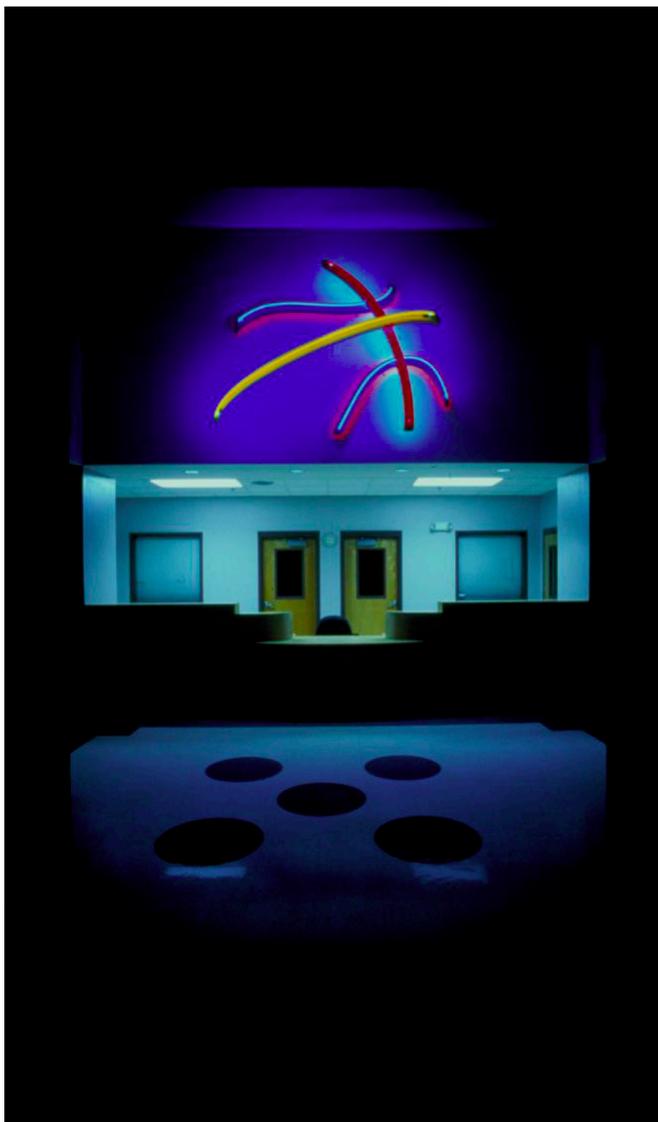


TampaPublicArt



Project Title:	Grip
Artist:	Richard E. Santiago (American, 1948)
Subject or Theme:	Neon lighting, wall installation
Year Completed:	2002
Materials:	Neon, aluminum tubing
Commissioning Agency:	City of Tampa, Public Art Program
Architect/Design Professional:	James Jackson, AIA, City of Tampa Architect
Location:	Jackson Heights Community Center, 3310 East Lake Avenue



Project Description

This 13,000 sq ft. facility is a YET Center (Youth * Education * Town), an educational and recreational facility for at risk youth. The NFL/YET center in Tampa opened in May of 2002. As part of its ongoing efforts to touch the lives of young people and leave permanent legacy in each community that hosts a Super Bowl game, the National Football League created the YET Center Concept at Super Bowl XXVII in Los Angeles in 1993. Cities with NFL YET Centers include: Atlanta, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, Phoenix, and now Tampa.

Artist Concept

"High relief, three-dimensional, form advances into the space. The element of line dominates the plane to contrast the solid shapes of the floor motif. The implied circle complements this pattern. Emphasis of the arch echoes the curved roofline at the entrance. Selected are primary colors for their basic appeal and open-ended interpretation. The content overall is that the theme becomes the lessons we pass on to our youth. I selected the word "grip" for the way the ball is handled, which determines the course of the game. A metaphor of how we take control of our lives." - Richard Santiago

In addition to this installation, the NFL and the Tampa Museum of Art donated 20 photographs of great football imagery to the center.

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