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***Cool Globes: Hot Ideas for a Cooler Planet***  
**Opens at Houston's Discovery Green**

*Public Art Exhibit Features Super-sized Globes that Showcase  
Everyday Solutions to Global Warming*

Houston, TX (August 25, 2009) – Coming to Houston this fall, the *Cool Globes: Hot Ideas for a Cooler Planet* exhibit will display 50 artistically decorated, super-sized globes that depict simple solutions to global warming and educate individuals and companies about how they can partake in making their city and homes a greener place to live. The free, outdoor public art exhibit opens October 9, 2009 at Houston's Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney St.

The five-foot diameter, seven-foot-tall globes, each weighing in at 2,300 pounds, have been designed by international and national artists such as Peter Mars, Bernard Williams and Mr. Imagination as well as Houston artists including Sharon Kopriva, Suzanne Sellers and Liz Conces Spenser.

"Partnering with Cool Globes is a fun way to remind Houstonians about how to reduce their energy consumption, recycle and improve air quality," said Mayor Bill White. "Public art puts the issues of global warming before our very eyes. Like our environment, it's a message that knows no boundaries. "

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Featuring public art with a purpose, *Cool Globes* was inspired by Chicago-area environmental activist and mother of four Wendy Abrams who wanted to do something to showcase what people can do to help combat global warming. The project, encouraged in part by the Cows on Parade exhibit, grew out of a commitment Abrams offered up while attending a 2005 conference held by the Clinton Global Initiative.

“To most of us, the problem of global warming is overwhelming,” said Wendy Abrams, founder, *Cool Globes*. “We feel helpless and are not convinced that the small efforts we make to address climate change could really have an impact. However, there are solutions and simple actions we all can take in our daily lives to help reduce climate change. We can find something in this exhibit that we can change in our own lives.”

*Cool Globes* is coming to Houston prior to debuting in Europe in 2010. *Cool Globes* premiered in 2007 in Chicago, where the exhibit became a “must see” destination for millions of visitors to the city’s Museum Campus along the lakefront. In 2008 *Cool Globes* traveled to Washington D.C. and was on display at the U.S. Botanic Garden. The globes then moved to Crissy Field in San Francisco and next to San Diego’s Balboa Park. In 2009, prior to the globes coming to Houston, they were on view in Los Angeles’ Exposition Park.

“When we heard about *Cool Globes*, we knew we wanted to be part of it,” said Jason Few, president, Reliant Energy. “This exhibit is the perfect opportunity to draw attention to the choices we make everyday about how we use energy. When taken together, our individual choices can make a positive impact on the environment. Reliant Energy is committed to helping our customers make smart choices about how they use energy. We know it’s important to them personally and collectively to all of us as a society.”

The *Cool Globes: Hot Ideas for a Cooler Planet* exhibit is being presented by Reliant Energy. H-E-B is the Education Sponsor and Calpine Corporation is the Opening Reception Sponsor. Foundation Sponsors include: Greater Houston Community Foundation; Houston Arts Alliance; Houston Endowment Inc; The Brown Foundation, Inc. The Premiere Globe Sponsors are Silver Eagle Distributors and Vestas R&D Americas. Globe sponsors include: AshBritt; Corporate Care; Dancie Perugini Ware Public Relations; Schneider Electric. In-Kind Sponsors are City of Houston; Discovery Green; FedEx; The Four Seasons Hotel; Greenworks; *Houston Chronicle*; HoustonPBS; Medline Industries; *Papercity Magazine*; The Grove; The Tagos Group.

The public is invited to the grand opening celebration of *Cool Globes* on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm at Discovery Green. Refreshments courtesy of H-E-B will be provided.

The outdoor exhibit is offered free to the public and will remain open through December 31. For more information, visit [www.coolglobes.org](http://www.coolglobes.org). For globe sponsorship information, contact [susan.bono@cityofhouston.net](mailto:susan.bono@cityofhouston.net).

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