

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**DENVER OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES
INSTALLATION OF *I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN*,
40-FOOT TALL BLUE BEAR SCULPTURE,
AT COLORADO CONVENTION CENTER**

(DENVER) The Denver Office of Cultural Affairs' Public Art Program announces the installation of the much anticipated public artwork by Lawrence Argent entitled *I See What You Mean*, a 40-foot tall, blue bear, at the Colorado Convention Center. The installation of the sculpture is scheduled to begin next Tuesday, June 21st, and will take approximately four to five days to complete.

WHAT: Installation of public art sculpture *I See What you Mean*

WHO: Artist Lawrence Argent
Fabricator William Kreysler of William Kreysler Associates, American Canyon, CA
City's Public Art Program Director John Grant
Lawrence Argent and John Grant will be available on-site for questions from the media at 10:00 a.m. each day of the installation. William Kreysler will be available on June 23rd, 24th & 25th.

WHEN: Begins Tuesday, June 21st, 2005. The installation will take four to five days to complete.

WHERE: Colorado Convention Center, 14th Street side

The artist has described *I See What You Mean* as a stylized representation of native fauna. As the bear peeks inside the enormous facility at the conventioners, displacement and wonder pique curiosity and question a greater relationship of art, technology and whimsy.

"My public artworks are part of a larger whole," stated Lawrence Argent. "I am an artist that utilizes assorted mediums and venues to engage the viewer in questioning the assumed and provide a vehicle by which stimulus opens a plethora of responses that defy verbal articulation."

Lawrence Argent was born in England and trained in sculpture at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia and has an MFA from the Rinehart School of Sculpture at the Maryland Institute, College of Art in Baltimore, Maryland. He is the recipient of numerous fellowships including the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, the Colorado Council on the Arts, the Core Fellowship at the Fine Arts Museum in Houston, Texas, and has been an artist in residence at the John Michael Kohler Foundation. Currently, he is an Associate Professor of

Art at the University of Denver, where he was awarded the Distinguished Scholar award in 2002. He has exhibited nationally and internationally. Presently, he is working on several public art projects in the United States.

Argent's other notable public artworks in Colorado include *Gateway* (blades of grass), located on South Broadway in the City of Englewood, and *Whispers* (limestone and bronze lips with interactive sound), located at the south entrance to the Ritchie Wellness Center on the University of Denver campus.

FUN FACTS ABOUT THE BIG, BLUE BEAR

Where was the bear made? American Canyon, California

What are the materials used in the sculpture? Steel armature and polymer concrete

How much does the bear weigh? 10,000 pounds

How many pieces comprise the bear? 6

How many trucks will it take to transport the bear from California to Denver? 5

How many miles will the bear travel from California to Denver? 1,238

How many people will it take to build the bear? 25

How tall is the bear? 40 feet to the crown of its head

How much food would the bear eat per day if it were a real bear? A five foot black bear eats an average 45 pounds of food a day. So, at 40 feet, it might consume 360 pounds of food per day.

For footage of the creation and production of the big, blue bear, please contact Henry Ansbacher at Just Media at 303-871-9015. Just Media is a non-profit production company and media foundation currently in production of a documentary on the creation, production and installation of *I See What you Mean*.

For more information on the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs' Public Art Program, please call 303-640-6950.

The mission of the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs is to advance the arts and culture in the City and County of Denver.

