

JUST KID'S PLAY



The Los Altos Hills Public Art Committee is highlighting a recently acquired sculpture, “Just Kid’s Play” by local artist Richard Starks. Starks’ inspiration came from his sculptural training in public art and from his sketches of children and families playing and enjoying a public space. It was this theme that prompted the Los Altos Hills Public Art Committee to select the sculpture for placement next to the Parks and Recreation building. Stylistically, Starks’ main influence was American artist, Keith Haring, with his two-dimensional graffiti-style drawings and paintings. As a result, Starks decided to create a three-dimensional sculpture, incorporating both his own and Haring’s style.

First, he fabricated a maquette (a small model or study for a sculptural or an architectural project) of a child having fun while kicking a ball, then transformed the concept into a full-scale sculpture. Starks’ use of Cor-Ten Steel (sometimes called weathering steel or corrosion resistant steel) adds a natural look and eventual rust layer, which also complements the rural nature of Los Altos Hills.

Town resident and practicing artist, Karen Druker, enabled the acquisition for “Just Kid’s Play” through her generous donation in 2016. Druker has been influential through her donations and service to Los Altos Hills public arts (she is a former Public Art Committee member and was Art Curator of Los Altos Hills Town Hall) and many

other community organizations. The community is grateful for Karen’s generosity and continuing support for public art.

When acquiring works, the Public Art Committee is very careful to consider the appropriateness of the setting for each art piece. The Town Council also weighs the committee’s recommendations before approving pieces of art and their placement.

To learn more about the Public Art Committee’s mission, activities and art dedications, please send an email to: committeepublicart@gmail.com. Residents are invited to contribute to the planning for and acquisition of future public art.

Nicole Andrews is a member of the Los Altos Hills Public Art Committee.