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Art at the Airport Receives Business & Arts Partnership Award

Arts & Business Council recognizes PHL's Exhibitions Program

PHILADELPHIA – Philadelphia International Airport's (PHL) acclaimed Exhibitions Program is the recipient of the Business & Arts Partnership Award presented by the Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia. The popular Airport program received the honor at the Philadelphia Museum of Art on May 13th during the Council's 29th Annual Awards Celebration, which recognizes outstanding leadership, innovation, volunteerism and partnerships in the support and service of the creative sector in the Philadelphia region.

Art at the Airport: Philadelphia International Airport & Regional Artists and Cultural Organizations won the Business & Arts Partnership Award for a large business with an arts organization. The award is presented to "an outstanding partnership between a major business and an arts or cultural organization clearly demonstrating salient, symbiotic leadership both in an aggregate capacity as well as individually."

One of the first airports in the country to offer an Exhibitions Program, PHL launched its program in 1998 as a visual arts initiative to provide visibility for Philadelphia's unique cultural life and to enhance and enrich the airport experience for the traveling public. Since its beginnings, the program has presented nearly 300 exhibits featuring work by individual artists and arts/cultural institutions from throughout the Greater Philadelphia region. Throughout the Airport today, there are 20 rotating exhibit locations that change during the year to provide a variety of educational and cultural programs to passengers and the visiting public.

During their travels through PHL each year, millions of visitors from throughout the world have access to a variety of art forms including fine arts, crafts, design and photography by artists and art institutions from the Philadelphia area. In 2012 and 2013 combined, the Exhibitions Program presented the artwork of 31 individual artists from the Greater Philadelphia area in addition to 22 non-profit arts and cultural organizations. The program also presents about 6 live artist demonstrations annually including pottery, weaving, woodworking and origami.

In November 2013, PHL was voted by *USA Today* as one of the Top 3 Best Airport Art Programs in the United States..

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“The Airport is a perfect venue to showcase the amazing talents of Philadelphia’s artistic community, the region’s fascinating arts and cultural institutions, and Philadelphia’s unique culture,” said Airport CEO Mark Gale. “Millions of travelers who may not have the chance to visit one of our renowned museums, art institutions or galleries can get a feel for our region’s artistic and cultural vibrancy by viewing the exhibits at the Airport. I want to congratulate Leah Douglas, our Director of Exhibitions, for her dedication and fine work that made this award possible. It is well-deserved.”

Founded in 1981, the Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia “serves as a vital link between businesses and the arts, creating connections to make the Greater Philadelphia region culturally vibrant and economically strong.”



Airport CEO Mark Gale and Director of Exhibitions Leah Douglas (far left) accept the Business & Arts Partnership Award. Heather R. Hunter, Vice President, Corporate Communications, Safeguard Scientifics (middle) presented the award on behalf of the Arts & Business Council of Greater Philadelphia.

Philadelphia International Airport is owned and operated by the City of Philadelphia. The Airport is a self-sustaining entity that operates without the use of local tax dollars. It is one of the largest economic engines in Pennsylvania, generating an estimated \$14.4 billion in spending to the regional economy and accounting for more than 141,000 jobs.