

Benjamin Moore & Dick Weiss

Reemergence, 2008

Blown and leaded glass window, six panels
6 ¼ ft. high x 14 ½ ft. wide
Pierce County 1% for Art Program; PFA 012
Location: Emergency Operations Center
2501 Building, S 35th St, Tacoma, WA



A river of brightly colored, hand blown glass disks appear to flow above the main entrance to the new Pierce County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Known as *Reemergence*, the six-paned, leaded-glass window was created by Seattle artists Benjamin Moore and Dick Weiss in response to the work being carried out by the emergency response team. The glass disks (or “rondells”) have been split in half and joined with a different half along common axial lines that converge at the bottom of the composition.



Moore and Weiss felt this was an appropriate metaphor for the diversity of Pierce County’s population and the EOC’s efforts to help the community manage and recover from disaster. “We reconfigured the cut halves into new ‘wholes’,” Moore says, “These new circles are intentionally not perfectly aligned, yet they are strong and beautiful. They all re-emerge into a soft, floating “net” design. The design is intended to suggest strength, renewal and flexibility in an uncertain world, just as the EOC does.” The overall effect is one of uplift and hope. During the day, the window casts multi-hued light throughout the entry space, while in the evening, the window glows from within like a magnificent lantern.

Moore, a glass blower, created the glass rondells, while Weiss, a stained-glass artist, cut and recombined the rondells into the leaded window. When asked about their collaborative process, Moore says, “Together, we created a design that both does honor to the E.O.C. and its’ mission, while integrating the concept of ‘reemergence’ into the entryway of the newly redesigned EOC facility.”

Through a lasting legacy of publicly held artwork, the Pierce County Public Art Program, administered by Pierce County Arts & Cultural Services Division and advised by the Pierce County Arts Commission, serves our mission to bring art into the lives of all Pierce County residents. Pierce County’s One Percent for Art ordinance directs publicly-funded construction projects with costs exceeding \$100,000 to allocate on percent of the project budget for public art.

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