



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MANATEES SWIM INTO WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWNS**

**Safety Harbor, FL** – Following the success of the Tampa Bay Tour of Turtles, the Outdoor Arts Foundation is making preparations to unveil its follow-up fiberglass animal project, Manatee Menagerie, at three Tampa Bay Area Westfield Shoppingtowns. The project was conceived to raise awareness about the plight of the West Indian Manatees found throughout the Tampa Bay Area.

Almost 50 fiberglass and mixed-media sculptures based on the indigenous West Indian Manatee will be displayed throughout the Tampa Bay Area between April 2005 and April 2006. The project will culminate in May of 2006 with an auction to benefit the Save the Manatee Club and other Manatee conservation and protection based organizations.

Manatee Menagerie will kick-off at 10a.m. on Tuesday, April 19, at Westfield Shoppingtown Citrus Park, where a press conference will be held to unveil up to 15 Manatees. Participating artists will be on hand to celebrate the event, along with representatives from the various Manatee-based organizations benefiting from the project.

Five more Manatees will make their way to Westfield Shoppingtown Countryside the evening of April 19 to be prepped for public display on Wednesday, April 20. Westfield Shoppingtown Brandon will also receive five manatees early Wednesday morning to be ready for display when the center opens at 10am.

Manatees will be displayed at all three Westfield Shoppingtowns through July of 2005 at which time they will make their way to locations such as Ruth Eckerd Hall, the Clearwater Main Library, the Jimmy B. Keel Library, Sunrise Cinemas in Old Hyde Park Village and other high profile locations. Between April and July of 2005, special events such as a paint-your-own Manatee day, coloring contest and educational presentations will be held at all three Westfield properties.

For more details regarding Manatee Menagerie or the Outdoor Arts Foundation and its community arts initiatives, please visit the Foundation's website at [www.outdoorartsfoundation.com](http://www.outdoorartsfoundation.com). The Outdoor Arts Foundation is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to beautifying the Tampa Bay Area through creative artistic endeavors.

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