

University Area Community Social Services Center

13605 N. 212nd Street
Tampa, FL 33613



New Public Art Project at University Area Community Social Services Center

A new public art project will be installed by local artist Lori Ballard. She will be installing large close-up photographs of plants and flowers commonly found in the vicinity. These images will be installed throughout the hallways and conference rooms adding color and beauty to the experience of the users of this facility. Ms. Ballard will also be working with the students of Prodigy helping them to create artwork in a similar manner.

Artist's Statement of Intent

I want to create work that will bring a sense of calm or will uplift and inspire all those who come to University Community Social Services Center. I want to teach the children of Prodigy to look for simple and natural beauty as inspiration for art. Beauty is all around us and it is available to everyone to experience. Beauty is available to anyone who is willing to take a walk in the outdoors and is willing to see.

About the Artist – Lori Ballard

Since the very beginning, when I was just a Photo I student, nature has been a way of finding peace and balance for me. Looking back at a time in my life when I had a very stressful job and never enough money, taking a walk in nature was a way for me to escape the problems for a while and quiet my mind. I was also once extremely shy so photographing nature was an easy way to sort of disappear. As I found more balance in my daily life, I got away from landscapes and started to document more urban settings. As I became more comfortable with myself, I started to enjoy making portraits and working with more and more people. In the beginning, I was not at all comfortable with asking someone if I could take their picture! Now, at this phase in my life, I enjoy all kinds of photography and these close up examinations of the wonders of nature still help me to feel a connection to all of life and a sense of peace and wonderment at all the small yet beautiful things that surround us. I have always been told that no matter what I am photographing, that there is a “feeling” or “mood” that makes people feel a connection to my work. It is my hope that with the intention of peace and beauty that I put in to each of these images, that people who are coming to this facility for help might feel a bit of that calm. I feel so fortunate that a love of the outdoors was passed down to me from my grandfather and that I am able to see and appreciate the most basic pleasures that a day holds. A bird flying by or a fluttering butterfly, or even a lizard warming itself in the sun puts a smile on my face. A flower that opens itself to the sun is just heaven.

While I exhibit all sorts of work in galleries and group exhibitions, inspired by varied things, I hope to fill many buildings with this series of work so that I can share this beauty with multitudes.

Samples of Artist's Work



