

Innovations In Light To Illuminate Downtown Tampa



Six artists will use the science and aesthetics of light to transform downtown Tampa's Curtis Hixon Park into a venue of color and spectacle on Feb. 19 at the annual Lights On Tampa public art event.

Featured artists include Pablo Valbuena of Madrid, Spain, who is crafting a temporary display for the Poe Parking Garage. Tampa's Juliet Davis and Stephanie Tripp along with Northeasterners Eva Lee and Molly Schwartz are creating video animations for a [Tampa portal](#). Located on the Riverwalk, the portal is a digital gateway to the arts, which will, in time, be a permanent fixture at the park. New to this year's program is a multigenerational, multicultural community event led by the University of Tampa's Susan Taylor Lennon. This interactive activity involves a community "unsquare dance."

"Lights On Tampa is a wonderful community event where people have the opportunity to not only get a feel for the City of Tampa itself, but to really engage and experience the best of new media/contemporary art at their own pace, with their own friends and family," says Lights On Tampa spokesperson Robin Nigh. "And best of all, it's free."

Previous [Lights On Tampa](#) events have resulted in several permanent exhibits that can be seen around town, including a façade by Leo Vallareal at the [Tampa Museum of Art](#), an 80-foot glass mural by Mari Gardner on the [Glazer Children's Museum](#) and a light-responsive sculpture on the Port Authority Garage by Ray King.

Nigh says the event was born out of a desire to create something bold, different and of outstanding quality that trumpeted the assets of the Tampa Bay region: its weather, natural light, technology-based knowledge and the industries located in the region. "The people pulled together and it all came about. It has always been a public / private partnership, where each brings to the table what they do best," says Nigh.

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Source: Robin Nigh, City of Tampa