

## Tampa takes another whack at sculpture

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Tampa's track record of modern metal sculpture has been more a source of amusement than civic pride. Remember that giant "exploding chicken" piece that used to be at Rivergate Tower downtown before it got dismantled this past winter?

Another effort has been under way over the last two years to change that, with perhaps more favorable results. A group called ArtLOUD! led a sculptor competition resulting in 16 works placed throughout the northern edge of the central business district.

"The primary goal is to increase arts and culture awareness, public perception and pedestrian traffic throughout uptown," says Abbey Dohring, vice president of brokerage and development with the Dohring Group. The local chapter of Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) is the primary sponsor of the \$35,000 effort, and the group was able to meet its fund-raising goal despite the tough economy, she says.

A formal unveiling of the ArtLOUD! sculptures is planned for June 4, along with an awards ceremony.

Meanwhile, Coffee Talks hears the "chicken" is getting a new home: It's in the process of being refurbished and is expected to go back up soon near the Florida Aquarium.

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