

Cool Globes Dot City's Waterfront

CHICAGO – Reminiscent of Chicago's "Cows on Parade" public art displays a few years ago, a new exhibit called "Cool Globes: Hot Ideas for a Cooler Planet," is lining the city's waterfront.

As part of the 'Parade,' which celebrated the city's history with cows – think Mrs. O'Leary and slaughter houses -- a painted cow sculpture stood at virtually every major corner, bringing smiles and a little humor to people going about their day.

This year, the smiles and humor are still there, but instead of cows, Chicago now has bright, colorful globes. This new exhibit is part of a summer arts project to highlight the problem as well as solutions to global warming.

More than 120 organizations have sponsored the creation of the globes, which are all five feet in diameter and decorated by a wide range of artists. Decorators include famed American pop-artist Jim Dine and Spanish artist Jaume Plensa, as well as artistically inspired employees of Whole Foods Market and teams of schoolchildren around the Chicagoland area.

Each globe, embossed with continents and islands, draws attention to issues associated with global warming. Although they address different issues, such as the need for energy conservation, sustainability, and fuel efficiency, three artists chose to design globes that specifically deal with Green roofs:

1. Green Roofs Save Water (Gracie Green Roof), by Carol Luc
2. Green Roofs Save Energy, by Deborah Adams Doerling
3. Green Roof on City Hall, by Mason Dixon

"Overall, this is a very upbeat exhibit about a serious topic," says Jim Lindell, a market development professional with GreenGrid Green Roofs, a business of Weston Solutions and one of the companies involved with the installation of Chicago's City Hall Green roof. "The colorful globes, especially those focusing on Green roofs, encourage people to think about the health of our planet and realize that there are ways to help protect it."

Lindell adds that because scientists believe carbon dioxide emissions are a key reason for global warming, Green roofs may likely play an even larger role since these roofs help provide a solution to this problem.

"This is because, like all vegetation, they take carbon monoxide and contaminants out of the air and replace it with oxygen," he says.

The exhibit will continue on the lakefront through September 30, 2007. For more information, call 312-573-5434.

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