



Contact: Amie Hacker,
Communications Manager
Corpus Christi Convention & Visitors Bureau
361-881-1870 office
361-290-5244 cell
361-888-4998 fax
amieh@cctexas.org

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

World-renowned Art with a View

Corpus Christi Offers a Variety of Art Culture & Venues Along Downtown Bayfront

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX – The largest coastal city in the state is mostly known for its fresh seafood and hundreds of miles of sandy seashores, but families, groups and art enthusiasts alike will be amazed at the world-renowned art Corpus Christi displays along the beautiful bayfront- nestled among the downtown hustle and bustle of attractions, restaurants and hotels. With some 40 sculptures and over a dozen public murals, guests will see the preserved stories of Corpus Christi's history, precious natural beauty and flavored culture as they travel along the streets and inside the numerous galleries of downtown.

A thriving art community by the sea is a growing movement within the heart of the downtown and includes a bi-monthly ArtWalk, annual art festivals and outdoor special showings that provide plenty of art-related enjoyment year round for visitors. In late March, Corpus Christi hosts one of the largest art festivals at no cost to visitors. The exciting array of talented artists at the Festival of the Arts spans from performers of music, dance, theater and cinemas to sculptors, painters, craftsmen and street artists. The three-day event includes a bayfront tram tour of public art, lectures, hands-on workshops and readings of poetry and literature- even a gigantic interactive KidZone.

MUST SEA ART

For those that will miss the celebration of art along the bayfront in March, explore the bayfront and downtown area on a self-guided public art tour any time of the year. For the art enthusiast, here are some 'must see' masterpieces along the boulevards of downtown Corpus Christi.

Wind in the Sails, Kent Ulberg

Thousands each year travel to this sparkling city by the bay for its bountiful fishing year round. It's no wonder local and nationally-acclaimed sculptor Kent Ulberg decided to visually preserve the biggest asset Corpus Christi has to offer. This piece featuring two sailfish in abstract and spiral form was awarded the National Sculpture Society's Gold Medal in 1983 and is located at Shoreline Boulevard and Schatzel Street.

Orion's Belt, Robert Perless

Everything is bigger in Texas, even the stars in the sky- maybe that's why guests find themselves pondering the three interactive stainless steel wind interactive sculptures at Shoreline Boulevard and Interstate 37 that were dreamed up by artist Robert Perless. This series named *Orion's Belt* provides entertainment and a challenge for the curious or avid stargazers to find the fourteen pavers depicting the famous constellation of stars within the downtown area.

Queen of the Sea, Pompeo Coppini

Get a glimpse of the region's past and swing by possibly the oldest mural in Corpus Christi located at Broadway and

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Peoples Street, commissioned in 1914 by the Daughters of the Confederacy. *Queen of the Sea*, a bas-relief stone fountain sculpture was created by local artist Pompeo Coppini and is a memorial to the noble Texans who gave their lives for the South during the Civil War. The mural visually captures the role Corpus Christi played in the Civil War and the gifts the city provided.

Christopher Columbus, Robert Garcia Jr.

Understand the cultural influences of Corpus Christi from the beginning and see the statue honoring the 500th Anniversary of Christopher Columbus' voyage of 1492. Thanks to Columbus, Spanish explorers eventually discovered the Gulf of Mexico shortly after and named their discovery Corpus Christi, meaning 'The Body of Christ'. This large bronze sculpture by Roberto Garza represents courage, determination, vision and faith that is located at the James Storm Pavilion in the Port of Corpus Christi.

The Friendship Monument, Dr. Sherman Coleman

Move forward in time and head to Shoreline Boulevard and Lawrence Street to see Sherman Coleman's tribute to Captain Blas Maria de la Garza Falcon in bronze. Falcon is known as the founder of the first Spanish settlement north of the Rio Grande in 1764 and was commissioned to explore the Nueces River. He is most locally credited for his contribution to Corpus Christi's economic future by introducing the first longhorn cattle to the area.

Untitled History, Mel Chin

Take a mini-tour of world-renowned sculptor, Mel Chin's five depictions of the heritage of Corpus Christi in various media along the waterfront near the American Bank Convention Center. Piece the puzzle together and understand Corpus Christi throughout the ages in Chin's series of *Untitled History*.

FOR THE BIRDS

Named the 'Birdiest City in America' each year since 2003 by the San Diego Audubon Society, it's no wonder guests visiting Corpus Christi will find several sculptures preserving the beauty of our feathered friends. In front of the Harbor Playhouse be sure to take a look at *Sea Bird*, a mix of plastic resin and copper masterpiece by Fernando Turegano that shows the natural beauty of Corpus Christi's shore birds. Tucked away in Water Street Market, find *Blooming Cranes*, a copper and red brick fountain composed of four cranes by Charles White. Stop by to see H.W. "Buddy" Tatum's depiction of the native and endangered brown pelican in action made of bronze, *El Circo De Mar* on Shoreline Boulevard and Twigg Street.

NO SPACE LEFT TO WASTE

Corpus Christi leaves no space to waste, in 1999 a public art project to beautify the downtown area led to the colorful mural designs on some 20 traffic control boxes. Each of these eye-catching boxes expresses the colorful culture, history or natural habitat created by local disadvantaged youth. Visitors will also notice the curbs of downtown, vacant buildings and several spans of alley fences displaying colorful murals that were designed by local middle school and high school students through the KSpace Graffiti Art Project. This community-based program provides teens with an outlet to express their artistic skills, while educating them about the difference between art and vandalism.

A LOCAL LEGEND TRIBUTE

It's not unusual to see dozens of visitors at a time paying tribute to acclaimed Corpus Christi Tejano singer, Selena Quintanilla-Perez at the *Selena Memorial* located at the corner of Shoreline Boulevard and Peoples Street. Wade Hopkins Tatum's larger-than-life replica in bronze celebrates the life of this Corpus Christi native who was on the verge of achieving international stardom when she was shot to death in 1995.

LOCAL GALLERIES & VENUES

Stop in at several art venues and galleries in downtown Corpus Christi displaying permanent collections,

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traveling exhibitions and local shows by artists displaying their talents in a variety of media. See local rising artists to nationally-acclaimed artists that visually preserve the cultural flavors and colorful stories of Corpus Christi and the South Texas region.

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| Aloe Tile Works | 301 Kinney St. | 361-888-8119 |
| The Art Center of Corpus Christi | 100 N. Shoreline Blvd. | 361-884-6406 |
| Art Museum of South Texas | 1902 N. Shoreline Blvd. | 361-825-3500 |
| Texas State Asian Culture Museum | 809 N. Chaparral St. | 361-882-2641 |
| Heritage Park – Galeria Galvan | 1581 N. Chaparral St. | 361-826-3410 |
| K Space | 415 Starr St. | 361-887-6834 |
| Peoples Street Photo Gallery | 418 Peoples St., Ste. 402 | 361-881-8384 |
| West Light Studio | 508 N. Mesquite | 361-888-5249 |
| Wilhelmi Holland Gallery | 300 S. Chaparral St. | 361-882-3523 |

The Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau’s mission is “to drive overnight visitor\$ to the Corpus Christi Area”. For more information on Corpus Christi and to plan your next trip, visit www.corpuschristicvb.com or call (361) 881-1888 or 1-800-678-6232.

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