

Art and Airports

For immediate release

Tampa, Fla. (February 24, 1999) - - "Enhancing the travel experience for our customers was one of the main reasons that we decided to establish a public art program for Tampa International Airport," explained Hillsborough County Aviation Authority Vice Chairman and Art Committee member Arthenia L. Joyner. "We wanted to present a Florida, historical and cultural art theme throughout our airports."

On July 9, 1998, the Aviation Authority adopted the Public Art Program. First on the Art Committee's agenda was to select an artist to provide glass artwork for the Tampa International Airport Chapel which opened in October, 1998. Local artist Yvonne Barlog was selected to create this significant piece for the Chapel.

The Art Committee's next assignment was a "call to artist" to develop, design and install a band of artwork at the top of each saltwater tank for the two Marine Exhibits being installed in the Airport's red and blue baggage claim level. In addition, the Committee initiated a "call to artist" for an outdoor sculpture for the new Vandenberg Airport general aviation facility, situated in eastern Hillsborough County. The artwork budget for the Marine Exhibits is \$15,000 each and the Vandenberg sculpture is \$45,000.

The final art selection committee, consisting of Arthenia L. Joyner; Louis E. Miller; Ted Corwin, City of Tampa, Public Art Program Coordinator; Renee A. Williams, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, City of Tampa; and Gregory C. Yadley, City of Tampa Public Art Committee Chairman, unanimously selected the following artists:

- Josh Johnson and Elle Terry Leonard, Architectural Ceramics, Sarasota, FL

Marine Exhibit, Blue Side

- E. Joseph McCarthy, Custom Tile Studio, Turners Falls, MA

Marine Exhibit, Red Side

- Dominique Labauvie, Tampa, FL (previously Paris, France)

Vandenberg Airport Sculpture

"By enlisting the involvement of the local art community and experts in various artistic media in the selection process, the Committee has selected some very talented artists. I cannot think of a better way to enhance Tampa International Airport than through the vision and creativity of artists," expressed Louis E. Miller, Executive Director, HCAA.

The artwork for the marine exhibits, along with the Florida Aquarium providing a typical Caribbean Community Coral Reef System, are scheduled for completion in May. The Vandenberg sculpture is scheduled for installation by June, 1999.

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