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Houston Art Alliance Staff Nominated to Houston's 50 Most Influential Women for Second Consecutive Year

HOUSTON (February 20, 2017) – Houston Arts Alliance (HAA) is proud to announce that Sara Kellner, Director of Civic Art + Design has been named one of Houston's 50 Most Influential Women of 2016 by Houston Woman Magazine.

Each of the honorees was nominated for inclusion on the "50 Women" list by a subscriber of Houston Woman Magazine and, later, selected by the staff of the publication.

Sara is an art professional with more than 25 years of experience. As Director of Civic Art + Design, she supervises the City of Houston's civic art program – including permanent commissions, temporary art projects and the conservation of the City of Houston Art Collection. Recent projects include two major commissions for the City of Houston and Houston First Corporation at the George R. Brown Convention Center, *Wings Over Water* by Joe O'Connell and Creative Machines, and *Soaring in the Clouds* by Ed Wilson. She also worked with Southwest Airlines and the Houston Airport System to develop seven commissioned works and the acquisition of several works by Houston-area artists for William P. Hobby Airport.

Sara's 2016 nomination marks the second year in a row that HAA board and staff have been nominated for the award. In 2015, Pat Jasper, Director of Folklife + Civic Engagement; Chairman of the Board, Philamena Baird; and board member Gigi Myung were named to the list.

According to Beverly Denver, publisher of Houston Woman Magazine, "Those selected as Houston's 50 Most Influential Women of 2016 are individuals with vast networks of social and professional connections. They have earned an enviable reputation for their expertise in a particular field or arena. They are knowledgeable, credible and trustworthy. The thoughts and actions of these women influence the thoughts and actions of others."

Since 2008, Houston Woman Magazine has published an annual, keepsake edition featuring Houston's 50 Most Influential Women of the Year.

A festive afternoon tea to honor and connect the "50 Women" has been an annual celebration. This year's event, attended by more 225 invited guests, was co-hosted by Houston Woman Magazine and Chevron and held on Sunday, February 19 in the ballroom of The Junior League of Houston.

Those previously recognized as Women of Influence by Houston Woman Magazine are listed, by year selected, online at <http://houstonwomanmagazine.com/index.php/50-women>

To learn more about Sara Kellner, visit <http://houstonartsalliance.com/about/staff/civcart>

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About Houston Arts Alliance

Houston Arts Alliance (HAA) is the city's designated, local arts and culture agency. We invest in Houston as a place to visit, live, work, honor and create. Part of our mission is the commissioning, conserving and promoting public art and enlivening public spaces on behalf of the City of Houston. Ultimately, HAA works to improve the quality of life for Houstonians and visitors alike, while advancing Houston as a premier arts and culture destination.