and calligraphy. While in Hong Kong, she began apprenticing for a British commercial mosaic company.

“It was a change coming to this as a painter,” she says of the mosaic medium. “With oil painting, you



Valerie Theberge



*Above: "Flowers and Stars," Star Center for the Arts, Washington, DC, glass tiles, mirror, and stained glass, 6' x 10'*

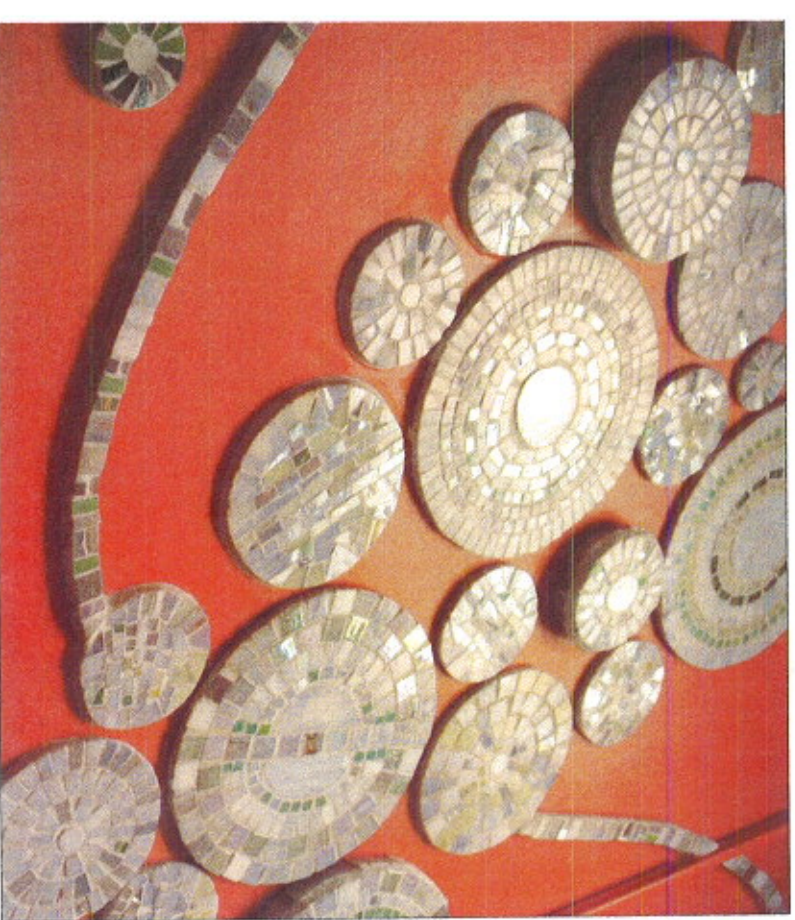
*Opposite: Mural, Gateway Arts Center, MD, (detail), glass tiles, gold tiles, mirror, and stained glass, 7' x 9'*

*Mural was made possible by a grant from The Community Foundation.*

don't always know where you're going, and things can change with layers of paint. But with mosaic work, planning plays an important role, with some room for nuanced changes during the production."

Valerie's studio in the lower level of her Mount Rainier home has plenty of space for large-scale pieces. Using mostly glass tile, but also incorporating

stained glass, mirror and gold, she adheres pieces on a backing that remains somewhat flexible and allows for ease in transportation to the site for installation. The design is mounted on concrete with grout added to finish the piece. For larger projects, she rents space from the Gateway Community Development Corporation (CDC), Gateway has developed a thriving



arts zone along Prince Georges County's historic Route 1 corridor.

"After returning to the U.S. from China in 2001, I was told that this community was a good place for artists," says Valerie during a tour of the neighborhood that has been designated a Maryland Arts and Entertainment District. Venues include warehouse and gallery space, affordable artist housing, the Washington Glass Studio and the Gateway Arts Center where Valerie serves as chair of the Gateway CDC Arts Action Committee.

Preferring to create public art over displaying pieces in gallery spaces, Valerie produces work that is permanently installed in senior centers, parks, offices, restaurants and transportation hubs in China, Macau, Pakistan and India as well as locations throughout the United States.

Working on four to five large projects a year, she connects with an increasing number of communities that have formalized public art into development strategies. Locally, Valerie and her husband, artist Shahn Shikhaliyev, collaborated on a 160-foot-by-20-foot mural at the Crystal City Metro 18th Street underpass. The project, funded by the Crystal City Business Improvement District, consists of 25



*Emergence, "Reston Art in Public Places," stained glass, mirror, 2 1/2'-x-6'-pieces and one 3' x 10' foot (center); and detail*

Photographs by Huganite Inc

*Top: Wall installation, Gwendolyn Senior Center, Maryland Park and rating, glass and mirror, 12' x 30'; and detail*

colorfully exuberant panels that line a thoroughfare used by thousands of commuters daily.

Valerie recently completed another pedestrian walkway for the Initiative for Public Art Reston. During the project, she led workshops for students at Hunters Woods Elementary School, assisting them in creating mosaic stars, which were incorporated into the walkway's final design. By summer, residents of the city of Rockville will enjoy a new fountain featuring Valerie's colorful swirls and starbursts. The pride and inclusiveness resulting from these collaborations with community stakeholders are part of what attracts

Valerie to the public art forum. "I like the idea of things not having ownership," she says.

In addition to installations in public venues, Valerie's work is found in private collections, and she takes on commissions. An active teacher, she has led classes at the National Museum for Women in the Arts, the Smithsonian (where her husband also teaches) and the Art Glass Studio at Glen Echo Park. She hopes to use a recently received Fulbright Senior Specialist award to teach mosaic art in Morocco.

Valerie Theberge | [www.valerietheberge.com](http://www.valerietheberge.com)

# Mural takes center stage in new skate park

■ Glass mosaic will be featured element for new Hyattsville attraction

BY DANIEL J. GROSS  
STAFF WRITER

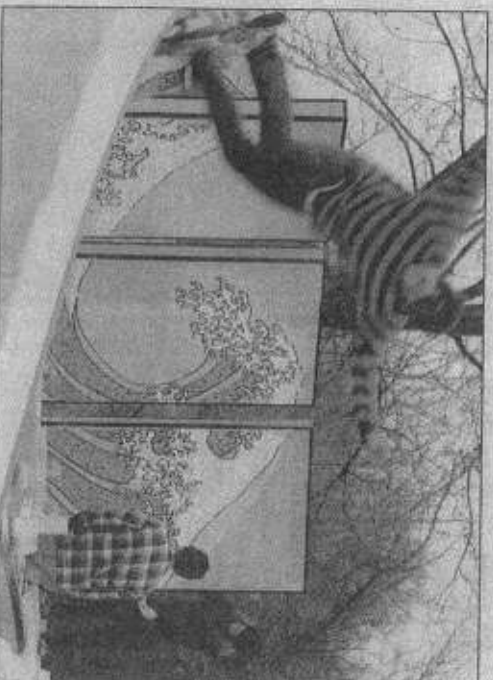
The long-awaited Melrose Skate Park in Hyattsville is nearing its final stages of construction, with a glass tile mosaic of rushing waves being installed near the site where youths will be able to roll on cement waves of their own.

"I've found that art is the perfect complement to a skate park. It goes with their creativity and adds a vibrancy to their physicality," Mount Rainier artist Valerie Theberge said of the 6-foot-by-9-foot mural she was hired to create using more than 17,000 tiles depicting rushing water and swimming shade fish. "To have artwork here is a perfect match."

The \$300,000 park was funded through the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission after Hyattsville's City Council received community input about creating a skate park in 2005. The closest skate park to Hyattsville is another M-NCPPC funded park in Mount Rainier, about 2.5 miles away. M-NCPPC agreed to create the park, with the request that it also include artistic elements, said Brenda Iraola, M-NCPPC's landscape architect supervisor.

Located at Rhode Island Avenue, the park is set to open in mid-March. Although several concrete ledges still are being poured, some skateboarders already have begun using the site. M-NCPPC is working to shut the park down with a temporary chain link construction fence for the winter to avoid unsafe use of the park until it is completed, Iraola said.

Hyattsville police spokesman Chris Purvis said skateboarding in restricted areas has not been a problem for the



CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON/THE GAZETTE

A skateboarder zooms by Dec. 14 as Mount Rainier artist Valerie Theberge installs her mosaic mural at the new Melrose Skate Park with help from her husband and fellow artist, Shahin Shikhaliyev.

features, such as the embedded boulders that border portions of the park. Winner said both the boulders and the mosaic are placed in perimeter locations of the park for aesthetics and are generally not in hazardous areas. ARC saw some of Theberge's work on a 2009 project in Gaithersburg while the skate park company was building a park there and recruited her for the project.

"The art wall is a very unique aspect of [the] park. We typically don't put in a lot of blank canvases because local artists will tag it," Winner said. "I think the park is going to be well used and the kids are going to enjoy it. While it is small, it has a lot of unique features."

The featured mural in Hyattsville is a three-piece glass tile mosaic that lays flat against three free-standing concrete slabs, or "blank canvases," Winner said.

The mosaic's blue and green reflective colored tiles make up a scene of waves and swimming shade, which are indigenous to the Anacostia River, which runs immediately to the west of the skate park.

Theberge said she chose the

er Park, a mosaic outside of Gut food co-op in Mount Rainier and a mural outside of the Gateway Arts Center in Brentwood.

Iraola said Parks and Planning wanted to incorporate artwork to the park to blend with the Gateway Arts District, a collection of arts-focused municipalities comprised of Hyattsville, Mount Rainier, North Brentwood and Brentwood.

"The park is in keeping with [the] arts district theme with [the] custom mural design," Iraola said, also noting an abstract-shaped shading canvas, and some multicolored concrete areas, benches and a backboard for the basketball court. "A lot of it is supposed to have a little bit of a wow factor."

Theberge began installing the mural Dec. 14 with the help of her husband, Shahin Shikhaliyev, who is an oil painter.

The mural itself took Theberge roughly a month to complete, assembling the glass tiles piece by piece in her home studio. The installation took Theberge and Shikhaliyev about a week to complete, which consisted of painting the remaining negative space of the concrete slabs and repairing portions of glass tile that fell off