

## **Art on the Go: PODS® of Houston joins with Houston Arts Alliance to paint the town.**

*Moving and storage company to support local arts agency and artists on their creative journey with additional support from Gensler*

**(HOUSTON, TX) March 2, 2015** – To take contemporary art into unexpected places and neighborhoods throughout Houston and to highlight the work of some of Houston’s most innovative artists, PODS of Houston, a moving and storage company, has teamed up with Houston Arts Alliance for the second art installation project with additional support provided by Gensler.

This is Houston Arts Alliance’s second iteration of the traveling public art installation series featuring the transformation of PODS Containers into works of art. Selected through a competitive process, the 2015 artists are Elaine Bradford and Emily Link; Brandon Ray and Team Paper Brain (Darwin Arevalo, Rodney Flores, Rob Mozell, Lisa Ray and Janiece Rivas); Thomas Rolls, Jr., and Troy Stanley.

Each artist or artist team received their PODS Container last fall and spent three months in the construction process, based on designs submitted as part of the grant process. Beginning in early February, all four transformed PODS Containers were showcased at White Oak Conference Center, 7603 Antoine. The individual PODS Containers are now traveling to different locations across Greater Houston, taking contemporary art into unexpected places and neighborhoods throughout Houston.

“An important component of the Houston Arts Alliance mission is to expand the reach of local arts beyond gallery and museum walls,” explains HAA President and CEO, Jonathon Glus. “This art project takes this mission a step further by delivering contemporary art to Houstonians outside the city limits, providing easy access to quality family-friendly and interactive artworks.”

“PODS of Houston is very passionate on supporting the arts, and we loved developing this innovative idea to help promote the local artists within the Houston community,” said Larry Sledge, President of PODS of Houston.

Elaine Bradford and Emily Link collaborated on *Invasive Species*, which combines the unique, soft sculptural styles of each artist, creating an immersive environment depicting life-size human figures exploring and encountering unknown varieties of flora and fauna. The ecosystem will evolve over the course of the installation, with designated days in which the public will be invited to participate in this fantastical world. MORE

At first glance, the exterior of Brandon Ray and Team Paper Brain's *Repurposing Cyclical City* looks like any other standard PODS Container. However, three large plexiglass windows invite passers-by to take a closer look. As viewers peek inside, they will see the city of Houston through a portable paper lens. Created by a number of contributing artists, the miniature cityscape inside is made from repurposed cardboard, paper, and trash, recreating some of Houston's most recognizable downtown buildings in a paper-craft childlike simplicity. Viewers are invited to alternate among the three windows to see a frozen moment in time of this **paper** version of Houston. At twilight, the buildings light up in a familiar fashion to our downtown skyline at night.

Filmmaker and video artist Thomas Rolls transformed his PODS Container into an intimate space that allows the viewer to witness his/her own reactions to emotional stimuli. *Look at Me* is a psychological experience that challenges the viewer to personify a space.

Utilizing a two-way mirror and reflective vinyl, Troy Stanley created a large park within a small enclosed space entitled *Park On Demand Space (...greener on the other side)*. The reflective aspect allows the visitor to see himself existing in this space, and offers a new perspective on both the viewer and the larger urban environment.

For more information about PODA 2.0, visit [houstonartsalliance.com](http://houstonartsalliance.com).

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### **About Houston Arts Alliance Event 2.0**

The second year of Houston Arts Alliance event is an exciting traveling public art installation series. The 2014-2015 project features the work of Elaine Bradford and Emily Link, Brandon Ray and Team Paper Brain, Thomasid Rolls, Jr. and Troy Stanley. Each artist or collective of artists has uniquely transformed a PODS Container into a unique and interactive work of art.

### **About Houston Arts Alliance Event 2.0 Artists**

Elaine Bradford lives and works in Houston. She holds an MFA from the California Institute of the Arts and a BFA from the University of Texas at Austin. Her work has been shown at Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL; Jenkins Johnson Gallery, New York, NY; Handmade in America Gallery, Asheville, NC; and Centre Culturel Aragon, Oyonnax, France. Select solo shows include The Picture Gallery at Saint Gaudens Memorial, Cornish, NH; ArtLeague Houston; and Hunt Gallery at Webster University, St. Louis, MO. Bradford is a founding member of BOX 13 ArtSpace, an innovative artist-run studio and gallery space in Houston. She was a resident artist at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft in 2010; and in 2011, she completed a permanent civic art commission for the City of Houston at Vinson Neighborhood Library. Bradford is represented by Art Palace Gallery in Houston.

Emily Link lives and works in Houston. Born in Syracuse, NY and raised in rural Pennsylvania, Link spent her youth immersed in wilderness, remnants of the Civil War and Native American legend. Since her transplant to Texas, she has worked to build an enriched cultural past in an environment that exists only for the future. Link received a BFA in Studio Painting from University of Houston and is now community relations coordinator at Houston's Lawndale Art Center. Her recent credits include Cover Artist for NANO Fiction, Vol. 5, No. 3; Houston exhibitions at EMERGENCY Room Gallery, BOX 13 ArtSpace and The Joanna; and exhibitions at the Roll-Up Gallery in San Francisco, CA and Garfo Art Center in Salt Lake City, UT. In addition, Link was a resident artist with Many Mini at Skydive in Houston in 2011.

Brandon Ray searches for new ways to add depth to the traditionally two-dimensional medium of paper. From building three-dimensional paper cityscapes to constructing functional paper puppets, he uses stop-motion animation and puppetry techniques to bring his creations to life. Recently, Ray has applied his technique to a variety of subject matters, ranging from his paper-puppetry on the Amazon Originals children's series Gortimer Gibbon's Life on Normal Street, to the troubling tale of injustice dealt to Damien Echols and the West Memphis Three. Ray's paper animations have been recognized by international film festivals; most recently, he was one of six filmmakers selected for the Texas Filmmaker's Showcase 2014. Ray teaches the fundamentals of paper-puppetry animation to children around the world on PBS superstar Mark Kistler's global art webcast.

Thomas Rolls is a digital cinema artist. Within his 13 years of professional experience he has Captured eclectic footage in parts of Africa, South East Asia, the Middle East, Canada, and domestically. As an artist he has collaborated with the renowned (late) Bert Long Jr. He has also produced art centered documentaries showcasing artist such as Konstantin Dimopoulos (Blue Trees). As an instructor, Thomas has taught cinema art at the post-secondary level for over 6 years. He has also trained personnel at NASA J.S.C. on multiple occasions and most recently held the position of Media Arts Coordinator at the Art Institute of Houston 2011-2014. Thomas brings an extraordinary passion and energy to cinematic arts.

Troy Stanley is a mixed media sculptor and installation artist working in Houston. After receiving his BFA at the University of Houston in 2005, he attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture on full fellowship in 2007. Since then, he has had solo shows at Lawndale Art Center, and recently his first major solo gallery show at Barbara Davis Gallery. He has been the recipient of multiple civic art commissions through Houston Arts Alliance, and has multiple pieces in the City of Houston art collection, including Intercontinental Airport. He is currently represented by Barbara Davis Gallery in Houston.

**About PODS of Houston**

PODS of Houston is one of the largest independently-owned franchises of PODS Enterprises in the country and is the leading provider of moving and storage services to residents and businesses throughout the greater Houston area. PODS of Houston is locally owned and operated and began serving Houston-area residents in 2003.

Each year, PODS of Houston donates moving and storage solutions for numerous Houston-area charities in support of their contributions to the community. The Salvation Army, Houston Arts Alliance, and the YMCA are among the many organizations PODS of Houston partners with annually.

Founded in 1998, [PODS](#) currently provides moving and storage services to a population of more than 250 million consumers and businesses, in 48 U.S. states, Canada, Australia and the UK, through its company-owned and independent franchise network. To date, the PODS network has completed more than 400,000 long-distance relocations, exceeded 2.0 million deliveries and has over 150,000 PODS® containers in service. For more information, go to <http://www.PODS.com/Houston.aspx>.

**About Houston Arts Alliance**

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

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