

Media Release

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Art and culture a winning combination for Go



The vibrant colour, shape and movement of '**Gold Coast Happy Days**' has been popularly selected as the first piece of public art to enliven Stage 1 of the Gold Coast Cultural Precinct.

Gold Coast Mayor, Tom Tate, and The Arts Centre Gold Coast (TACGC) General Manager, Destry Puia, today revealed the image that will turn an otherwise bland construction fence into a public art installation.

Hiroshima-born artist and designer, **Go Suga**, was inspired by the city he has called home since 1990 to deliver his winning entry.

"Go's entry is a standout piece of art, capturing the real essence of the Gold Coast's strong colours, boundless energy and outdoor lifestyle," said Mayor Tate.

"And at its centre is the multi-layered Art Tower which will one day rise up out of the cultural precinct, reminding us that this will be the heart of art and culture in the city."

The competition, organised by The Arts Centre Gold Coast, attracted strong interest from Gold Coast artists, with an independent panel choosing three to participate in a public vote.

Go's colourful entry was the public's clear favourite, attracting almost half (384) of the 776 public votes.

As well as being rewarded with \$2000 in prize money from The Arts Centre Gold Coast, Go's *Gold Coast Happy Days* will be incorporated into the hoardings design for Stage 1 site fencing during almost 18 months of construction.

Mr Puia praised the other competitors and, in particular, the shortlisted entrants – Tyler Jackson's vivacious '*Aspects*' and Tropical Loveland's '*Waterways Wonderland*'.

"Artists, by their very nature, are brave. They are prepared to put their talent and creativity – such a large part of themselves - out there to be judged by others.

"Their willingness to share enriches us all, individually, and as a city. And the Gold Coast is fortunate to have such a wealth of artistic talent."

After moving to Australia, Go settled on the Gold Coast, where he completed his Diploma of Graphic Design. He says his talent for drawing has turned into a lifelong passion, enabling him to blend cultures and provide expression for his personal views on social, political, surfing and cultural issues.

Now his art utilises drawing, typography, layout and composition. He is among the represented artists at 19 Karen Contemporary Artspace in Mermaid Beach.