

True North 2027 | sculpture + heights blvd Call for sculpture



PROTOCOL

- Deadline for submission is August 15, 2026.
- Decisions for the 2027 project will be sent out shortly thereafter.
- You may submit up to three renderings or photographs of potential or existing sculpture.
- Please include details such as medium+, dimensions, color, year (for existing sculpture) and title.
- Provide detailed sketches and written information regarding installation and stability (approximate 4'x4' concrete slabs are existing), including whether a crane will be required for install/deinstall.
- Please provide an artist statement particular to each work submitted, along with your bio and c.v.
- If applicable, please provide whether an existing sculpture has been publicly exhibited, including when and where.
- *Because of the public orientation of this sculpture exhibition, situated on City of Houston property, we ask that proposals be appropriate for wider general public viewing.*

FACTS

- There are eight designated sculpture sites on the esplanade of Heights Boulevard, spaced throughout from blocks 400 to 1800. The True North team determines site placement for the sculptures.
- True North is open to artists who primarily live and/or work in the state of Texas.
- There is no electricity available to the sculpture sites; solar-paneled spot lights are provided by True North.
- The stipend for True North 2027 is \$3,000 per sculpture, artists will be asked to provide a Form W-9, and a Form 1099 will be provided in early 2027 (for tax year 2026) by the Houston Heights Association—True North's fiscal non-profit sponsor/partner. (Stipends will be individually paid upon receipt of all requested documents and information.)
- True North will secure a temporary (9-month) public sculpture permit from the City of Houston's Parks and Recreation and Public Works Departments.
- Artist participants are asked to sign a waiver of liability for (1) City of Houston and (2) Houston Heights Association/True North, as required by the City of Houston for the permit. (Attached is a sample of that document for your review. If you have any questions about that form, please let us know asap. The City will not issue our permit without this signed and notarized waiver.)
- Artists are asked to sign a letter agreement with Houston Heights Association/True North setting out the terms of participation (sample attached).
- Sculptures are not insured for damage or theft by True North, the Houston Heights Association or the City of Houston. Insurance by artists is optional.
- Artists are responsible for installation, de-installation and maintenance of sculptures.
- Installation dates are Friday, February 26, to Sunday, March 7, 2027, and artists are encouraged to install during the earlier of those dates if possible.
- De-installation dates are January 1 through 9, 2028.

- Artists are invited (but not required) to offer their sculptures for sale, and True North asks for a 20% donation of any sale if contact and/or negotiation occurs between the artist and a buyer during, or within 30 days after the close of, the True North 2027 term. Those proceeds go into True North's designated fund to support future projects and will be treated as a non-profit donation by the artist.

Please email proposal(s), attachments and questions to team@truenorthheightsblvd.com.

Thank you for your interest in the project!

Donna, Gus, Dean, Kelly & Chris

SAMPLE ONLY – FOR YOUR REVIEW
A PERSONALIZED RELEASE WILL BE PROVIDED TO EACH
INDIVIDUAL ARTIST SELECTED FOR THE 2027 EXHIBITION

be responsible in any way for damage, destruction, or theft of Artwork. Artist is solely responsible for insuring Artwork if desired.

I, _____, AGREE TO AND SHALL RELEASE OWNER, ITS AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, OFFICERS, AND LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL LIABILITY FOR INJURY, DEATH, DAMAGE, OR LOSS TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY, INCLUDING THAT SUSTAINED IN CONNECTION WITH OR INCIDENTAL TO INSTALLATION, DISPLAY, DISMANTLEMENT, OR REMOVAL OF ARTWORK ON OWNER'S PROPERTY, EVEN IF SUCH INJURY, DEATH, DAMAGE, OR LOSS IS CAUSED BY OWNER'S CONCURRENT NEGLIGENCE AND/OR OWNER'S STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY OR STRICT STATUTORY LIABILITY.

ARTIST

Date

STATE OF _____ **§**

§

COUNTY OF _____ **§**

BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary Public, on this day personally appeared _____, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that they executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office this _____ day of _____, 2026.

[SEAL]

Notary Public, State of Texas

SAMPLE ONLY – FOR YOUR REVIEW
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INDIVIDUAL ARTIST SELECTED FOR THE 2027 EXHIBITION

theft of Artwork. Artist is solely responsible for insuring Artwork but not required to do so by True North, HHA or the City.

I, [NAME], agree to and shall release True North and HHA, its agents, employees, directors and officers, volunteers and legal representatives from all liability for injury, death, damage or loss to persons or property, including Artwork, sustained in connection with or incidental to installation, display, and/or removal of Artwork.

NAME

Date

STATE OF _____ **§**

§

COUNTY OF _____ **§**

BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary Public, on this day personally appeared [NAME], known or proven to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that they executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office this _____ day of _____, 2026.

[SEAL]

Notary Public, State of Texas

SAMPLE ONLY – FOR YOUR REVIEW

A PERSONALIZED LETTER AGREEMENT WILL BE PROVIDED TO EACH INDIVIDUAL ARTIST SELECTED FOR THE 2027 EXHIBITION



Artist

RE: Letter of Understanding

Dear _____:

Thank you so much for your upcoming participation in True North 2027—a temporary public sculpture exhibition consisting of eight diverse, contemporary works, situated along the foot trails of the 60-foot-wide esplanade of Heights Boulevard—a designated City of Houston park. True North administers the sculpture project through its nonprofit fiscal sponsor, the Houston Heights Association, a 501(c)(3) organization (HHA). The temporary public sculpture exhibition is permitted through the City of Houston’s Parks and Recreation Department. True North is organized by the all-volunteer team of Donna Bennett, Gus Kopriva, Dean Ruck, Chris Silkwood and Kelly Simmons.

Your proposal for sculpture, titled “_____” has been chosen by True North 2027 to be installed on the designated site located in the _____ block of the esplanade of Heights Boulevard (currently home to the True North 2026 sculpture “_____,” by _____).

Some facts:

- The official opening of the sculpture project is March 15, 2027, and we ask that your sculpture be *installed between Friday, February 26, and Sunday, March 7, 2027*—allowing time for professional photography, the press release, marketing and social media announcements by opening day.
- We ask that your sculpture be *removed between January 1 and 9, 2028*.
- Artists are responsible for delivery, installation, and any needed maintenance of their sculptures while installed.
- Sculptures should be of a design, and installed in a way, that is safe to the visiting public.
- No electricity is available to the sculpture sites, however, True North can provide solar-powered spot lights.
- Any change to your submitted and approved sculpture design must go through a subsequent approval process by True North and the City.
- Sculptures are not insured by HHA/True North or the City, and artists are solely responsible for any damage, destruction or theft of sculptures. You may, of course, choose to insure your sculpture, but such insurance is not required by True North or the City.

- Please return the signed and notarized Release (attached) between you and the City regarding waiver of liability.*
- Please return the signed and notarized Release (attached) between you and HHA/True North regarding waiver of liability.*
- In the event of an impending hurricane or extreme high wind conditions (where ample warning is issued of such event), you may be asked to more adequately secure or possibly remove your sculpture for the safety of the public and the integrity of the work.
- You are invited (but not required) to offer your sculpture for sale, and True North asks for a 20% donation of any sale if contact and/or negotiation occurs between you or your representative (including True North representatives) and a buyer or buyer's representative during, or within 30 days after the close of, the 2027 project. Those proceeds go into True North's designated fund to support future projects and will be treated as a non-profit donation by you.
- You will receive a stipend from True North in the amount of \$3,000 as soon as we receive your completed documents. (You will receive an IRS Form 1099 from the Houston Heights Association for your records at the beginning of 2027 [for tax year 2026].)
- True North will proactively pursue media opportunities and promote the project with a full-page ad, including the list of artists, in ArtHouston (or a similar) magazine's spring issue.
- True North will pursue an active social media campaign through its own Facebook and Instagram platforms and the True North website.
- True North will contract with Otocast—providing an app-based audio tour of the sculpture project, driven by QR codes at each sculpture site—which includes bios, photos and recorded statements (in the artists' own words) for each sculpture.
- Individual signage will be installed alongside each sculpture (provided by True North).
- As an honoree, you and your guest will be invited to attend the 2027 Artist Reception (location and date to be determined). This popular, private event is also attended by past True North artists, current underwriters, HHA board members, select media representatives and public officials.

Please submit the following completed documents (all pages of each document) to us as soon as possible (via email or other mail service).

- This signed letter of understanding;
- Completed Form W9;
- Signed and notarized Releases between you and (1) the City and (2) HHA/True North;
- If not yet provided, please send your bio, artist statement, and cv/resume;
- A high-res digital photograph of yourself (along with photographic acknowledgment, if any) for use in the True North 2027 art catalog, website, social media, press releases and other media and marketing opportunities throughout the duration of the project (creative, professional/media-level photos are encouraged); and
- The price of your sculpture (if offered for sale) and its gallery representation, if applicable.

The True North 2027 team is very excited about your sculpture and we're looking forward to the opportunity of working with you on this project. If you have any questions or concerns at all, please let us know.

Sincerely,

True North 2027
Houston Heights Association

Team:

Donna Bennett, Gus Kopriva, Dean Ruck
Chris Silkwood & Kelly Simmons

Artist

Date

True North's mission is to organize and install a temporary public sculpture exhibition on the esplanade of Heights Boulevard—representative of works by prominent and emerging Texas artists—to advance the accessibility, understanding and enjoyment of contemporary art for the community and its visitors.



True North
c/o 921 E 25th Street
Houston, Texas 77009
team@truenorthheightsblvd.com
www.truenorthheightsblvd.com

*Scanned documents are acceptable.