



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BOWWOW HAUS KICKS OFF AT TAMPA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT!**

**Tampa, FL** – For years, architects and artists have been using their creative talents to design and build functional dog houses for their four-legged friends. This phenomenon has been commonly referred to as "Barkitecture."

This winter, The Outdoor Arts Foundation and the Humane Society of Tampa Bay are joining forces to bring "BowWow Haus" to the Tampa Bay Area. The project was conceived to give local architects and artists a chance to display their creative skills to a wide audience and to help raise funds for charity.

Over the summer, thirty-eight of the Bay Area's most renowned architects, artists, contactors and builders signed on to design and build funky yet functional dog houses.

At noon on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, BowWow Haus will officially kick off when eighteen of the dog houses will be unveiled at Tampa International Airport. Participating architects and artists will be on hand along with Airport officials and project organizers from the Outdoor Arts Foundation and Humane Society of Tampa Bay.

Thirteen more dog houses will be unveiled at Westshore Plaza on January 13<sup>th</sup>, six more will be unveiled at Ruth Eckerd Hall on January 19<sup>th</sup> and one dog house will tour eight participating Publix Supermarkets. Dog houses will remain on display at TPA, Westshore Plaza, Ruth Eckerd Hall and Publix until the end of April at which time they will all move to the Wyndham Harbour Island hotel. The project will culminate with a gala auction to benefit both the Humane Society of Tampa Bay and the Outdoor Arts Foundation on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

During the display period, an official guide to BowWow Haus entitled "Barkitectural Record" will be distributed, free of charge, to visitors at TPA and Westshore Plaza and a variety of retail shops throughout the Tampa Bay Area.

For more information regarding BowWow Haus, please contact Jay Goulde at (727) 723-8620. Beginning in January, dog houses can also be viewed on the official website located at [www.outdoorartsfoundation.com](http://www.outdoorartsfoundation.com).