

The concept for the design of the bus shelter panels on 67th Avenue were inspired by a conversation I had with community members that are long time residents of this area. They described their neighborhood as one with a mixture of older residents and newer arrivals of young families with children. They want the design of these bus shelters to talk about their community and in particular the children. These citizens felt very strongly that the children were the most cherished members of their neighborhood and they have worked hard to help them succeed in life.

In the windscreen panels I created a design incorporating the image of a beloved plant, the Mexican Bird of Paradise. This plant has a beautiful flower that adds beauty and warmth to this area. This plant is also a metaphor for education and growth. The Mexican Bird of Paradise is a hardy transplanted Arizona plant that may be planted around the completed bus shelters by community members. The use this important local plant as the design of these shelters refers to the continued growth of this community along 67th Avenue.

The designs are water jet cut into 14 gauge steel and the panels are powder coated in a green color. The framing on the bus shelters are powder coated in a brown color. Green being the color of leaves and growth led me to use it as the color of these bus shelters. I think the color is a good contrast with the natural colors of the local architecture along 67th Avenue. Most of the shelters sites are pretty barren areas as far as landscaping, so this color would give these areas a sense of coolness and shade. This color along with the vibrant colors of the actual plants that will eventually grow around the shelters, create a beautiful area for bus riders to wait.

My hope is that this bus shelter will serve not only as a waiting place for bus passengers but also as a serene place for them to contemplate their beautiful neighborhood and plant life that thrives in the desert environment. The hardy yet beautiful Mexican Bird of Paradise will serve as a reminder of the people and the children that live and continue to grow in the area of Phoenix.