

## **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Doodad Repurposed Sculpture Competition**

The coordinators of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Re-Purposed Doodad Sculpture Competition are excited to announce that Tampa International Airport has agreed to host and act as presenting sponsor for this year's competition in March 2020. Thousands of travelers will view the exhibition in the spacious area near the TPA Main Terminal March 16-26, 2020.

Reflecting our venue, this year's theme is "Shoes—Oh, the Places You'll Go!" for students to be inspired by the physical places they can travel and by the limitless possibilities for their lives.

*"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go..."*

**— Dr. Seuss, Oh, The Places You'll Go!**

The Annual Re-Purposed Doodad Sculpture Competition inspires students to create imaginative sculptures along a theme while re-purposing common objects, or "doodads". Open to K-12 students attending public, private, charter and home schools in Hillsborough County, the competition challenges students to think beyond traditional art materials.

The competition is unique in that it focuses on three-dimensional art, increases awareness about the importance of recycling, and judges award over \$5,500 in cash prizes. In past years, long time sponsors have included the Arts Council of Hillsborough County, Frank E. Duckwall Foundation, Allegro Senior Living, BNY Mellon and Las Damas de Arte.

The "Doodads" for 2019-2020 are snack wrappers and plastic bags. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Americans throw away more than 70 pounds of used clothing and footwear per person per year with only 15% of that recycled or donated.

"Tampa International Airport is a strong supporter of both the arts and sustainability initiatives, and what better way to showcase both locally made artwork and community recycling than through the Doodad Sculpture Competition?" said Kelly Figley, TPA's Marketing Manager who oversees the public art program at the Airport. "We can't wait to see the creative work of our home county's students, which will be in a visible area for passengers and guests to enjoy."

Students will be encouraged to re-use these materials in creative ways while creating whimsical, theme-based shoe(s) and also donate gently used shoes. And competition organizers are working to obtain support to help provide materials for Title I schools and other groups who may need assistance to participate.

In addition, to help young artists experiment with these materials, the organizers have asked Interplay Space, a local nonprofit, to conduct a series of workshops around Hillsborough County. Students will brainstorm different approaches to the theme and materials and will learn a variety of techniques to weave, crochet and collage snack wrappers and plastic bags. Information about these workshops will be announced on our social media feeds, as well as our website, <http://doodadoftampa.org/>.

The creativity of the students as they approach the theme and materials and the quality of the work submitted to this competition at all age levels of the competition continues to amaze the viewers. "I am continually inspired by the imagination of the student artists. Judging the competition is a treat. I think that no work can surpass that of the past year, and then I am astonished by what I see," says Sandy Rief, Board member of the Frank E. Duckwall Foundation and the Florida Humanities Council and long-time judge.

And a teacher in Hillsborough County shared last year,

"My students were enthusiastic and excited to try new materials and concepts. They had to troubleshoot some issues which slowed them down, but they were able to overcome the problems. We very much enjoyed the entire process and experience. We will absolutely be doing it again."

Deadline to enter is March 14, 2020, and jurors will determine first, second, third and honorable mention awards for Elementary (grades K-2 and 3-5), Middle School, and High School which will be presented during the awards reception on March 26, 2020. The exhibition will be on display at Tampa International Airport March 16 – March 26, 2020.

Competition coordinators, Tampa Regional Artists and Interplay Space are reaching out to all interested school groups to encourage participation, and need the help of all who work with K-12 students to encourage participation.

Our website <http://doodadoftampa.org/> contains detailed guidelines, timeline and link to the online entry form. Entries from past year's competitions can also be viewed there. For questions, email us at [doodadtampa@gmail.com](mailto:doodadtampa@gmail.com).

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