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## On the Waterfront



Rock Lobster



Moonsnails

## Industrial Park Is Getting Artsy

by Julie Watfield

South Boston's Marine Industrial Park is becoming more of a park, thanks to the Boston Art Commission.

Because the commission recently spon-

sored a contest asking New England artists to create outdoor art sculptures that "evoke the concept of inventiveness or ecology" and help boost the city's plan to create a hip "Innovation District" across the waterfront, three new sculptures have graced the

park at 12 Channel Street.

"Rock Lobster," a pair of 72-inch-high stone lobster claws sculpted by Maine stone carver Craig Berube-Gray, stand at one entrance to the park. Gray said he envisioned the lobster, like the City of Boston developing this district, "grabbing firmly onto its future."

Further up the road sit Vermont artist Marisa DiPaola's "Moonsnails," five little white stone snails enhanced by LED lighting, which allows them to change colors at night. DiPaola envisioned her snails as "climbing out of the water and exploring Marine Industrial Park."

At the entrance to the park across the street from the Design Center sits a large yellow and orange wood, steel and pigment arch that seems at first glance to resemble some sort of Thai religious symbol. Called "Arch III, Gateway," the curved 12-by-9-foot structure is by artist Ann Jon

of Becket, Mass.

"The art and architecture of nature, and the nature of art and architecture, are of great interest and inspiration to me," said Jon. "'Arch III, Gateway' was inspired by the natural stone arches formed by wind and water, my gateway to the canyons of the Southwest."

Two-dozen artists responded to the contest, which awarded the winners a total of \$10,000 to help pay for installation, moving and insurance for their artwork. The three winning sculptures will remain in Marine Industrial Park until the summer of 2012, after which they may be sold, with new ones, commission members hope, coming in to replace them.

"The goal is to create a gateway for the Marine Industrial Park so that people recognize the place and start thinking about bringing more art down there," said Karin Goodfellow of the Boston Art Commission.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY