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## Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk  
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"Under the Living Rock," Artist Samm Kunce's classical hanging garden of Venetian glass and striated granite at an entrance to the Metro Rail Civic Center station, is an oasis for thousands of transit riders and passers-by. And, a poem runs through it.



PHOTOS BY ROXANNE TAN

## Art Transforms Wall into Urban Respite at Civic Center Station

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(Sept. 8, 2003) A hanging garden composed of glass and granite has transformed the First and Hill Street entrance to the Civic Center Metro Rail station into a lush landscape.

Artist Samm Kunce, whose work was completed August 29, was inspired by plant form, the shift of geologic layers and the beauty of organic forms.

The hanging garden, brilliant in hues of green, violet and red, is a mosaic of Venetian cake glass supported in an expanse of striated sand-colored granite.

A contrasting black granite ribbon etched with a passage from the Roman poet Ovid runs through the center of the piece. The mural runs the length of the 160-foot curved wall that frames the stairway and escalator entrance to the subway station.



A garden of stone and glass soothes the urban soul at Civic Center Station.

## National call for artists

Kunce is a Brooklyn-based artist

selected for the project by a panel commissioned by Metro Art. Her proposal for the classical garden in a seating area was chosen from some 198 proposals submitted in a national call for artists.



Under the direct supervision of Kunce, local subcontractors installed the intricate tile artwork in nearly six weeks.

The 63 Metro Rail stations and Gateway Transit Center feature the work of more than 85 artists commissioned to enhance the 73.1-mile transit system.

Metro policy allocates 0.5 percent of rail construction costs to the enhancement of the rail system through the arts.