

BLUE SKY

**REX & JOAN IRVING BRANDT'S
STUDIO & RESIDENCE**

COMMEMORATIVE MARKER

Blue Sky

1996 Sketch
By
Rex Brandt



Goldenrod
Avenue

Proposed
Marker
Location

Bayside
Drive

11-2-95
from
Xerox
see previous
p. 23

Goldenrod Avenue Street End

September 14, 2014



GOAL:

Create a Commemorative Marker that identifies the site of BLUE SKY, studio and residence of REX and JOAN IRVING BRANDT, and recognizes their part in the artistic heritage of Newport Beach.

Neighborhood Concerns

- **Fit and Integration**
- **Presence**
- **Include Art**
- **Meaning and Symbolism**
- **Maintainability**

Proposed Commemorative Marker

Stone faced pedestal with sloped precast concrete cap that has a flush mounted bronze plaque. The pedestal will be roughly centered in the landscaped area at the end of Goldenrod Avenue. The area will be relandscaped to blend with the adjacent area and leaving the existing rose hedge.

(The pedestal design is similar to that used for the Mesa-Birch Park)

Simulation of the Commemorative Marker Pedestal with new landscaping and trash receptacle.



13" x 19" Bronze Plaque

The City Seal was
designed by
REX BRANDT
and adopted by the
City Council in 1957.

Ripples of water symbolize
the ocean and bay.

Sailboats glide through the
waters of our recreational
and yachting resort.

Two albacore represent the
city's origin as a fishing
village.

The surrounding circle with
four cardinal compass points
unites the nautical theme.



BLUE SKY

Rex & Joan Brandt's
Studio
and
Residence



Blue Sky, once located on the bluff to the right, was the home and studio of California Scene painters Rex Brandt (1914-2000) and Joan Irving Brandt (1916-1995). For nearly 40 years, Blue Sky was the site of the Summer School of Painting, where Rex and Joan instructed countless students in the art of watercolor painting.

The Brandts and Blue Sky are a significant part of Newport Beach's artistic heritage. Rex was acclaimed as an artist, teacher, and writer. He is considered to be one of the central figures in California art during the mid-20th century. Joan is nationally recognized for her work depicting local scenes, and her sensitive portraits of women and children. Both Rex and Joan served on the Library Board of Trustees during the 1940s and 1950s, and were active in the founding of the Newport Harbor Art Museum.

It was at Blue Sky where Brandt and Irving were able to create the elegant, naturalistic paintings that captured the feel and beauty of mid-century California for which they are renowned.

The proposed pedestal design, location and plaque wording has been reviewed with the two property owners that expressed concerns with the boulder marker concept.

Their responses:

Don, it looks really great to me! In addition to the pedestal effect, I really like your redesign of the plaque, combining both pieces into one cohesive whole.

Thanks for your efforts: I have a renewed faith in municipal process!
Best, Kathryn

looks pretty nice (Dr. Marcus)

Comments from David Aeppli of Display Services, consultant for sculpture installation at Civic Center Park:

I stopped at Mesa Birch Park today and took a look at the pedestal and dedication plaque there. I think that it is really nice and classy and not too ostentatious. I think it would blend in nicely at the location on Goldenrod. I really like how the dedication plaque is inset into the concrete top. That acts as a significant theft preventative measure. There is a market for "scrap" bronze. A benefit to this design is it would need virtually no maintenance. I did Google Rex Brandt and I think this design works well.

Proposed Commemorative Marker

Goal Met ✓

Neighborhood Concerns Met ✓

Recommendation:

Approve the stone faced pedestal design with a precast concrete cap and flush mounted bronze plaque to be installed at the end of Goldenrod Avenue with enhanced landscaping.