



WILL ROGERS WORLD AIRPORT
OKLAHOMA CITY

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CAR RENTAL FACILITY UNVEILS “SONIC GATES: OKC”

Artist Christopher Janney Designs Unique Piece for Oklahoma City

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 2, 2016 -- Local dignitaries, architects and artists were on hand today for the official opening of the public art work at the new Will Rogers World Airport Car Rental Facility. The work entitled **Sonic Gates: OKC** by world-renowned artist/composer Christopher Janney is integrated into the main entrance of the customer service building, immersing those who pass through in an interactive light and sound experience. This is a singular type of permanent public art work yet to be experienced in the Oklahoma City area.

“My goal is always to create work that engages people - physically, mentally and emotionally,” says artist/composer Christopher Janney. “As people walk up to this building and through the vestibule, they will be bathed in colored shadows, activate lights and trigger authentic Oklahoma-centric soundscapes. For people traveling to and from Oklahoma City, this work helps to center where they are in the world.”

Janney was trained as an architect and as a jazz musician. As an artist he brings the two disciplines together to create unexpected spaces that depend on the viewer’s interaction. For **Sonic Gates: OKC**, it is the movement of the people walking up to the building, the sliding doors opening for them, and then walking through the vestibule, that creates the unique experience.

The panes of glass that make up the sliding doors have different interlayers of color. As the doors open and close, they layer upon themselves, creating new fields of color. The colors are always changing depending on how many people and at what moment they walk through the vestibule.

At the same time, the soundscapes and the lights are complimenting the colored environment, layering and creating an entirely original event. The soundscapes, original compositions by Janney, consists of instrumental music combined with specific sounds and short readings that evoke interesting aspects of Oklahoma. Janney’s research included an interview with the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society and delving into the audio archives at the Oklahoma History Center.

Janney was selected through a competitive proposal process coordinated through the City of Oklahoma City’s Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Oklahoma City Airport Trust. Sixty three artists made submissions to be considered for the project. A jury comprised of art experts, stakeholders, and art

commissioners made the final selection. Total budget for the project was \$120,000 and funded through the Airport Trust's 1% for Art. More information about Christopher Janney can be found at janneysound.com.

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About Christopher Janney

Christopher Janney was trained as an architect (Princeton University, B.A. Architecture, 1972, magna cum laude; MIT, M.S. Environmental Art, 1978) and as a jazz musician (private studies, 1963;1976, Dalcroze School, 1974-75.) He has created numerous permanent interactive sound/light installations, attempting, on the one hand, to make architecture more "spontaneous" (*Harmonic Convergence*, Miami International Airport; *Rainbow Cove*, Logan International Airport; *REACH:NY*, 34th St. subway, New York) and, on the other hand, to make music more physical (*HeartBeat:mb* with S. Rudner, M. Baryshnikov).

About Will Rogers World Airport

Will Rogers World Airport is the city's commercial airport and accommodates over 3.8 million travelers each year. The airport serves 22 nonstop airports with an average of 69 daily departures. Will Rogers World Airport is owned by the City of Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma City Airport Trust oversees the management and operation of the airport.