



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Marie Jacinto
HAA Director of Communications
marie@haatx.com
713.581.6126 direct
832.628.9010 mobile

Houston Arts Alliance Awards George R. Brown Convention Center Interior Commission Houston Artist Ed Wilson

HOUSTON, TX (March XX, 2015) – Houston Arts Alliance (HAA) announced that Houston artist Ed Wilson has been awarded the commission to create an interior artwork for the George R. Brown (GRB) Convention Center. The commission includes \$830,000 to produce a large-scale work of art as part of the major renovation of the GRB.

“We are delighted to announce that Ed Wilson has been awarded this important commission,” said Jonathon Glus, President + CEO of Houston Arts Alliance. “Ed’s proposal is a 60-foot hanging sculpture, a mobile of stainless steel bird and cloud forms. The way the piece will capture both natural and dramatic lighting will let visitors know that they have entered a very special space as a welcome to the conferences and conventions that lie ahead.”

Glus added, “This artwork will be one of the most visible aspects of the renovation of the George R. Brown. Being lit behind a glass window, the sculpture will be seen throughout the convention district.”

In November, 2014, HAA temporarily halted the review process of artists’ proposals to reevaluate its review process and its own policies and procedures. Once the Executive Committee of HAA re-endorsed its policies and procedures, HAA expedited the review process for the GRB interior artwork by inviting the seven semi-finalists from the initial process to re-submit their projects.

Marc Melcher, Chairman of the Board of Houston Arts Alliance, said “We took a few weeks to ensure that our policies and procedures are tight and that the process was followed for this important commission. In fact, they were, and with a re-endorsement by the executive committee, we were able to move swiftly to complete the process and deliver this proposal from Ed Wilson to Houston First. We are very pleased to offer this size of commission and level of prominence to one of Houston’s long-time artists, with deep roots in our community.”

MORE

Gilbert Vicario said about Ed Wilson's proposal: "It was great to see evidence of the artist's hand in a work of such monumental scale. Wilson's sensitive use of materials creates an elegant counterpoint to the modernist architecture of the Convention Center. Formally It has the perceptual qualities of a vertical landscape painting that one could associate with the Asian scroll painting tradition while firmly anchored to a strong regional quality that is very Houston. I felt that the work has an artistic integrity that is rare in public art commissions."

This commission is the result of HAA's standard process in commissioning new works, which includes:

- An expert panel (comprised of artists, arts professionals and facility stakeholders) that reviews the qualifications of artists under consideration;
- A second meeting of the panel to review proposals from a short of list of artists originally selected by the panel for more in-depth consideration;
- Recommendations from the panel (taking into consideration aesthetics, appropriateness of the proposal to the site, technical considerations, and conservation) to the Civic Art Committee of HAA;
- A review by the Civic Art Committee of the panel's recommendations, affirming that the artwork is appropriate for the location and verifying that all policies and procedures have been followed;
- HAA's Executive Committee's review and approval of the Civic Art Committee's recommendation;
- Acceptance by the commissioning City department. In this case, acceptance of the proposed artwork was by Houston First.

Upon accepting the commission, Ed Wilson said, "It's time to get to work."

For more information about Houston Arts Alliance, visit houstonartsalliance.com.

###

About Houston Arts Alliance

Houston Arts Alliance (HAA) is a nonprofit agency established by the City of Houston to enhance the quality of life and tourism by advancing the arts in the Houston region. HAA invests in and nurtures Houston's thriving creative community by providing more than 225 grants to nonprofit arts organizations and individual artists each year, commissioning the work of artists for public spaces, managing the city's art collection, showcasing Houston's rich folk life traditions, cultivating skill-based volunteers, and empowering arts organizations to become sustainable and reach new audiences through business incubation and other services. For more information on Houston-area arts and culture events, visit HAA's online resource at Artshound.com. For more information on HAA, visit houstonartsalliance.com.