



300 Country Club Road, Wylie, Texas 75098  
[www.wylietexas.gov](http://www.wylietexas.gov)

City of Wylie  
Public Information Office  

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Wylie to Dedicate Public Art Valued at More Than \$800,000**

**Wylie, TX, April 25, 2011** – The Wylie City Council and the Public Art Advisory Board invite you to attend the Public Art Dedication, Saturday, May 7, 2 pm - 4 pm, at Wylie's New Municipal Complex, 300 Country Club Road. Following the dedication hosted by Mayor Hogue, artists will be on hand to discuss their works of art and techniques. Art from Wylie High School students will be on display in the Library and Wylie Fire-Rescue will provide refreshments.

The unique architecture and open green spaces of Wylie's new 140,000 sq. ft. Municipal Complex, featuring a City Hall, Library and Recreation Center, make the ideal backdrop for three public art installations, *Teatro XIX*, by Herk van Tongeren; *Something Real*, by Steve Gillman; and *Voices of Wylie*, by Po Shu Wang & Louise Bertelsen.

"The entire community should be proud of these works of art," said Mayor Hogue. "The level of community participation and input that helped shape the projects was unprecedented; they truly are the peoples work developed in the spirit of public art."

***Teatro XIX*, Herk van Tongeren**

Valued at more than \$500,000, this bronze work comprised of a column, arch, and geometric shapes represents the community gathering places found in ancient Greece and Rome.

Originally displayed in Atlanta, Georgia, *Teatro XIX* was anonymously donated to the City of Wylie in 2010 by the BGCA because of its significance to our modern day city hall,

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Incorporated in 1887, the City of Wylie is located just 24 miles from downtown Dallas in Collin, Dallas and Rockwall Counties. Possessing an outstanding school district, a low crime rate, an ISO #1 rating and an expanding business climate, Wylie (population 41,427) is one of the fastest growing communities in the State of Texas with a 174% increase since 2000.



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library and recreation center. Art consultant Sharon Corgan Leeber played a key role in securing *Teatro XIX* for the City of Wylie.

*Teatro XIX* was Herk van Tongeren's last commissioned piece before his untimely death in 1987 at the age of 43. His work is on display in many notable museums including the Guggenheim in New York City, the Brooklyn Museum of Art and the Dallas Museum of Art. *Teatro XIX* is listed in the Smithsonian American Art Research System.

***Something Real, Steve Gillman***

Prominently located directly in front of the recreation center, *Something Real* consists of seven granite monoliths spaced over 385 feet in an arithmetical progression. The columns range in height from 13 to 18 feet and weigh more than 35,000 pounds each. Three sides of each column are natural with the fourth side machined smooth featuring historic engraved quotes from Beb Fulkerson's book, *The Town of Wylie*. A crushed granite path leads visitors through the monoliths to the Municipal Complex.

In 2008, Gillman was recognized by the Americans for the Arts for having one of the best public art projects of the year. Pictures of past installations and detailed biographical information can be found at [www.gillmankeefe.com](http://www.gillmankeefe.com).

***Voices of Wylie, Po Shu Wang & Louise Bertelsen***

Po Shu Wang & Louise Bertelsen of Living Lenses designed this 13 feet wide by 7 feet tall stainless steel interactive sculpture located in the breezeway between the Library and Recreation Center. *Voices of Wylie* features a sequence of hemispheres that spiral towards each other surrounding a complete sphere at the center. Inspiration for the piece was drawn during a public meeting where citizens recalled Wylie's rich history of being known as the "Onion Capital of the World".

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The sculpture conceals an outdoor speaker connected to two keyboards; one in the Recreation Center and one in the Smith Public Library. Visitors are invited to type their thoughts, expressions and emotions which will be translated into Braille text dots and turned into music through an electronic sampler.

More details on Living Lenses can be found at [www.livinglenses.com](http://www.livinglenses.com).

The City of Wylie Public Art Program dedicates 1% of project costs to Public Art. The artists were selected through a public process and commissioned by the Public Art Advisory Board and City Council.

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