

CITY OF WHITTIER NEWS RELEASE  
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### **“TALL GRASS” PUBLIC ART DEDICATION AT WHITTWOOD**

“Tall Grass,” the newest of the public art piece in Whittier, will be dedicated in ceremonies held at 4 p.m. Thursday, November 16, at the newly-remodeled Whittwood Town Center located at Whittier Boulevard and Santa Gertrudes Avenue.

The artwork is in the “Festival Paseo” amphitheatre area between Sears and Mervyn’s. The dedication will mark the installation of this new piece in the City’s ever-growing public art collection.

“We selected an artist that we thought would create a unique, memorable piece to serve as the backdrop for the Whittwood Town Center amphitheatre,” said Steve Coyne, development consultant for LNR Property Corporation for the project.

“Tall Grass,” by artist Gale McCall, is a sculpture that takes the shape of tall grasses with images floating among the blades. The grasses are composed of stainless steel pipe, varying in height from eight to 10 feet.

“The floating images are quarter-inch stainless steel plate designed into painted cutouts of items that people may be shopping for at the Center, or items blown in from the past or future,” said Fran Shields, Director of Community Services. “The grasses themselves evoke the fields of grass that were once seen throughout Whittier, connecting those fields of the past to the urban spaces of today.”

“Tall Grass” was funded by the Art in Public Places ordinance that requires one-half of one percent of a construction project cost to be provided for acquiring and installing public art. The budget for this piece was \$125,000 and was installed by LNR Property Corporation who underwent the center renovation. The artwork was reviewed and approved by the Art in Public Places Committee, the City body that oversees Whittier’s public art program, as well as by the Whittier Cultural Arts Commission and City Council.

For more information on Whittier’s public art and other arts programs, call the Community Services Department at (562) 464-3360.

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