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Wednesday, June 4, 2008 - 12:20 PM MST

## Scottsdale Council approves final funding for Paolo Soleri bridge

Phoenix Business Journal - by [Jan Buchholz](#)

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The Scottsdale City Council gave final approval Wednesday to provide \$1.7 million in funding for a pedestrian bridge designed by famed architect and eco-designer Paolo Soleri.

The bridge will cross the Arizona Canal west of Scottsdale Road near the Scottsdale Waterfront development. Construction is set to begin in the fall.

The bridge funding and construction are the result of a collaboration of the city, developers of the Scottsdale Waterfront mixed-use development and the private, nonprofit Scottsdale Public Art organization. The bridge will be enhanced by a 22,000-square-foot public plaza.

Soleri established his reputation as an avant-garde artist of international fame here in the Valley. The Italian-born artist moved to Scottsdale in 1956 and has been involved in numerous futuristic projects, including a prototype town called Arcosanti, located north of the Valley near Cordes Junction.

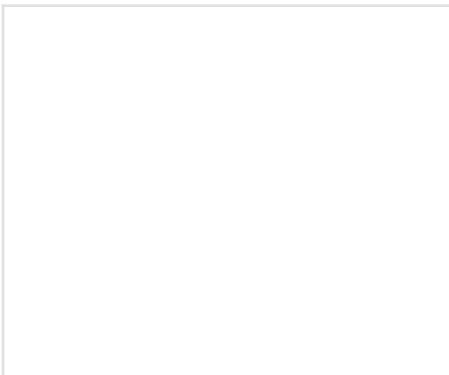
"Scottsdale Public Art is honored and privileged to have such a revered cultural icon contributing to the community," Valerie Vadala Homer, program director for Scottsdale Public Art, said in a news release.

This is the first bridge Soleri has designed. It will include motifs and metaphors related to the sun and celestial events.

"It will feature two steel-clad, 64-foot pylons that will generate a light beam on the walking surface of the bridge to mark solar events and reiterate the connection of humans to the environment, light and architecture," said the new release. "The plaza on the south side of the canal features a second set of pylons, which will house the largest bell assemblage ever created by the artist. Cast bronze bells are the signature retail item of Soleri's Cosanti studio."

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