

TampaPublicArt



Project Title:	Line Drawing
Artist:	Janet Echelman
Year Completed:	2006
Materials:	High-tenacity multi-filament-polypropylene, 36-degree ellipsoidal spotlights, dichroic glass filters
Dimensions:	L 1408' x W 56' x H 33'
Commissioning Agency:	Lights On Tampa / Friends of Tampa Public Art; the National Endowment for the Arts; City of Tampa, Public Art Program
Location:	Poe Parking Garage, located on Ashley Drive at Cass Street

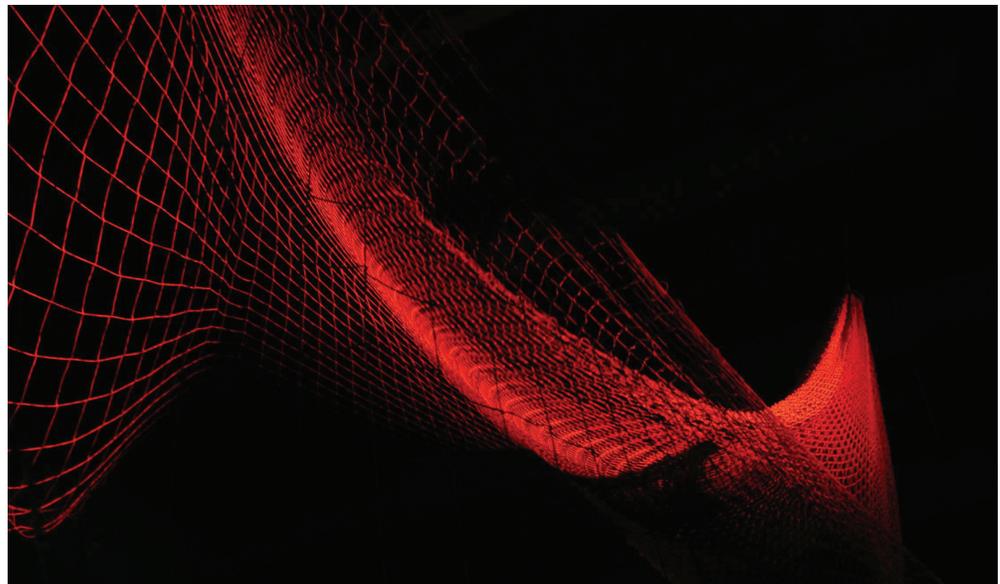
Lights On Tampa is a biennial program and a public/private partnership between the City of Tampa's and the private sector.

Site/Project Description:

Located along the Hillsborough River at Ashley Drive and Cass Street, the Poe Garage is positioned along a main thoroughfare in downtown Tampa. Built in 1968, the Garage serves as the primary parking facility for the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, the John Germany Public Library, the Marriott Courtyard and Residence Inns, and area businesses. The Garage also functions as an occasional outdoor art gallery as artists in The Gasparilla Sidewalk Arts Festival highlight their recent works under the overhang of the Garage.

Artist Concept:

"I was drawn to this site precisely because there was nothing to draw me to it. Its concrete construction method typifies the kind of flavorless, colorless structure we see everywhere in America that ultimately disappears from public memory.



As a third-generation Tampa native, I grew up going to Curtis Hixon Convention Center, and remember watching this parking structure built in the early eighties. Last year, I began my research by asking people in Tampa what they thought of the garage. The vast majority of people couldn't recall what it looked like, and weren't exactly sure where it was, despite the fact it takes up an entire city block of waterfront in the heart of downtown Tampa.

The site called for an infu-

sion of warmth and color sufficient to draw people inside and through the space. The site's layout inspired me to design a two-part installation. The first part is physical, a three-dimensional line drawing suspended from the ceiling. The second part has no physical presence at all, and is merely a projection of the other, creating a 400-foot-long shadow drawing. I began to see this as a contemporary interpretation of Plato's Allegory of the Cave, using urban infrastructure as a modern-day cave wall. The

shadow drawing becomes more complex as it introduces a dialogue with the existing linear pattern embedded in the concrete wall that directly expresses the structure of the garage and the way it was made."

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 or better yet, make their own story from the work.

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