

Statement for Oregon Street Bataan Trainway Fence Project

The concept for the Oregon Street Bataan Trainway Fence was inspired by the architecture that is in close proximity to the fence as well as the history of the San Jacinto Plaza or Plaza de los Lagartos. I was particularly drawn to the Kress building with its Spanish and Moorish style of architecture as well as the Mills building and other buildings surrounding the plaza.

My design is inspired by a combination of Art Deco and Spanish architecture that is realized in stone work and ceramic tile designs. The long history of the alligators that lived in the plaza pond is also integrated into the fence, swimming together in a circular fashion. I used three alligators because that was the number that originally inhabited the plaza pond. Luis Jimenez' sculpture, "Los Lagartos" is an important public art piece that has graced the plaza for many years. The fence design will make reference and remembrance not only to the alligators but to El Paso's native artist, Luis Jimenez.

Each fence will be constructed of 11 hot rolled steel panels that will be lacquered to preserve the natural beauty of the metal as well as to protect from vandalism. I have created 3 different designs that will make up the fence. The metal panels will have attachment angles, tamper resistant screws and a structural system made up of two by two inch steel tubes. The fence will be 6 ½ feet in height with the panels being approximately 4 feet in width each. The frame will complete the required height.

It is my intention that this fence becomes a part of the downtown landscape that marries well with its neighboring buildings and plaza. It is also my hope that the El Paso community will accept this new piece of public art and make it its own.