

# *Tributary*

**Mixed Media Sculpture, polyester resin,  
LED lighting, steel**

**2023**

**11 x 11 x 15 feet**

**Art Director, Project Manager, Supervisor,  
Fabricator:**

Andrew Connelly, Professor of Art, Sculpture

**Primary Student Artists, Fabricators:**

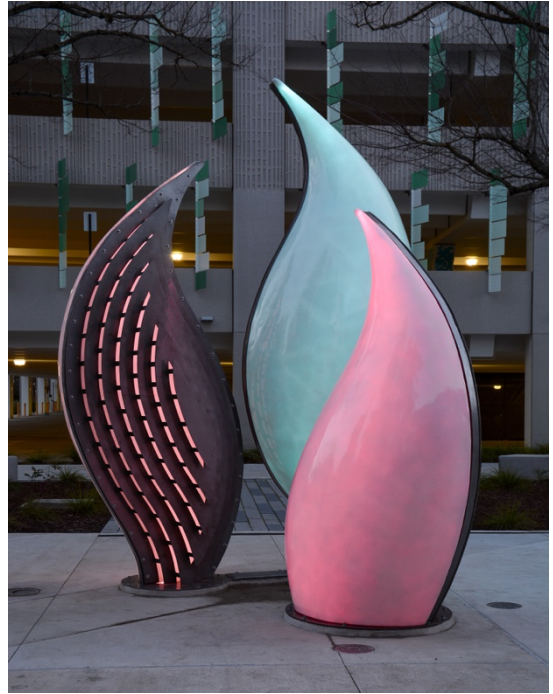
April Arnold, Denise Benitez, Julie Crumb,  
Orzala Mahshour, Andrew Rosas, Matthew  
Pugh

**LED Light sequence technician:**

Tam Helenske, Artist

**Concept And Design Team:**

Isabella Flanagan, Janelle Marcione, Andrew  
Rosa



Three forms emerge from the earth in suspended animation. The symbolism draws from California, Sacramento Valley, and Sacramento State sources. The title *Tributary* pays homage/tribute to the students, faculty, staff, and community of Sacramento State and beyond while identifying the place, the Sacramento River Watershed. The ever-flowing tributaries of this vast territory include the Sacramento River, American River, Feather River, and the San Joaquin Delta. The leaf-like forms of the sculpture were derived from the California Bay Laurel tree, indigenous to the foothills of California; known as *Umbellularia* or Myrtle and valued by native populations including Kashaya Pomo, Maidu, and Miwok. The tree's fruit, nuts, leaves, and wood were and are currently used for many purposes, including soup, tea and flavorings, furniture and bowls, and medicinal applications. Primary to the conceived principle of the artwork is the inclusion and recognition of all that encompasses this site's past, present, and future.

This monument embodies the true essence and intersection between students, faculty, and staff collaborating in solidarity to achieve goals and aspirations. The emergence of each of the sculpture's components begins as a foundation, an intermediary, and a fully formed "being," resembling the maturity of individuals as they grow into constituents of a wholly realized culture. During the day *Tributary* stands as soft, organic, and voluminous in contrast to the layered shapes that appear as vertical steps, representing our collective journey. As the sun sets each day, interior illumination offers a nuanced light show of color traversing the facets of each form. The pulsing of the work intends to reflect the rhythms of breath and heartbeats from rest to exhilaration.

This sculpture conceived, designed, and built in a public art curriculum by Sacramento State students and faculty of the Department of Art for the University. Vice President of Student Affairs, Ed Mills envisioned a sculpture placed in the Welcome Center Plaza to symbolize the life-changing experience of choosing a university education and a place for student family and friends to take pictures as they venture through their student careers and beyond.

This work took over three years to complete. Starting in Fall 2019 with three design team proposals, *Tributary* won the award in front of a panel of artists, faculty, and staff. During COVID-19, student artists/fabricators worked limited hours yet were committed to the project's progress. Student artists/fabricators were trained in numerous industrial/art processes to create a four-foot model which was then realized full-scale. The sculpture was completed in the Spring of 2023 with a dedicated group of student artists/fabricators under the guidance of Professor Andrew Connelly and the help and support of many.

### **Commissioned By Sacramento State's Division of Student Affairs**

#### **Student Artist Cohort:**

April Arnold, Denise Benitez, Isabella Flanagan, Christina Gutierrez, Tracy Jordan, Lucas King, Orzala Mahshour, Shantha Matthews, John Klaiber, Sam Lee, Janelle Marcione, Ariana Michaelson, Quinn, Melanie Ries, Andrew Rosas, Heather Schlesinger, Rebecca Standley

#### **Technical And Digital Support and Consultation:**

LCDR Jack Babbitt, Captain USMC/USN Retired, Ronald Fuentes, Visual Artist/Fabricator, Kevin Furry, KIBOWORKS custom LED technology, Tam Helenske, Visual Artist, Lucas King, Digital Artist, John McEnroe, Visual Artist, Public Art Consultant

#### **Installation/Consultation And Financial Support Staff:**

Benjamin Hunt and Kevin Ptak, Instructional Support Technicians III, Department of Art, Karyl Burwell, Executive Director Student Affairs, Karina Garcia-Solorio, Budget Resource Analyst Student Affairs

#### **Engineering:**

Eric V. Monzon P.H.D., P.E.

#### **Special Thanks:**

Ed Mills, Vice President, Division of Student Affairs, Sheree Meyer, Dean, College of Arts and Letters, Carolyn Gibbs, Professor of Design, Rachel Clarke, Professor, Chair Department of Art, Eric V. Monzon P.H.D., P.E. (in-kind sculptural calculations), Connelly-Kelly Family and Friends