

# TampaPublicArt



**Artist:** Ric Savid  
**Program:** Photographer Laureate, Volume IX  
**Year Completed:** 2012  
**Materials:** Silver gelatin photographic prints  
**Commissioning Agency:** City of Tampa, Public Art Program

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## Project Description

The Photographer Laureate program is modeled after the Farm Security Administration's Photographic Program of the 1930's and 40's; and the National Endowment for the Arts Photography Surveys of the 1970's, '80's and '90's; and with the awareness of the regionally well-known Burgert Brother's photography collections. Each year, since 2003, the City of Tampa's Public Art Program has commissioned an artist to photograph a portion or perspective of the City of Tampa and/or its citizens and visitors at work, or at play, with an emphasis on what it means to be in Tampa at this particular time in history. The result of this juried process is producing a public collection and archive that is representative of the life and times in Tampa by regional, national, and international photographers.

## Artist Statement

"My project for Volume IX of *The Big Picture* project was to produce black and white images depicting the diversity of Tampa's inhabitants. The goal: bring future generations face to face with strangers who once lived and worked in their city. I had eight months to produce 50 portraits. At first, I panicked and failed miserably. I shot anybody who would say, 'Yes' and the first dozen rolls of film went directly to the garbage. So I regrouped.



Portraits are about relationships, the chemistry between people - and about luck. I contacted people I knew, who in turn knew people in Tampa - an Italian woman who now had a little girl, a contractor who knew a yoga instructor who in turn led me to a musician. There were nurses, boxers, and a writer who knew everyone from the ex-Mayor to a former famous rock star living in Tampa. I kept shooting in the intuitive way I have always worked and the diversity of the subjects seemed to work itself out naturally. I have tried to shoot from the heart. If I have been successful, future viewers should see a part of themselves in these images."

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The mission of the City of Tampa, Art Programs Division is to bring free access to artistic excellence.

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