

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Gerald R. Ford International Airport Hosting 14 ArtPrize Exhibits



(Above): “1934” -a portrait of a young President Gerald Ford and Willis Ward is one of 14 exhibits on display at the Ford Airport. This large size painting depicts how President Gerald Ford overcame mounting adversity and racial discrimination to help his friend. The exhibit is made up of 1,934 pieces and references images from 1934.

**Grand Rapids, Mich.** – ArtPrize 10 kicks off in Grand Rapids on Wednesday, and the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) is one of 165 venues hosting art around the city.

Visitors and passengers coming through the airport will be see 14 exhibits on display at GFIA as the competition runs from September 19 through October 7. Art at the airport is on display upstairs along the mezzanine, in the indoors observation deck area, and in the east end of the terminal building near the valet ticket counter and exit to rental cars.

GFIA is serving as an ArtPrize venue for the second straight year, but has been a long-time sponsor and welcoming point for artists and visitors since the competition began a decade ago.



“We are thrilled to once again serve as a gathering place for ArtPrize –as a venue, a sponsor, and as a way to welcome artists and visitors into our great city,” said GFIA President & CEO Jim Gill. “The Ford Airport strives to be reflective of the people and events in West Michigan, and we have a chance to brighten up our space with local and national artwork that showcases many different types of art. We hope people take advantage of the art on display here and visit us during the competition whether as a traveler or just a general visitor.”

ArtPrize is an open, independently organized international art competition which takes place for 19 days every other fall in Grand Rapids, Michigan. More than five hundred thousand dollars in prizes are awarded each year, which include a \$200,000 prize awarded entirely by public vote and another \$200,000 prize awarded by a jury of art experts.

Featured artists in the airport include:

[Semper Paratus – Always Ready by Wanda Aikens](#)  
[Anticipation by Eleonora Hayes](#)  
[American Diversity by Lisa Sabo Brown](#)  
[New Moons by Radha Mehta](#)  
[Power of Portrait: Travelers by Megan Call](#)  
[Selfie by Douglas Harkless](#)  
[Path of Determination by Billy Butski](#)  
[Are You A Route 66'er by Gary Fouts](#)  
[1934 by Amiri Farris](#)  
[Fear Less by Elizabeth Laul Healey](#)  
[The 29 in Ellis by Christopher Gillespie](#)  
[A Child's Garden by Timothy Donohoe & Pine Ridge Elementary students](#)  
[Matthew's View by Tom Howing](#)  
[Robert F Battles by Robert Battles](#)

For more information on ArtPrize 10, including more on the exhibits at the airport, visit: <http://www.artprize.org/venues/get/6589>. For interviews, please contact Tara Hernandez.

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## **About GFIA**

The Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) is the second busiest airport in Michigan. The Airport served over 2.8 million passengers in 2017 and over 7,000 travelers pass through GFIA each day. The Gerald R. Ford International Airport offers nonstop service to 26 major market destinations with more than 120 daily nonstop flights. The Gerald R. Ford International Airport is managed and operated by the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority. GFIA generates over \$3.1 billion in annual economic output throughout West Michigan, and employs over 2,000 people. For more information on GFIA visit: [www.flyford.org](http://www.flyford.org) or follow the airport on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter: @FlyGRFord