

## Giraffe sculpture arrives in downtown

By: Barbara Henry - Staff Writer

CARLSBAD ---- Downtown's newest occupant has beautiful big brown eyes and a very long tongue.

Meet Kazi, the giraffe statue that arrived Wednesday in front of the Carlsbad Animal Hospital at 2739 State St.

Made to resemble the head and neck of one member of the San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park's herd of long-legged mammals, Kazi is on temporary loan from artist Claudio Derungs. Prior to its downtown appearance, the statue was exhibited at the San Diego Natural History Museum in San Diego's Balboa Park.

Derungs said Thursday that he heard about a new campaign to bring more public art to downtown Carlsbad and decided to offer his sculpture, which stands roughly 7 feet tall when the base is included. Placed in a planter, the giraffe peers out from the palm fronds in front of the vet hospital.

"I'm happy to make it available until (the campaign) really starts to happen," Derungs said.

Mikki Royce, executive director of the Carlsbad Village Business Mainstreet Association, said her association was pleased to have the offer. The association is responsible for starting a nonprofit organization that's managing the Art-in-the-Village campaign.

Proposed last year, the effort involves placing some 30 sculptures, murals or other artistic items along downtown streets.

Campaign organizers are hosting a vintage masquerade ball Feb. 25 to raise money to install the artwork. During the ball, people can view the works of some 60 artists, Royce said. Tickets cost \$60 in advance or \$75 at the door.

Royce said she hopes the new giraffe whets people's appetites for more public art.

"I'm hoping this will take away people's trepidation based on hazy memories of the past of what outdoor art can be," she said.

Once the center of a huge controversy for a waterfront public art piece that was eventually ripped out, Carlsbad has been experiencing an artistic renaissance of late, with many new sculptures being placed in city parks.

Derungs said he had the idea for his bronze giraffe while visiting the Wild Animal Park's giraffe feeding area. He wanted to touch the animals and wasn't allowed to, so he made a sculpture



*Pedestrians walk past a sculpture of a giraffe's head and neck on State Street in Carlsbad on Thursday.*  
**HAYNE PALMOUR IV** Staff Photographer  
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people could touch, he said.

The downtown giraffe sculpture has a sister piece ---- it's located right next to the Wild Animal Park's giraffe feeding area, he said.

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For information on the artist: <http://www.claudioderungs.com>.

For information on the masquerade ball: <http://shopcarlsbadvillage.org/news/>