

Glebe Point Road Public Art Project
2006 to the present

Glebe Public School, Foley Park, Bicentennial Park

Commissioned artists: Nuha Saad, Nigel Helyer, Allan Giddy

In 2006 the City of Sydney commenced an upgrade program for Glebe Point Road in the suburb of Glebe, Sydney. The program entailed major road and sidewalk improvements, and included public art projects for three key venues, the Glebe Public School, Foley Park and Bicentennial Park.

The commissioning process involved inviting submissions from a number of established and emerging Sydney artists.

In 2008, Nuha Saad completed her project titled 'Skippedy Skip', the main fence of the Glebe Public School fronting Glebe Point Road. The school has a long history in the community, dating to the 1860s.

Nigel Helyer, completed his project for 'The Wireless House' in Foley Park in 2009. The Wireless House is a small brick building in the park, built in 1934 to provide radio broadcasts for the local community. A wireless set was donated at the time by a department store to be operated in the Wireless House so that local people who could not afford to buy radios might sit in the park and listen to the programs of the period. The artist has established a WiFi network in the park broadcasting oral histories from the community. The Wireless House automatically detects visitors on approach and randomly selects audio sequences from a large database of archival material.

The third project, Allan Giddy's 'Earth versus Sky', proposes to illuminate two large Moreton Bay fig trees in Bicentennial Park. The elaborate lighting scheme, powered by a windmill generator, will project a range of coloured lights responding to the prevailing hues in the dusk sky.