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UNVEILS RUNWAY MURAL IMAGE BY NATIONALLY-RENOWN ARTIST



LEXINGTON, KY - In mid-September, Blue Grass Airport unveiled an image that it hopes will become a signature art feature in Central Kentucky.

As part of Phase One of the \$35 million Runway Safety Area improvement project, Blue Grass Airport has commissioned world-renowned artist Eric Henn to create a distinctive mural image upon the airport's newly constructed 30' x 800' retaining wall, visible from Versailles Road.

The mural depicts a one-of-a-kind painted stone bridge, a scene designed to represent a compilation of features from many of Kentucky's finest horse farms and a signature federal-style house. The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Airport Board selected the mural wall concept because of its ability to mirror the unrivaled beauty of the area. The mural will bring to life the excitement and beauty of the area we call the Bluegrass Region.

"Our goal is to create a signature piece of art for the community - one that emphasizes the proud heritage of the Bluegrass," said Michael Gobb, Executive Director, Blue Grass Airport. "The airport is often the site of the first - and last - impression for visitors to the region. Through art, we hope to convey the same eye-pleasing landscape that has historically defined Central Kentucky."

In addition to the mural wall, other aesthetic and functional elements will further enhance the art feature: Ornamental estate-style fencing will marry brawn and beauty, by allowing an unobstructed view of the mural wall from Versailles Road, while

maintaining the highest level of security for Blue Grass Airport. The landscaping will also feature attributes common to the region, such as the use of stone fencing made from "Keeneland Ruble" stone to mask security access roads, the use of ivy to soften the appearance of part of the retaining wall and the inclusion of gently rolling hills, which are indicative of the entire Bluegrass Region.

Long regarded as one of the nation's foremost muralists, Henn was named "The Eighth Wonder of the Sign World" by Signs of the Times magazine. His client list includes Proctor & Gamble, CITGO Petroleum, and the Newport Aquarium. His murals have appeared on the PBS special program "Super Murals," CNN, the Discovery Channel, and Sesame Street. While known and respected around the world, Henn is no stranger to the Bluegrass. An example of his previous work can be found in Lexington, on the water tower located near the split of I-75 and I-64, and along the Blue Grass Parkway in Versailles, Kentucky.

The mural project is one component of a comprehensive four-phase Runway Safety Area improvement project that began in October 2003, and will be concluded in 2007. The mural design and retaining wall was the result of the combined efforts of Tetra Tech, Inc., Central Rock, Inc., the Landplan Group, and the Blue Grass Airport. Work on the mural began in September 2004, and completed within three to five months.

For additional information, visit Blue Grass Airport on the web at www.bluegrassairport.com.