

December 16, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

Public Works to tumble the Tumbler at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday

Ever wondered about the large, brown steel structure on Park Central Square?

City of Springfield Assistant Public Works Director Jonathan Gano learned its origins when he was doing research on Park Central Square last year.

Hoping to find out if the structure had a name, Gano tracked down the art piece's sculptor, Aris Demetrios.

Gano contacted Demetrios by e-mail, and said within five minutes, the 81-year-old artist responded from an iPhone in Montecito, Calif.

"I was shocked to get an answer so quickly. Not only did I find out the name of the piece was the Tumbler, but I also found out it was named that because it was supposed to be re-oriented every season, so in effect, you have a new piece of art," he said. "It inspired a lot of commentary, conversation and even a little bit of controversy when it arrived."

The Tumbler was installed on the square in 1971 and is regarded as Springfield's first piece of modern art. Creation of the Tumbler was funded by an arts patron identified as "Mrs. Monroe Swyers," who reportedly donated \$15,000. Demetrios said that barely covered the cost of steel to make it.

Public Works will rotate the Tumbler for the winter season at 7:30 a.m. tomorrow.

View CityView's [video about the Tumbler](#).

About Aris Demetrios

Aris Demetrios has numerous works of public art on display in prominent locations around the world, including Bataan Memorial on Corregidor Island in Philippines, the 92' Wind Harp in South San Francisco, the 80' sculpture Cosmos and the fountain Peirine in New York.

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