



News from

# The New Indianapolis Airport

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## Terrazzo and Glass Artworks Add to New Terminal's Collection

INDIANAPOLIS – Creators of terrazzo and glass artworks commissioned for the New Indianapolis Airport terminal described their projects and the installation processes in a tour of the facility today.

The event included a viewing of a completed terrazzo work by Tom Torluemke of Hammond, Indiana and a second Torluemke piece now being installed. The first, called The Glory of Sports in Indianapolis, celebrates the role sports plays in the city's life. The second, called A Work of HeArt, draws from the sentimental imagery of the Indiana state song by Paul Dresser, "On the Banks of the Wabash Far Away," and the famous novella by Antoine de Saint-Exupery, The Little Prince, about an encounter with a traveling extraterrestrial prince. Saint-Exupery was a noted aviator as well as a writer.

[Tom Torluemke](#) was on hand to discuss his works, which were commissioned by the Indianapolis Airport Authority. Torluemke was raised in Chicago and is a painter, sculptor, muralist, gallery owner, educator and arts activist. His previous public commissions include a mosaic for Andrean High School in Merrillville, Indiana, and murals in Hobart, East Chicago and Hammond, Indiana and in Chicago, Illinois. The Arts Council of Indianapolis recently selected Torluemke as one two artists given commissions for its Great Ideas public art competition.

The art tour also included a visit to the installation in progress of a work called The Cardinal Points, created by artist/designer Stuart Keeler and architect [Michael Machnic](#).

The Cardinal Points incorporates art glass elements into a dividing wall in the security checkpoint area for Concourse B of the new terminal. The piece uses images of a flying cardinal - the Indiana state bird - and isolated images of cardinal feathers to establish a metaphor for the dream of flight, overlaid on an image of the city grid of Indianapolis. The art glass was fabricated by Franz Mayer of Munich, an artisan studio that has created fine glass art for nearly 150 years.

Machnic, who with Keeler constitutes IXL, a partnership for architectural scale artworks, discussed the piece as it was being installed. Past commissions for IXL have included work for the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, the Tacoma Convention Center, Safeco Field in Seattle, the Washington State Trade and Convention Center, the City of Bellevue, Washington, and the Tri-Met Transit Authority in Portland, Oregon. IXL currently is based in Atlanta, Georgia.

Through commissioned, site-specific and/or architecturally integrated works of art, the Indianapolis International Airport will provide its visitors from the global community access to a wide variety of artists and art forms from Indianapolis, Indiana, the United States and the world. The Airport Arts and Culture Program seeks to raise the level of interest and enjoyment of art and artists on the part of guests and residents alike.

## New Indianapolis Airport

The \$1.1 billion New Indianapolis Airport will feature a new terminal building located between the two existing main runways along with new highway access, new and improved parking and support facilities and improved utilities and airside operations. The new airport is scheduled to open on October 28, 2008. The Airport Arts and Culture Program seeks to raise the level of interest and enjoyment of art and artists on the part of guests and residents alike.

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