

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



News Release

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Contact: Gregg Cunningham

(773) 686-3700

gcunningham@cityofchicago.org

GIRL SCOUTS' NEIGHBORHOOD PAINTINGS BRING COMMUNITY TO CHICAGO'S AIRPORTS

CHICAGO – O'Hare and Midway International Airports are hosting exhibits that display the artwork of more than 500 local Girl Scouts ages 11 to 17. Entitled *Community Walls: Artistic Expression of Life in Our Chicago Neighborhoods*, the exhibits feature a total of 50 paintings that portray Chicago neighborhoods and community experiences from the perspective of youth. The project is made possible through a collaboration of Hostelling International Chicago and Girl Scouts of Chicago.

"We are proud to showcase the work of two great youth-focused organizations," said Aviation Commissioner Richard L. Rodriguez. "The paintings capture the distinct experiences living in Chicago's culturally rich and diverse neighborhoods."

To develop ideas for the project, members of each local Girl Scout troop explored their own communities and heritage, and worked in teams to create the paintings. More than 50 Girl Scout troops from around Chicago participated in the project. *Community Walls* has been an ongoing project since 2005, with the most recent unveiling at Hostelling International Chicago in June 2008.

"The goal of the *Community Walls* project is to give youth the opportunity to share their culture and experiences with others," said Arielle Semmel, Educational Programs Coordinator for Hostelling International USA. "The airport installations provide a great venue for the Chicago Girl Scouts to give a local perspective to a much greater audience of travelers from across the globe."

The *Community Walls* exhibit at O'Hare is located in Terminal 2 near the south end of the main corridor connecting Terminals 2 and 3. A second exhibit will be on display soon at Midway International Airport. For more information about Hostelling International Chicago or Girl Scouts of Chicago visit www.hichicago.org and www.girlscouts-chicago.org, respectively.

Chicago's airports have long served as a canvas for the City's world-renowned arts programming. The Department of Aviation invites artists, cultural institutions and non-for-profit arts organizations to participate in a variety of exhibition opportunities at the airports through the Chicago Airport System Art and Exhibits Program.

- More -

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An exhibit featuring more than 40 posters from internationally acclaimed jurors of the 2008 Chicago International Poster Biennial Association (CIPBA) poster design competition is now on display in Terminal 5 at O'Hare.

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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 to learn more about the Chicago Airport System.

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Photo 1



Photo caption: The *Community Walls* exhibit at O'Hare International Airport features 40 paintings created by local Girl Scout troops. The artwork portrays Chicago neighborhoods and community experiences from the perspective of youth. The project is made possible through a collaboration of Hostelling International Chicago and Girl Scouts of Chicago.

COMMUNITY WALLS EXHIBIT/page three

Photo 2



Photo caption: The *Community Walls* exhibit is located in Terminal 2 at O'Hare International Airport. The project is made possible through a collaboration of Hostelling International Chicago and Girl Scouts of Chicago.

Courtesy – Chicago Dept. of Aviation