



ILUMINARC®

CASE STUDY

Agua Luces The lighting of Tampa's bridges

CHALLENGE

The City of Tampa sought efficient ways to light five bridges over an active waterway with color-changing light. The goal was to enhance the landscape visually, while supporting local arts initiatives

SOLUTION

Install LED-fitted exterior lighting solutions, manufactured by ILUMINARC®, which are outdoor-rated and made to project broad spectrums of color over vast distances.



LUMINARC® exterior lighting solutions permanently light five landmark bridges over downtown Tampa's Hillsborough River. The project entitled "**Agua Luces**", or "Water Lights", is part of the Lights On Tampa arts initiative, a joint public and private partnership between the **City of Tampa Art Programs Division** and Friends of Tampa Public Art.

"The illumination of the five downtown bridges generated tremendously positive feedback from our citizens and abroad," said **Robin Nigh, manager for City of Tampa Art Programs Division**. "During the Republican National Convention of 2012, the bridges were wonderful vistas seen around the globe."

A few years in the making, the Agua Luces project complements **The Tampa Riverwalk** expansion with a paved walkway on the eastern side of the river that highlights specific vistas of the city, river and newly lit bridges. Designing the lighting aspect of Agua Luces was Tracey Dear of Chicago-based **Dear Productions**. Dear, known for illuminating Chicago's bridges, specified the outdoor-rated, LED-fitted **ILUMINARC®** fixtures in his design, which also allows the colors to change throughout the night, every night.

"The incorporation of LED light into the landscape of downtown Tampa was a cost-saving decision, as well as an aesthetic one," said Nigh. "Our research indicates that the five bridges combined use the equivalent power of

one house. Simply put, the technology is available to achieve beautiful, efficient lighting—we wouldn't have done it otherwise."

As of 2012, the Agua Luces project comprises five permanently illuminated bridges. The five bridges are Platt Street Bridge, Brorein Street Bridge, Tampa-Hillsborough Expressway Authority overpass, Kennedy Boulevard Bridge, and the CSX Railroad Bridge.

"Each bridge is unique and I wanted to give them their own personality," said Dear, "while unifying them as one family of bridges surrounding downtown Tampa. Much like currents of water, the bridges will constantly change color and appearance. This magic of changing light reflects in the Hillsborough River, adding to the overall view of the city."

The project also involved five major owners, one for each bridge: **City of Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida Department of Transportation, CSX Corporation, Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority.**

“The Agua Luces project by the City of Tampa has enhanced the entire waterfront along the Hillsborough River, as it runs through and around the downtown area, by providing a scenic, color changing scheme along one of the city’s great assets—the waterscape,” said **Donald J. Skelton, P.E., District Seven Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation.** “We are excited to have participated with the city to make this happen. Part of our mission is to support the efforts of municipalities while ensuring the continued safe operation of the transportation system.”

Four of the five bridges utilize 90 ILUMINARC® **Ilumipanel 40 IP** exterior lighting solutions. The fifth, Tampa-Hillsborough Expressway Authority overpass, uses 20 ILUMINARC® **Ilumipanel 90 IP** exterior lighting solutions and six ILUMINARC® **Ilumiline 36 IP** linear wash lights. All five bridges create colorful archways for the active waterway and add dramatic flair to the city’s skyline.

“The Ilumipanel 40 IP fixture is a bright little fixture with a manageable design that’s not alien to electrical contractors,” said Dear. “It has really great output with a slim design and blends in to the environment well. I really like it and will use it again.”



“The LED lights have enlivened the city’s landscape with the added bonus of energy and maintenance savings. Additionally, our partnership with the City of Tampa helped us save construction costs and accelerate the schedule for implementation. Both THEA and our Board are happy with the result.”

Joe Waggoner

Executive Director for Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority





The City of Tampa secured and implemented efficient ways to illuminate its five downtown bridges with color-changing light by using LED-fitted exterior lighting solutions manufactured by ILUMINARC®.

Enhanced by outdoor-rated ILUMINARC® fixtures, its active waterway and cityscape beautifully showcase broad spectrums of color while supporting local arts initiatives.



ILUMINARC® Ilumipanel 90 IP



ILUMINARC® Ilumiline 36 IP



ILUMINARC® Ilumipanel 40 IP

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Name: Agua Luces

Lighting design: Dear Productions

Location: Tampa, Florida

Owner(s): City of Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida Department of Transportation, CSX Corporation, Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority

Completed: 2012

Photography: ILUMINARC®

ILUMINARC®

Architainment and architectural lighting
made by a leader in green LED illumination, Chauvet.

www.iluminarc.com