

TampaPublicArt



Project Title:	Photographer Laureate for 2007, The Big Picture photo project
Artist:	Marion Belanger
Year Completed:	2008
Materials & Dimensions:	photographic prints
Commissioning Agency:	City of Tampa, Public Art Program
Location:	City Limits



The purpose of the commission was to commission an artist to photograph and respond to life in the City of Tampa. The Photographer Laureate Program is inspired by historic photographic projects including the Farm Workers Administration, the National Endowment for the Arts, and regional Photographic Archives. The program's long-range vision is to build a public collection comprised of images that are representative

of the life and times in Tampa, by regional, national and international photographers.

**Artist's Concept:
Real Estate / Spaces in
Transition**

"For many years I have been interested in the concepts of persistence and change, and in the way that boundaries demarcate difference, particularly in regards to the land. I have primarily photographed in places where wildness gave

way to the built, and this is what I had intended to seek out in Tampa. However, after walking the streets of downtown I was impressed by the number of empty buildings, especially in contrast to the significant amount of new construction occurring in the city. Similar to many other cities, downtown Tampa had been forsaken to chain stores, strip malls, and suburban developments. Now the city is experiencing resurgence in downtown

real estate, and it is the transformation of the old, and the building of the new, that is the focus of my project."

The City of Tampa's Public Art Program promotes the involvement of artists in projects throughout the city that enhance the physical environment and celebrate Tampa's unique character and identity. The Program is part of the City of Tampa, Art Programs Division.