

*Press Office*  
City of Chicago, Department of Aviation  
Richard L. Rodriguez, Commissioner



# News Release

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## **CHICAGO TREASURES GIFT FROM SISTER CITY AMMAN**

*Petra mosaic has new home in O'Hare International Airport*

CHICAGO - Officials from the Department of Aviation and Sister Cities International met with Mayor Omar Ma'ani of Amman, Jordan on May 2 to express appreciation for a mosaic sculpture that was donated to the City of Chicago from its sister city Amman.

"We are grateful to Mayor Ma'ani for this generous gift," said Aviation Commissioner Richard L. Rodriguez. "This impressive mosaic will be on permanent display for the enjoyment and enrichment of the millions of passengers who travel through O'Hare's International Terminal each year."

The mosaic by artist Sonia Twal was inspired by the façade of the Red-Rose city of Petra in the southern Jordanian desert. The original façade was carved and engraved in rock and stone. The limestone and marble used in Twal's representation were obtained from the Petra region.

Amman is one of 27 cities represented in the Chicago Sister Cities International Program. For nearly 50 years, the program has provided leadership to develop, manage and coordinate comprehensive programs and projects with Chicago's sister cities. The program also strives to promote economic development and supports cultural, educational, medical and technological exchanges for the benefit of Chicago's sister cities.

Chicago's airports have long served as a canvas for the City's public arts programming with an emphasis on local and global interests. Other recent art installations at O'Hare include two lighted geometric sculptures entitled "Beacons" in the International Terminal; and a 50-foot blown glass mural entitled "Jet Trails" in Terminal 1.

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The Chicago Airport System is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O'Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago's airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit [www.flychicago.com](http://www.flychicago.com) to learn more about the Chicago Airport System.

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Photo caption - Mayor Omar Ma'ani of Amman, Jordan (right) and Michael Zonsius, Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Aviation (left) are pictured with the *Treasury of Petra* mosaic in Terminal 5 at Chicago O'Hare International Airport on May 2, 2008.

Photo: Chicago Dept. of Aviation