

Press Office
City of Chicago, Department of Aviation
Nuria I. Fernandez, Commissioner



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BRIGHT BEACONS SHINE AT O'HARE'S INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL

Local artist's painted silk sculptures add beauty and light from above

CHICAGO – The Department of Aviation today held an event to celebrate the latest permanent addition to O'Hare's public art program. The colorfully lit geometric sculptures, or "Beacons", now welcome passengers arriving at O'Hare's International Terminal 5.

"The Beacons add color, light and vibrancy to the Meeter-Greeter area of O'Hare's International Terminal," said Aviation Commissioner Nuria I. Fernandez. "The sculptures beautify our airport and showcase work by a Chicago artist."

Created by local artist Steven Heyman, the new art features one square "Blue Beacon" and one circular "Orange Beacon" that are suspended above the exit bays in the lower level of O'Hare International Terminal 5. Each Beacon measures approximately 16-feet across and consists of painted silk panels lit from within. The Beacons were commissioned in collaboration with the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs Public Art Program.

Heyman resides in Chicago and is on the faculty of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His works have been exhibited both nationally and internationally and are included in several museum, foundation, public and university collections.

"Arriving at an international airport terminal in a foreign country can be an exhilarating and dramatic moment, filled with anticipation, excitement, and openness to new experience," said Heyman. "The Beacons project at Terminal 5 attends to the moment, welcoming travelers from around the world."

Chicago's airports have long served as a canvas for the City's Public Art Program. New public art will continue to flourish at O'Hare in 2008 with a soon to be completed 50-foot glass architectural enhancement 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 to learn more about the Chicago Airport System.

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Arriving visitors are greeted by the "Blue Beacon" suspended above the exit bay in the lower level of O'Hare International Terminal 5.



The "Orange Beacon" measures approximately 16-feet across and consists of painted silk panels lit from within. It's suspended above Exit A in the Meeter-Greeter area of O'Hare International Terminal 5.