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Music in the Air

Temporary Balloon
Museum art
resonates, shines

Journal Staff Report

An art installation now stands where city planners once envisioned a reflecting pool.

The Balloon Museum this week became home to "Spiral Resonance," a piece by Nashville artist and Vanderbilt University professor David Wood. It includes white poles topped with solar lights and features two harps that resonate with the wind.

"It adds something very interesting to our north landscape here," museum director Jeff Cooper-Smith said. "It certainly will be very visible during Balloon Fiesta, and we hope it'll be something that attracts people into the museum from Balloon Fiesta Park."

The installation sits north of the museum, where crews had started to dig a hole for a reflecting pool. City councilors forced the mayoral administration in 2007 to halt the pool project over concerns about its cost and water use.

The art installation is part of a "Land/Art" project featuring work in Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Mountainair, the museum said. Wood received a grant to pay for the project.

"Spiral Resonance" will be up through Nov. 1. The city is still considering its options for something more permanent north of the museum, Cooper-Smith said.

The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. year-round, except Mondays. The installation is said to be striking when viewed from the air or at night.

The white poles lie in a large dirt depression, the only sign of the halted excavation for a pool.



MARLA BRUCE/JOURNAL

"Spiral Resonance," a temporary sculpture, has been installed at what was once to be a reflecting pool at the Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum. The sculpture is made from solar lights that glow at night, two Aeolian harps that hum when the wind blows and laserdiscs.