

TampaPublicArt



Title of Project:	Luminous Affirmations
Artist:	Stephen Knapp
Year Completed:	2005
Materials	Laminated safety glass, halogen lighting
Commissioning Agencies:	City of Tampa, Public Art Program
Location:	Tampa Municipal Office Building, 306 East Jackson Street



Lights On Tampa is a new biennial program of the City of Tampa, Public Art Program, a division of the Department of Arts & Cultural Affairs. It is a public/private partnership that has grown out of a local grassroots effort and is intended as a cultural/aesthetic event that engages, entertains, and educates.

Project

Stephen Knapp was selected from a national call to artists to give an updated and refreshing look to an existing site, and to maintain the architectural integrity of that site.

Artist Concept

I have been fascinated with light all my life, both for what it can do and for the effect it has on us. In all my prior mediums I've used light in ways that are not always apparent. When I found a way to uniquely express myself in light I embraced it fully. With my lightpaintings I separate white light into pure color and "paint" with light. Each piece has a presence that far exceeds its physical dimensions. At once both physical objects and illusions, they remind us that dreams, hopes and aspirations are the center of art's ability to touch the human spirit.

I welcome the opportunity to work on a large scale in a public realm. It gives me the opportunity to show work to people who might not otherwise be involved with art, to

challenge and to engage them. Perception - how we see everything - is colored by history, society, culture and memory. Lightpaintings add to the dialogue. The inspiration for "Luminous Affirmations" was the City of Tampa, its vibrancy and potential. I wanted to capture some of that excitement permanently. Like Tampa itself, the lights ebb and flow with the changing light, reflecting the dynamism of the city.

The mission of the City of Tampa's 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. The public art program is a division of the Department of Arts & Cultural Affairs.



City of Tampa Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs • Public Art Program
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