

# TampaPublicArt



**Project Title:** *The Earth is Our Garden*  
**Artists:** Nina Borgia-Aberle and Stephen Grede  
**Project:** Solid Waste Administrative Building  
4010 W. Spruce Street.  
**Year Completed:** 2002  
**Materials:** painted & glazed ceramic tile  
**Commissioning Agency:** City of Tampa, Public Art Program  
**Architect:** City of Tampa, James Jackson AIA



The Artwork of artists Nina Borgia-Aberle and Stephen Grede consists of a 15' painted tile mural in the canopy of the building, and text created from dimensional tiles installed on the two entry columns. This project highlights the significant role that the City of Tampa's Solid Waste Management plays in the community in keeping the environment clean and beautiful. The artists also wanted to celebrate the beauty of the Tampa environment and landscape with words and images.

The 15' long tile mural, painted by Grede, represents the Tampa Bay estuary, specifically as it appears at the McKay Bay Refuse-to-Energy Facility.

The quotes, fabricated and gathered by Borgia-Aberle, refer to the earth, environment, and recycling. The quotes are from a variety of sources including Florida writer Julie Hauserman, Tampa

poet, Gianna Russo, and beloved environmentalist writer, Marjorie Harris Carr. Two prominent quotes are from children: "The earth is our garden," and Dylan Roach of Tampa wrote, "Before man the earth was clean."

*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.*

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