

“SOUTH OMAHA”

by

Amelia M. Koneck

I was born and raised in South Omaha and graduated from Omaha South High School. I have been teaching with the Omaha Public Schools for over 21 years as an Art Specialist. Art is my passion.

It has been an honor and a privilege to be part of the Sunny & Chair Community Art Project, as I was chosen to represent South Omaha. I want to thank Omaha Steaks, Visit Omaha and Midtown Crossing for this opportunity.

The designs within my Adirondack Chair were inspired from stories of the past, memories and personal experiences. South Omaha once gained the title “The Magic City” because it seemed as though so much was happening and it was quickly growing. Various races worked side by side. Businesses were built.

Some work ethics, as well as pride, were established within The Stockyards, Falstaff Brewery, Kitty Clover, Union Pacific RR, Restaurants, Bowling Alleys, CWS at Rosenblatt Stadium, Zesto’s, and the Lithuanian Bakery.

It wasn’t all about work though. The people seemed to know when they could relax a bit and/or be entertained. The Chief Movie Theatre seemed to be a treat within South Omaha, as it gave some of the hard-working locals a place to gather and be entertained. There never seemed to be a day without music and sometimes, dancing.

My design included the following:

A Compass, being held with a hand with the multiple skin color to represent South Omaha’s diversity. (The heart may remind some that no matter where they go, South O may still be within them.)

The Rose, Goldenrod and Sunflowers represent gardens, especially, Mt. Vernon and Lauritzen for their beauty and education.

The Packer Mascot represents Omaha South High.

Animals represent The Stockyards and Omaha Steaks (Beef, Lamb and Pork).

Tracks represent The Union Pacific Railroad and progress.

Piccolo Player represents Piccolo Pete’s and Italian Restaurants.

Native American Chief and Dancer with Movie Strips represent the Silver Age and Entertainment.

Bowlers represent Leisure Lanes, Vinton Bowl and Chops.

Cone represents Zesto's Ice-cream Shop.

Baked Goodies represent the Lithuanian Bakery and other ethnic bakeries.

The Baseball Player represents just one of the many neighborhood family restaurants: Shortstop's.

The church represents St. Stan's, St. Mary's, Assumption and many others.

The Ferris Wheel represents festivals and Cinco de Mayo.

Musical Instruments and Dancer represents Mariachi, as well as Polka Bands.

Music notes throughout, because it never seems dull or quiet within South O.

As one can see, South Omaha entails a wide range of businesses, music, foods, entertainment, religion and PEOPLE. I am proud to say, " I AM South O!"