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## **F.C. JOYCE SCHOOL CELEBRATES ART IN PUBLIC PLACES SITE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT**

*Fence art design is part of community vision for North Highlands*

*Sacramento County, CA.* In a school-wide assembly today, Supervisor Roger Dickinson and Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency Executive Director Anne Moore joined students and staff at F.C. Joyce School to celebrate the official unveiling of a 400 foot art fence as part of the Art in Public Places beautification project in the County's Watt Avenue redevelopment area.



“This art fence is part of our commitment to make our community a place with color, with texture, with creativity, with ideas, with invention for the future,” said Supervisor Dickinson, “something to stimulate our senses and excited about being here in North Highlands. This is the kind of commitment and return we get on investing in public art and it is part of what punctuates our rebirth here in North Highlands.”



*The 400-foot wrought iron fence at F.C. Joyce School is adorned with colorful panels representing the learning activities in the classrooms.*

“The renovation of the exterior of F. C. Joyce school has turned one of the oldest schools in the Rio Linda School District into a colorful jewel,” said Frank Porter, Superintendent of the Rio Linda Unified School District, “one that really stands out in the neighborhood as a tremendous asset in enhancing the neighborhood and will complement all the other projects that are planned and in the works along the North Watt Avenue corridor.

The Watt Avenue corridor is undergoing extensive revitalization including streetscapes and infrastructure improvements and other development activity is in the works including plans for an addition to the town center across the street from F.C. Joyce School which will be a Sheriff's Station house.

*“One Community, One Vision”*  
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“We can’t rebuild a community without partnering in all kinds of different ways,” said Anne Moore, Executive Director of SHRA which provided \$151,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the fence art project. “And North Highlands is a great example of a community that is really working hard to improve itself and save what’s special and also grow into the future.”

The Agency has been a long-time partner with the North Highlands community to bring improvements to the area. In 2002, the Agency worked with the RLUSD and the North Highlands Recreation and Park District to create the North Highlands Town Square as a public gather place. Earlier this year the first phase of the Watt Avenue streetscape was completed in partnership with the Sacramento County Department of Transportation. That project was an extension of the Watt Avenue Beautification initiative which the Agency had been working on for many years with the residents to stimulate some private investment in Watt Avenue. Work on a second phase of improvements is expected to begin this month and will be completed next year. Altogether the Agency will be able to contribute \$4.2 million on the first two phases of these vital improvements as an investment in the North Highlands community.

Local artist John Barron created the fence art which he said was his first attempt at public art.

“The experience has been incredible. My background comes from 25 year in steel fabrication. People have called me an artist from time to time but I’ve always felt like a craftsman.”

Barron used all the colors of the rainbow in his fence artwork panels to represent the diverse ethnic makeup of the F.C. Joyce community. The images illustrate some of the activities taking place in the school, including sports and physical fitness, reading and writing, music and the arts, science and natural history, and finally, graduation. Barron says four medallions on the fence represent the top career choices of the F.C. Joyce Class of 2004: teacher; police, fire and emergency medical service; artist, and athlete.



*Fence art panels depict science and reading activities at F. C. Joyce School.*

**SHRA** is a Joint Powers Authority created by the City and County of Sacramento to represent both jurisdictions for affordable housing and community redevelopment needs. SHRA oversees residential and commercial revitalization activities in 14 redevelopment areas throughout the City and County. The Agency is the leading public developer of affordable housing. SHRA has a FY 2005 budget of \$222 million and approximately 325 employees. The Agency owns 3,400 units of public housing and is one of the largest landlords in Sacramento. SHRA also administers about 10,500 rental assisted vouchers per month.