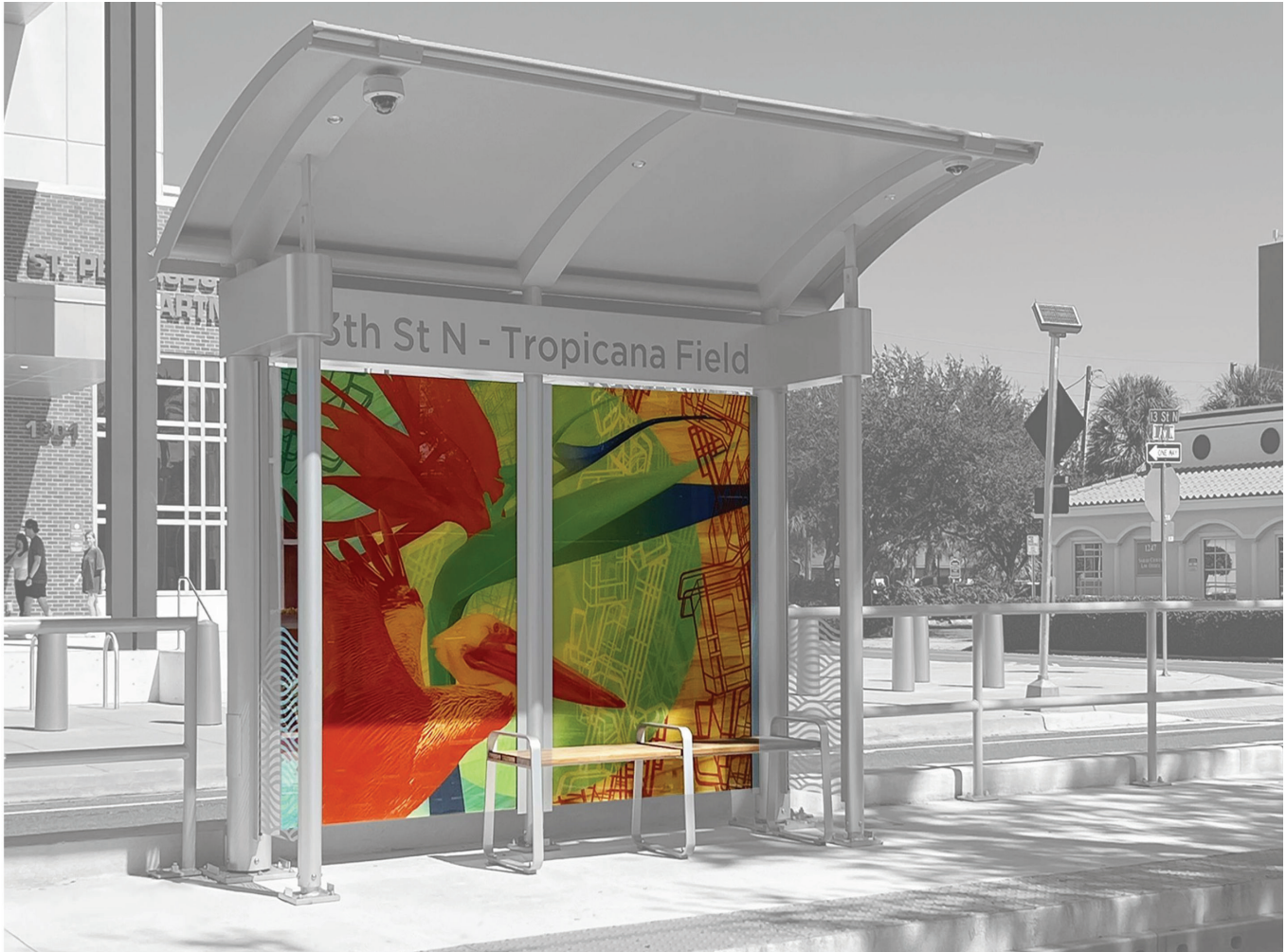


SunRunner Rapid Bus Stations St. Petersburg, FL



“The GGI team is great to work with and their color matching capabilities are superb. The transformation from original art to digital art viewed on computer, then to the actual finished glass product is a process that takes time, expertise—and a great deal of patience. The colors and resolution must be what I want, or it changes the personality of the art.”

Catherine Woods, Artist - C Glass Studio

FEATURED PRODUCT



DEVELOPER

Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority

COMMISSIONED BY

PSTA and the City of St. Petersburg, Florida

ARTIST

C Glass Studios, Catherine Woods

SunRunner Rapid Bus Stations St. Petersburg, FL

The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) has been operational in Pinellas County, Florida since 1903, when its first streetcar line ran in St. Petersburg. In 2022, after more than two years in development, PSTA launched SunRunner, a brand-new Bus Rapid Transit service. SunRunner is the first of its kind in the Tampa Bay area, complete with 16 stations that stretch over a 10-mile corridor.

This multimillion-dollar project aimed to enhance the commuting experience while simultaneously decreasing emissions, fuel consumption, and noise pollution through the use of all-electric vehicles. Recognizing the importance of community representation, PSTA ensured that SunRunner's design reflected the local community it serves. Embracing the vibrant art scene of St. Petersburg, which boasts over 600 street murals, was considered the ideal way to complement this innovative initiative.

"Incorporating art into this project was both important and fitting given St. Petersburg's connection to and support of the arts," said the city's mayor, Rick Kriseman. "The art scene is alive and well in our community, and I'm glad it's reflected in this critical project."

St. Petersburg and the greater Tampa Bay area have plenty of experience in commissioning public art displays, and hundreds of artists competed to win the \$700,000 bid for the PSTA project. The prevailing artist was Catherine Woods, a nationally recognized local artist known for her large-scale architectural glass and metal installations. Woods is also the principal of C Glass Studios, which has been creating public art since 2002.

Upon winning the bid, Woods was ecstatic. "I love working with glass as an art medium and appreciate how light interacts with colored glass. Especially for glass sculptures like Community DNA and Striding, it's like color floating in the air," she explained.

Without hesitation, Woods promptly informed her longtime collaborator, GGI, about her triumph. GGI eagerly teamed up with Woods once again to bring her artistic vision to life across the 16 bus shelters. This endeavor presented a unique challenge as the artwork needed to be both visually captivating and functionally practical, offering shade and shelter to waiting passengers.

The creation of the artwork took more than 18 months altogether, with Woods determined to accurately represent the communities served by SunRunner. To achieve this, she took thousands of photographs to best capture the unique qualities of the neighborhoods around each stop and used patterns and colors tailored to the specific locations. The end result was 16 unique pieces that created a running collage.



After completing the artwork, Woods turned to GGI to bring her art to life using Alice® Direct to Glass Printing – the best way to ensure the colors, definition, and quality were maximized.

From previous collaborations, Woods knew GGI had the ability and capacity to bring complex images to life on durable surfaces meant to last. With GGI's printing using ceramic frit ink, the high-traffic exterior application would be poised to remain vibrant and beautiful for decades.

"When working with glass color, reds always present a challenge, no matter the process. GGI and I worked closely to achieve the colors desired, including the reds, without compromising the art," said Woods.

Ceramic frit ink is also designed to withstand harsh weather conditions and UV exposure, making it the perfect choice for this project. According to GGI's Vice President Stephen Balik, "The ink used in GGI's Alice® digital imaging process combined with the SentryGlas® laminated glass interlayer allowed us to meet the challenges presented by the intense heat and sunlight of Florida."

To ensure the end result matched the artist's vision and expectations, GGI submitted four rounds of 19" x 13" samples for each design. The final art was printed on 1/4" low iron tempered glass and reinforced with a .060" clear SentryGlas® interlayer for an overall laminated glass configuration of 9/16" thick, perfect for displaying and preserving the vibrant colors and designs.

GGI strives to make creations that enhance a structure or environment's natural beauty, as well as respect and accurately capture an artist's vision. The SunRunner project is a perfect representation of what can be done with glass – providing functional beauty in conjunction with representing Catherine Woods' magnificent art.