



# News Release

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portofsandiego.org

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## **Urban Trees Project Branches out to Artists for New Temporary Sculptures on the Waterfront**

*Public art contest takes root for third year*

**November 9, 2005** – The Port of San Diego's Public Art Program, branching off of the success of its first two Urban Trees displays, has announced a call to artists to participate in another temporary sculpture competition, Urban Trees 3. The exhibit has been a favorite of both visitors and residents of San Diego and has received worldwide media attention.

The original Urban Trees project was introduced in 2003 as a means to help artists promote their work to a diverse audience and to assist the Port of San Diego in branding the tidelands as home to a significant and dynamic collection of public artwork. The Port asked artists to create temporary tree sculptures that would be installed along the waterfront for a period of one year. Artists were supplied with a 12-foot pole placed in a concrete planter to serve as the tree trunk. The inspirations that germinated from these trunks varied from a copper mermaid to a surfboard that was a survivor of the 2003 Southern California wildfires.

Guidelines for this year's contest are similar to those in the two past contests. The Port will again provide the pole and the planter base. Artists are allowed to hang, suspend, mount, weld, tie or otherwise modify the pole. The contest encourages artists to be creative, but to adhere to safety requirements. Port engineers will review the designs for safety and recommend modifications if necessary.

The Port of San Diego's Public Art Committee will select 30 proposals. The creators of the selected proposals will be given a \$2,000 honorarium or design fee to create the full-size artwork. The sculptures will remain the property of the artist and can be sold or removed after the 12-month exhibition period has concluded. Previous exhibits resulted in sales and new commissions for about a third of the participating artists.

The deadline to submit proposals for Urban Trees 3 is 5:00 p.m., December 7,

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2005. Winning proposals will be selected at the December 14 Public Art Committee Meeting and announced on the Port of San Diego web site on December 15, 2005. For more information, contact the Port's Public Art Department at (619) 686-7246 or visit the Port's web site at [www.portofsandiego.org/urbantrees](http://www.portofsandiego.org/urbantrees). The "Call to Artists" brochure may be downloaded from this site.

Created in 1996, the Port's Public Art Program was established to promote a healthy, vibrant atmosphere that contributes to the quality and identity of the region. The Port enacted the first "percent for art" program in San Diego County and now dedicates one percent of its projected revenues each year toward a public art fund that is used for the acquisition and maintenance of public artworks on Port tidelands.

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