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Brahma Sculpture Hits the Bulls-eye

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There's a new bull in town; he looms more than 15 feet in the sky and his muscles of steel are poised to charge. To keep everyone safe, he's still behind construction fencing as part of the Mall Renovation Project, but is easily spotted just beyond the Library, dead-center on the Mall and facing true north.

Pierce College's dynamic new icon has arrived – the Brahma Bull Sculpture, erected November 12, 2010.

Made out of plates of weathering Corten steel, he weighs 10,000 pounds. Atop a 6'-8" high concrete pedestal in the center of campus, the new bull stands 8'-8" high and stretches 14'-6" from head to tail. The plates that comprise the body are 2", 3" and 4" thick; the head is 10" thick.

The flesh-and-blood American Brahma Bull is recognized by a distinct large hump over the top of the shoulder and neck, wide curving horns and a loose flap of skin hanging from the neck. The sturdy, adaptable breed can endure heat and insects, which made it attractive to American ranchers after being imported from India in the 1850s. Bulls weigh 1,600 to 2,200 pounds and are known as a docile, intelligent breed of beef cattle.

The Brahma has always been Pierce College's mascot and has taken many forms since the college's founding as an agriculture school in 1947. This incarnation of the mascot was originally created by Ikkanda Design for Pierce athletic teams in the early 2000's. It became so popular it is now the emblem representing the entire college, and can be seen on buildings, flags, t-shirts, brochures, banners, posters, mugs— and now, a majestic statue.

The Brahma Bull Sculpture was designed by Berliner and Associates and is a three-dimensional interpretation of the Pierce Brahma logo.

The Corten steel plate material was chosen because of its suitability for outdoor use and durability. Corten steel is often used in the construction of bridges, buildings, and sculptures. Over the next few months and years the bright silver color will naturally rust to a dark russet which will protect the sculpture from further deterioration. The warm reddish color will tie the Bull into the campus color palette of paving, red clay tiles, and warm colored stucco.

The orientation of the sculpture is true north, slightly off-axis from the Mall, positioned so that those traveling either direction on the Mall or coming down the stairs from the upper campus will have a good view.

The cast stone pedestal will be surrounded by native flowers and engraved with the Pierce College name and date of the college's founding.

The Bull was fabricated by Dynamic Fabrication, Inc. in Fontana and the general contractor is United Contractors Company. The team at Berliner and Associates included Richard Berliner, Mike Frey, Mike Kreski, Mark Hembree and Lautaro Galvez.

Phase II of the Mall Renovation stretches from the Library to Lot 7 and will feature the same pavers and lighting fixtures that were installed on the first half of the Mall (beginning at Brahma Drive), along with new seating areas, shade structures, a water feature and a giant sundial. It is scheduled to open in December.

