# TampaPublicArt

**Project Title:** East Court
**Artist:** Charles E. Humes, Jr. (American, born 1952)
**Year Completed:** 2007
**Materials:** mosaic tesserae in stone, Italian smalti tiles, ceramics and marble glass
**Project Site:** Tampa Police Department, District III
**Architect:** Alfonso Architects
**Location:** East Tampa - North 22nd Street & East 31st Avenue
**Partners:** City of Tampa East Tampa Development, the community of East Tampa, Alfonso Architects, Tampa Police Department
**Location:** City Limits

## Site & Project Description:

The 20,000 sq foot Tampa Police District III facility, located in East Tampa, was designed by Alfonso Architects, the recipients of numerous architectural awards for the designs of Tampa Police Districts I & II facilities. When designing this facility, an outdoor gathering space for the neighborhood was factored in, and the Public Art component was integrated into this space.

## Artist Concept:

East Court, a gathering place located at the corner of N. 22nd St and E. 31st Ave, consists of a major mural and bench area with tile inlay. The mural consists of seven panels that depict community, family, education, fitness and sports, faith and law. The work will also feature geometric and symmetric designs influenced by ancient African Adinkra symbols and Ashanti motifs creating aesthetic borders of strong visual contrast from figure to design.

**Adinkra Symbols used include:**

The Artist's installation is based on community landmarks, geographic area-scapes, interviews, historical and visual archives and law enforcement icons relevant to East Tampa. "My work portrays the subtle drama of genre in the African term 'Harambee' in which everyone and every movement is celebrated and significant in life. I feel compelled to depict these images and serenely reflective statements in thoughtful vignettes of the plight and circumstances of people that are vital to the growth and well-being of a strong and vibrant community."

The artist Charles E. Humes, Jr. was born in Miami Beach in 1952. His career as a visual artist spans over 30 years in the south Florida community. His work in Public Art reflects interest in Ancient African History.

*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.*

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