## Tampa Public Art

**Project Title:** Photographer Laureate for 2003, THE BIG PICTURE photo project

**Artist for 2003:** Beth Reynolds

**Year Completed:** 2003

Materials:digital imagery, prints, websiteCommissioning Agency:City of Tampa Public Art Program

**Location:** City Limits **Budget:** \$25,000









The purpose of this project was to commission an artist to photograph and respond to life in the City of Tampa. This project is inspired by the Burgett Brothers Photographic Archive<sup>1</sup>, WPA photographers, the National Endowment for the Arts photographic project of the 1990s; and recognizing the photographic talent of Bay area artists, coupled with the richness and diversity of subject in present day Tampa. The photographer laureate explores the crucial issues and events within the City for one year. The objective of this project is to build an archive, and a resource that will be available for the people, and citizens of Tampa for generations to come; to enhance city facilities with images that are in direct response with the life, and livelihood of Tampa; and to build the portable works collection of the City of Tampa, Public Art Program.

entitled The Big Picture, an artist will be commissioned to "add a chapter" for one year. The artist/photographer may either select a theme/topic such as leisure, tourism, environment/landscape, architectural, cultural diversity, labor/Tampa working, industry, families, education, etc.; or may propose a topic to the Public Art Committee. This project is open to photojournalists, documentary photographers, and fine art photographers. Over the course of time, it is hoped to have a full and varied representation of the multiple and diverse perspectives of artists and their views of the City.

**Artist's Concept:** As the 2003 photographer laureate, Beth Reynolds has selected to focus on the diversity of people in the city-their quality of

life and their experiences as citizens of the City of Tampa. Over the course of a year, Beth is in various parts of the city, numerous times a week, photographing life in downtown, neighborhoods, and businesses. Annotations and documentations are made with each image taken, and archived within the City of Tampa. A website, designed by the artist, links to the city's and offers subjects and the curious, an opportunity to see the project as it unfolds.

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.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Regional Commercial Photographers active first half of 20th