Project Title: Tampa Public Mood Ring  
Artist: Will Pappenheimer & Chipp Jansen  
Year Completed: 2009  
Materials: Web-based program, web camera, lights, steel  
Commissioning Agency: City of Tampa, Friends of Tampa Public Art, Gerdau Ameristeel for Lights On Tampa 2009  
Location: Cotanchobee Park

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.

Will Pappenheimer’s installation was one of several commissioned for Lights On Tampa 2009. Lights On Tampa is a biennial program of the City of Tampa, Public Art Program whose mission is to bring free access to artistic excellence. Artists were selected from an international call to artists from a jury that included writer and cultural critic, Dave Hickey; Anne Pasternak, Director of Creative Time; and Jerry Saltz, Art Critic for New York Magazine. During its 3 week run, nearly a million people experienced Lights On Tampa.

Will Pappenheimer created the Tampa Public Mood Ring, an interactive program that was hosted by local news website, tampabay.com. In this project, engaging social media, visitors were able to “rate the mood” of an article and physically change the lights on a 30’ steel superbowl ring-inspired structure, designed by Pappenheimer. Web cameras were put in place in order for web visitors to see the structure respond to their mood. The installation debuted January 10 and ran through February 1st during the height of the Super Bowl excitement, as Tampa was the host of the Big Game. Gerdau Ameristeel, a locally-based wholesaler of steel, built the temporary structure out of recycled steel. For more on Tampa Public Mood Ring, visit www.lightsontampa.org.