

City of Houston Quality of Life Committee

City of Houston Civic Art Program
Artist Selection Process

Debbie McNulty, Director
Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs
February 17, 2016



Cloud Gate – Anish Kapoor Millennium Park, Chicago, IL

Cloud Gate draws in the surrounding beauty - the architecture of the clouds and the buildings lining Michigan Avenue - and the people who come to visit it. One definition of art might be that it reframes how we experience the world around us; as insufficient as most definitions of art are, this one has the advantage of taking into account the spectator and the audience.



The City of Houston's Civic Art Program provides 1.75 percent of eligible Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects for Civic Art (Ordinance 2006-731).

Eligible Projects are any project that is not an Excluded Project.

Excluded Projects means all paving projects, street resurfacing projects, runways, ramps, and parking lots, signal and traffic control projects, underground projects, demolition projects, environmental assessment or remediation projects, projects for the rehabilitation or replacement of a single building system (such as a project for roofing only), as well as individual CIP Projects where individual CIP Projects within the combined CIP Project have an estimated cost less than \$500,000.

The City typically contracts with Houston Arts Alliance for professional services to select an artist for a Civic Art Project, as well as for project management of the artist and the creation of the artwork. Services include:

- Draft RFP/RFQ that sets out the scope of the Civic Art Project and selection criteria for the selection of the artist or use a pre-qualified pool of artists previously selected through RFQ and by invitation
- Place advertisements as needed
- Coordinate responses and inquiries
- Facilitate reviews, evaluation and interviews of artists by a selection panel
- Document and distribute outcomes

Artist selection panels usually consist of 3 to 5 professionals.

For smaller-scale projects, the panel typically consists of three members: two arts professionals and a representative of the facility where the artwork will be placed.

For major projects, panels typically have five members: A representative from the facility where the artwork will be placed, the facility architect (if new construction), and three arts professionals. The last may include curators, artists, collectors, conservators, and museum professionals. Panelists may come from Houston or elsewhere, but for major projects the goal is always to have at least one out-of-town panelist.

The selection panel recommends one or more artists or artist design teams.

Recommended artists/teams are asked to create a more thorough proposal, which is reviewed at a second panel meeting.

Additional selection panel meetings and site visits may be needed before a decision is reached.

The selection panel decision is voted on by the HAA Civic Art Committee and the HAA Executive Committee.

If approved by the HAA Executive Committee, the selection panel recommendation is presented to the City department for final acceptance.

If the City department does not accept the recommendation, the selection process begins again.

Houston Arts Alliance Board of Directors

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Executive Committee

Civic Art Committee

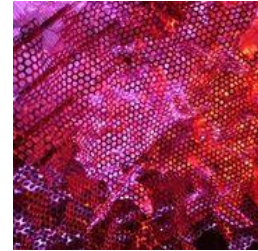
Keiji Asakura
Philamena Baird
Valerie Cassel Oliver
Ryan Dennis
Michael Guidry
Craig Massey, Chair
Debbie McNulty, Nonvoting
Randhir Sahni

Untitled – Ed Wilson

GRB Convention Center, Houston, TX



Wilson's sensitive use of materials creates an elegant counterpoint to the modernist architecture of the Convention Center.



We are in the Business of Changing the World, SS - Tara Conley
South Gessner Police Station, Houston, TX



“Officers and civilians must work together diligently to establish a safe and prosperous society. For the public lobby and outdoor sculptures I chose an abstracted honeycomb design that fits together like a puzzle to express the complexity and camaraderie of this unique relationship.”

Artist: Tara Conley

Houston, Can You Hear Me - Hana Hillerova

IAH, Houston, TX



“The experience of passing through the sculpture installation is that the passengers became astronauts traveling through a galaxy. Passengers are instantly reminded of where they are: Houston, the city known for being instrumental in the exploration of the outer space.”

Artist: Hana Hillerova

Radiant Fountains – Dennis Openheim

JFK Blvd, Houston, TX

For those leaving the airport, this iconic display exudes the energy and vibrance that awaits visitors as they enter the vast city of Houston.

Artist: Dennis Openheim

