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For Information
Brenda S. Geoghagan *Director of Public Information and Community Relations*
813-870-8707

NEWS RELEASE

Slow Down! Watch for Manatees

TAMPA, Fla. (February 21, 2006) – It’s unusual to hear the words “slow down” at today’s busy U.S. airports – but at Tampa International Airport it’s a must! Nearly 30 whimsical and art inspired manatees are on display for the viewing pleasure of Airport patrons until late summer 2006.

Lettuce Tell You About “Manatee Menagerie”

Following the success of the Tampa Bay Tour of Turtles, BowWow Haus and Chairs for Charity projects, the Outdoor Arts Foundation has introduced “Manatee Menagerie”. Local artists and students have collaborated to paint and decorate the fiberglass manatee forms. This creative project raises awareness about the plight of the West Indian manatees found throughout Florida and showcases the work of amazing artists while beautifying the Tampa Bay area with art.

“The manatee exhibit enhances the travel experience for Airport patrons,” stated Louis E. Miller, Executive Director of Tampa International Airport. “It’s fun to see people’s reaction to the manatees. The exhibit is a great extension of the Airport’s Public Art Program”.

The Manatees have been on tour throughout the Tampa Bay Area. In November 2006, after their visit at the Airport, they will migrate to the auction block with



Louis E. Miller *Executive Director*

Tampa International Airport P.O. Box 22287 Tampa, Florida 33622 phone 813-870-8700 fax 813-875-6670 www.TampaAirport.com
Peter O. Knight Airport Plant City Airport Vandenberg Airport

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proceeds benefiting the Save the Manatee Club and the Outdoor Arts Foundation.

Save the Manatee Club (SMC) was established in 1981 by former Florida Governor Bob Graham and singer/songwriter Jimmy Buffett. SMC was started so the public could participate in conservation efforts to save endangered manatees from extinction.

The Outdoor Arts Foundation is an innovative non-profit, community-based arts organization that was formed in June 2002.

Tampa International Airport adopted its public art program July 1998. The Public Art Committee was created for the purpose of establishing a Public Art Program to enhance the appearance of the Airports under the Aviation Authority's control by presenting a Florida, historical and cultural theme to users of the Airport System.

For further information visit www.OutdoorArtsFoundation.com ,
www.SaveTheManatee.org or www.TampaAirport.com .

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