

Gates of Opportunity

LOOKING AT ART:

- Examine the original photograph of the **Gates of Opportunity** and compare it to your own observations at the site and with the recent color photograph. Describe in detail the changes in the surrounding area and landscape.
- For many years the sculptures were thought to be a pair of lions, a male and a female, but recent research into the clay models used reveals that the northern sculpture is probably a tiger. Look carefully at each sculpture, then list the characteristics of each taking special note of the differences between the two figures.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

- Research the philosophy behind E.G. Lewis' concept for University City as an "ideal community." Describe the type of community he envisioned and whether it became a reality.
- Pick a new urban housing development in St. Louis, such as the one being built on the old Darst Webbe public housing site or a suburban development such as Wildwood, and research its conception. Write a paper comparing University City's original development plan and the 2003 development plan researched above.

LANGUAGE ARTS:

- Research the roles lions and tigers play in world mythology. Give a class presentation on the subject.
- Working with a partner, write a conversation between the lion and the tiger as they talk about the changes in the landscape that they've observed over the years from their vantage point on top of the pylons. Extension: Write a biographical sketch of E.G. Lewis and Julian Zolney.

SCIENCE/MATH/TECHNOLOGY:

- The original cast cement sculptures sat on limestone pylons. What are the characteristics of limestone? Where is it quarried and what are its uses? When was cement introduced as a building material? What is the composition of cement and by what process is it made?
- By 1991 the badly deteriorated casts were leaning dramatically on their hollow stone pylons. That same year they were straightened, and the animal figures replaced with lightweight replica casts in fiberglass. Research the process of casting three-dimensional forms in fiberglass.

PERFORMING ARTS:

- Choreograph a dance for two people with one person taking the role of a lion and one a tiger that have been given the task of guarding University City.
- Take the role of a real estate agent trying to sell a building lot in the new subdivision of University City in 1909. Change the year to 2003 and take the role of a real estate agent trying to sell a University City house.

ART PROJECT IDEAS:

- Make a clay model of an animal to be your guardian figure. Design and make a base for it to sit on. Extension for high school: Make a urethane mold of the figure and cast it in cement.
- Over the past 94 years the **Gates of Opportunity** have become a vital part of University City's identity. In fact, a stylized lion serves as the logo for the City. Look at University City's lion logo as well as other city logos. Make a chart of 10 different city logos. As a group, interpret the concept or the message the logo images convey. Hold an election among classmates to see which logo is most visually and conceptually effective. Extension: Students design their own logos for an ideal community of the 21st century. The community's name will be decided upon by the group.