The Houston Arts Alliance Announces New Board Members, Officers and Committee Chairs for 2019

Houston, TX, February 15, 2019 - The Houston Arts Alliance (HAA) announced new board members, new elected officers, and new appointed committee chairs today, anticipating a year of significant advances in Houston’s artistic opportunities. These changes come as the organization implements a new grants program with a focus on reaching more artists and nonprofits across all pockets of the city.

“The new year represents a chance for HAA to continue the positive changes it’s making internally and in our community, through its special projects and the contracts it is honored to execute for the City of Houston,” said Leigh Smith, the new Chairman of HAA. “Our disaster resilience work is having an impact on artists and nonprofits. Our grants processes are simpler and more accessible to all of Houston. And we plan to continue that broader outreach and positive effect with a spirit of service.”

Houston Arts Alliance (HAA) is a local arts and culture organization whose principle work is to implement the City of Houston's vision, values, and goals for its arts grantmaking and civic art investments. HAA’s work is conducted through contracts with the City of Houston, overseen by the Mayor’s Office of Cultural Affairs. HAA also executes privately funded special projects to meet the needs of the arts community, such as disaster preparation, research on the state of the arts in Houston, and temporary public art projects that energize neighborhoods.

In short, HAA helps artists and arts nonprofits be bold, productive, and strong.

The new HAA officers are:

- Leigh Smith, Chairman
- Craig Massey, Vice Chairman
- Susanne Burkeholder, Treasurer
- Adán Medrano, Secretary
- Philamena Baird, Immediate Past Chair

The new HAA board members providing their unique insight to the organization include:

- Joe Brettell, a Partner at Prosody Consulting
- C.C. Conner, Managing Director Emeritus with the Houston Ballet
• Michele Leal Farah, a Consultant with EnFocus Strategies
• Mady Kades, Owner/Operator of 54 McDonald’s restaurants across southeast Texas
• Carla Lane, President and CEO of Lane Staffing
• Jack Moriniere, who serves with many organizations such as The Museum of Fine Arts Houston
• Brenda Peters Chase, Tax Director of Investor Reporting for Enterprise Products
• Dr. Antonio D. Tillis, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) and the M.D. Anderson Professor in Hispanic Studies at the University of Houston (UH)
• Cynthia Toles, lead counsel for Fixed Annuity product development, manufacturing and marketing for AIG Consumer - Individual Retirement.

Per the organization’s bylaws, committee chairs are appointed by the Chairman of the Board each year. This year, committee chairs include:

• Audit Committee: Sebastien Solar
• Capacity Building: Erin McClarty
• Civic Art: Craig Massey
• Communications: Joe Brettell
• Finance: Susanne Burkeholder
• Governmental Affairs: Roland Garcia
• Grants: Louise Upshaw-McClenny
• HR: Adán Medrano
• Nominating: Michael Treviño
• Special Events: Lauren Anderson
• Temporary Public Art: Judy Nyquist

For more information about upcoming projects and more, visit www.HoustonArtsAlliance.com. To schedule interviews, please contact Ashley Small at 281-827-3419 or ashley@medley-inc.com.

ABOUT HAA

Houston Arts Alliance (HAA) is a local arts and culture organization whose principle work is to implement the City of Houston’s vision, values, and goals for its arts grantmaking and civic art investments. HAA’s work is conducted through contracts with the City of Houston, overseen by the Mayor’s Office of Cultural Affairs. HAA also executes privately funded special projects to meet the needs of the arts community, such as disaster preparation, research on the state of the arts in Houston, and temporary public art projects that energize neighborhoods. In short, HAA helps artists and arts nonprofits be bold, productive, and strong.

###