



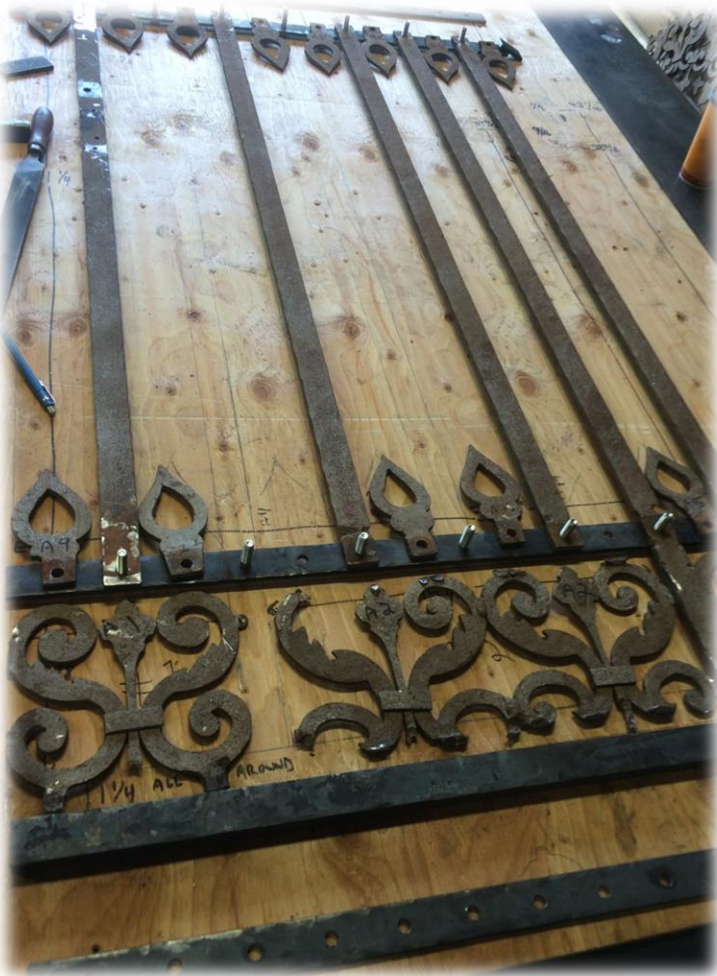
## **Restoring the Southampton Arts Center Gates**



Last December, we were approached by a private building company with the request to restore and refinish a pair of antique entry gates. These beautiful turn of the century style gates have stood on the grounds of the now landmarked Southampton Arts Center (formerly Samuel L. Parrish Art Museum) building since its original construction in 1897. After viewing the gates, we knew that it would take our unique expertise to restore them and stay true to their original historical integrity.



After closely assessing the gates, we found that the frames, crossbars, and some of the infill were badly rusted and required either extensive repair or in some cases, complete replacement in certain areas. Here, you can see an overview of the rust, wear and damage.



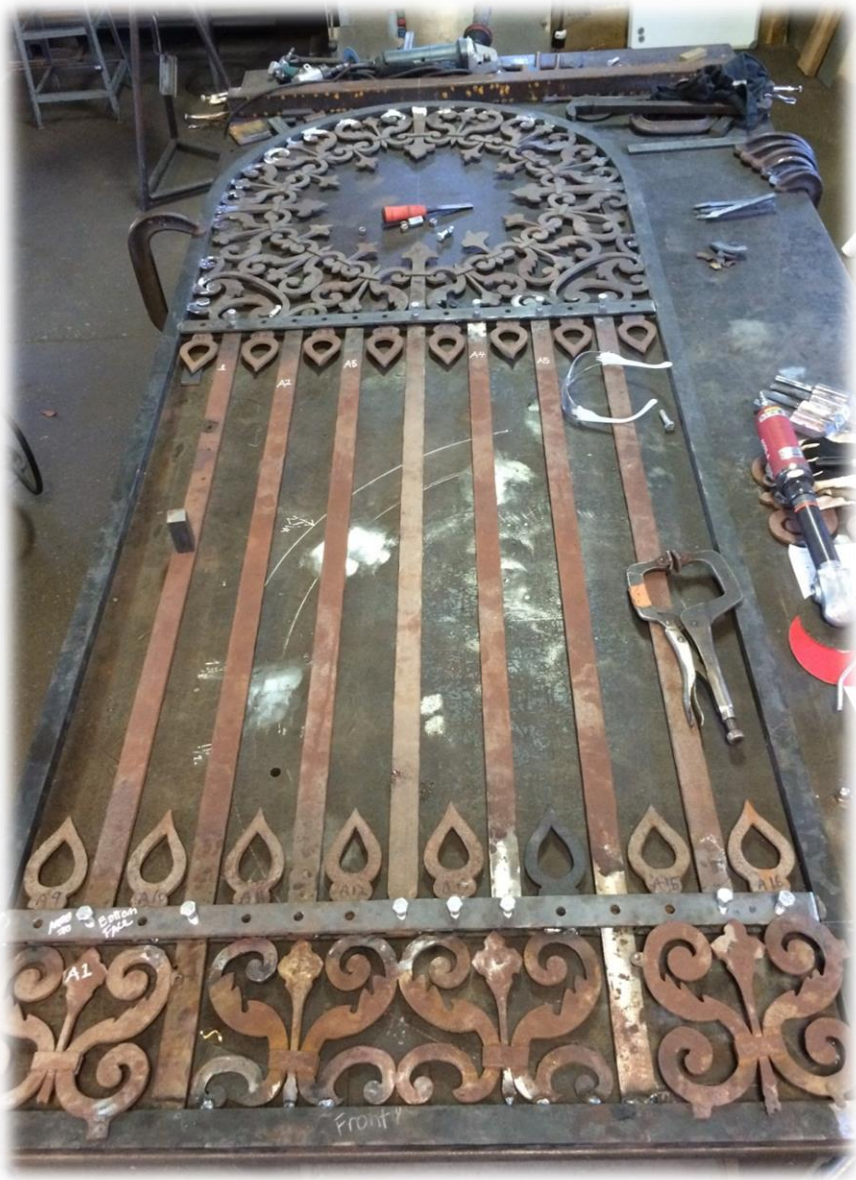
Once assessed, the gates were then completely disassembled. During this process, we found that all of the metal components within the gates were held together with mechanical connections. The majority of these connections were riveted together so each rivet had to be drilled out individually.

We then carefully cataloged all dismantled components noting their original locations for reassembly. Plywood templates of the original gates were also created so that our craftspeople could lay out each piece as they were being repaired.





Our next step was to replace some of the forged elements that were either missing or too damaged to be restored. Above are a series of photos that illustrate the various traditional blacksmithing techniques and tools that were necessary to make some of the pieces.



Once every component had been replaced or repaired, they were reassembled on our fabrication table and prepared to be riveted back together. Much like building a puzzle, each piece had to be fitted properly in order to ensure the accurate assembly of the gate.

Prior to riveting, the gate was assembled using bolts to ensure correct alignment and fit. One by one, the bolts were removed and replaced with a rivet. These rivets were then heated with a torch and “headed” using a pneumatic gun.





Here are the restored gates re-installed in their original locations complete with a new latches, custom hinges, metalized and painted finish. They are now ready to withstand years of service.



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