



BONNIE & MIKE'S WHIMSICAL GARDEN
April 16th - Near Tanque Verde and Wentworth

Bonnie and Mike purchased this home 42 years ago. They left the native vegetation existing on the property and started adding drought tolerant plants and cacti to conserve water and attract wildlife. They have added 6 saguaros and many hedgehogs and mammillaria from TCSS rescue sales. Growing up, their children made natural pathways with their bikes in the front yard and those paths helped determine the initial



landscape design. Throughout the many areas of their property you will see that they enjoy collecting items at flea markets and antique shops to add eye catching whimsy to their garden. As you approach the house you'll find an inviting sitting area with a colorful pots filled with specimen plants and an attractive ocotillo cane screen for privacy.

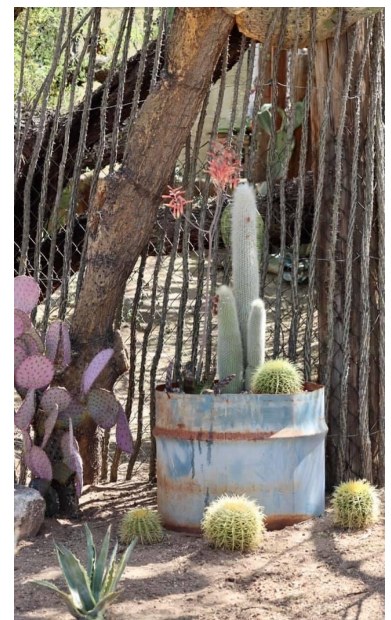
Shaded by a sprawling mesquite, they created an enclosed Barrio garden in the center of the front yard that includes a shrine, colorful flowers and herbs reminding them of their childhoods growing up on the south side of Tucson. Mid-century motel chairs rest on salvaged brick paving from old downtown buildings.



Entering their side and back yards you'll find an inviting pool accented with a border of golden barrels and mature prickly pear. A colorful Tangerine Cross Beauty vine covers an ocotillo fence on one side and a 3D ocean themed ocotillo cane 'mural' serves as background for a variety of desert plants in the pool area. You will see ocotillo canes used in so many areas throughout this tour.



Bonnie and Mike created and maintain their garden together, embracing a desert landscape with fun and whimsical accents. Their garden is registered as a wildlife habitat through the National Federation of Wildlife and they have shared their creative and whimsical landscape with others on both TBG and Master Gardeners' tours and magazine and news articles.



Partial handicap access