



# GET TO KNOW YOUR PUBLIC ART

## Scott Donahue's *Touching Earth* at the Richmond Branch Library

Scott Donahue's *Touching Earth* was inspired by the fact that everyone living in the Bay Area, or their ancestors, arrived here from elsewhere using different modes of travel. The artist himself initially rode into the Bay Area on a bicycle.

Located on either side of the walkway leading to the 9th Avenue entrance, the sculptures are two concrete vessels covered with bronze epoxy domes, each of which is a relief map of the Bay Area. The dome on the south side sculpture is like a fisheye lens depicting the historical Bay Area, prior to the construction of the Golden Gate and Bay bridges. The small inset illustrations depict a few of the ways people have reached the Bay Area in the past: by foot, horse, ship, wood-burning locomotive and a prairie schooner.



The relief map on the sculpture on the north side of the walkway provides a closer contemporary view of the Bay Area with the Richmond Branch Library highlighted in the center. More modern methods of transportation are illustrated here, including a jet



heading towards the San Francisco Airport, a bicyclist, a ferry, automobiles and the 38 Geary bus.



The Arts Commission commissioned *Touching Earth* for the San Francisco Public Library as part of the Branch Library Improvement Program. Artist Scott Donahue and his proposal were selected through a community-based process in 2005.



Images courtesy of the artist.