



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Marsha Dorsey-Outlaw and her mosaic work A Life, Illuminated, commissioned by Houston Arts Alliance on behalf of The City of Houston for Barbara Bush Literary Plaza (Image Credit: Houston Arts Alliance)

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WHO WE ARE

Houston Arts Alliance (HAA) is a local arts and culture organization whose principal 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.

OFFICERS

Craig Massey, Chair

Michele Leal Farah, Vice Chair

Susanne Burkholder, Treasurer

Adán Medrano, Secretary

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WHO WE ARE

ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Jon Deal	Anne Lamkin Kinder	Whitmire Vo
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Karen Farber	Cara Lambright	Jimmy Wynn
Charles Foster	George Lancaster	Jay Zeidman
Vernique Francis	Nancy & Eric Littlejohn	
Trisha Frederick	Maria Lowrey	
Jo & Jim Furr	Erin McClarty	
Regina Garcia		

WHO WE ARE

STAFF

John Abodeely
Basheer Alghandour
Kathleen Anderson
David Brown
Aubrey Burghardt
James Castillo
Karina Dimaliwat
Brittany Edwards
James Glassman
Patrick Grady
Yeiry Guevara
Lauren Hainley
Kennedy Hayes
Araceli Huffman
Nyssa Juneau
Stacey Keene
Matthew Kubo
Este Rodriguez
Joselyn Saravia
Ahrif Sarumi
Micah Stewart
Deidre Thomas
Quang Vu
Sixto Wagon
Colby Wilson
Grace Zuñiga



Letter from the Organization

To the Community We Serve,

The year 2021 was tough for many of us. The terrible economic, social, and health effects of COVID-19 continued well into the year. But thanks to advances in public health and other science, we began to rebuild our connections with each other.

Good and bad things happened in 2021. Within our smaller world of HAA, the team met challenges and leveraged opportunities. It was certainly a year of change, rolling with the punches, making the best of tough situations, and getting back on our feet with vigor and resolve after the worst pandemic year. The following is intended to share with the community what the HAA team is most proud of during 2021.

The Disaster Services Division of HAA, launched after Hurricane Harvey, performs two critical tasks: acting as the go-to resource for the arts community on disaster-related issues and advocating for the region's existing emergency management system to fairly include the arts, as they do any other sector. Both objectives take constant effort. HAA strategically does not seek to replace any public or private service related to resilience and recovery. Instead, HAA identifies the gaps in current service and fills them, with the goal of permanent change in how the arts are protected before and after disasters by our community's designated emergency management.

In 2021, HAA's Disaster Services Division continued its activation to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Meeting regularly with a collaboration of arts service organizations and county- and country-wide disaster response collectives, HAA delivered critical recovery information to the community about medical supplies for performances, vaccines, and economic support such as grants and loans. The organization hosted town halls to allow the arts community to find social cohesion in a time of isolation—an event series that continues today. In 2021, HAA completed the distribution of nearly \$400,000 in emergency stipends for artists and other arts professionals facing dire personal hardship (most of those funds were distributed in 2020). During the arctic blast of February 2021, HAA reactivated the fund, requesting donations and distributing funds, though few artists requested assistance following the freeze.



Letter from the Organization

Notably, Harris County asked HAA to join their Recovery Support Function Lead as the lead agency for Natural and Cultural Resource Recovery. Through our work in this position, we have created a permanent place for HAA within the county recovery structure for all future disasters—and when Hurricane Nicholas hit in September 2021, we were among six agencies who decided whether to activate the county’s recovery system. The program team joined the Fort Bend County Long-Term Recovery Group to expand our formal roles into two counties. The team released the Arts and Disaster in the Houston Area Report, a historic event and a first in the nation, after the report was temporarily put on hold so the team could focus on its COVID-19 response. In 2021, the team launched a county advocacy campaign for \$30 million in ARPA funds, though ultimately—and with grave disappointment—HAA failed to achieve such an audacious attempt.

The Grants Division serviced 354 eligible applicants in 2021. HAA’s competitive peer-review process resulted in 256 grants through five grant categories, totaling \$12.5M. HAA continues to post a transparent report of its annual grants process—about its workshops, panelists, and more—in online dashboards at haatx.com. HAA has made aggressive improvements to its grants over the last four years. To address internal and external racial and other inequities, we improved our communications with arts community members who we have not historically reached; we expanded the diversity of the arts experts who read and score our grants; and intentionally adjusted organizational leadership to better mirror Houston’s demographics, as reported in HAA’s board of directors online dashboard. We partner with Houston City Council Member offices to distribute grants notices, and we host live, online chats through Instagram and Facebook. We’ve made grants information sessions available 24 hours per day through online recordings. In 2021, we implemented a drastic change to meet the needs of the arts community in response to the pandemic’s depression of Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) receipts, the funding source for the city’s arts grants that HAA administrates. Specifically, we extended 2020 contracts using a portion of the 2021 HOT receipts to ensure those individuals could complete the critical work they do for the community and our visitors, and we administrated new grants using another portion of the 2021 HOT receipts to ensure those seeking funds still had a place to go to compete for their work. HAA also heeded calls from the community to address the instability caused by the pandemic’s impact on the economy and pivoted to ensure all individual artist grants and festival grants were made from cash-in-hand at HAA and not based on projected HOT (the funding model for the last 30 years).



Letter from the Organization

The Civic Art Division grew dramatically in 2021, with a nearly all-new team, director, project managers, and administrative experts, as well as a strategic reorganization of duties. The division created a systems manager position to better create replicable, high-quality processes that improved the quality of experience for applicants and panelists, kept projects on track, and built more art for the community. A new finance administrator position helped the organization navigate the complex financial spending and income required of the program as it managed project phases that called for phased invoicing to the city and phased payouts to artists based on project milestones. The team handled a record-setting 50 projects for the City of Houston in 2021, totaling \$666,052. The City’s annual report on the Civic Art program details each project and its key characteristics. Civic Art serves the occasional private client. In 2021, the Texans hired HAA to help them engage artists to create a handful of murals.

HAA began to house the BIPOC Arts Network and Fund (BANF), providing office space, financial management, and other basic services, while BANF designed its own independent decision-making structures. HAA is honored to contribute to this critical investment by local and national philanthropies.

HAA experienced a decent amount of turnover, growth, and challenge in 2021. But every challenge is just an opportunity for improvement, risk-taking, and better service to the City of Houston and its arts community. I hope we made everyone proud—and hope we always do.

HAA continues to post public information about grants, grantees, panelists, and other efforts in its online dashboards. These are available at haatx.com.

With gratitude,

John Abodeely
CEO

Craig Massey
Board Chair

Income & Expense

HAA provides the following information about the organization's income and expenses for transparency to the Houston community.

Income Type	Amount	Explanation
Individual	202,919.03	Includes the annual fundraiser, board, advisory council, and other contributions from individuals
Corporations	107,598.57	Includes mostly annual fundraiser contributions
Foundations	8,717,332.87	Includes BIPOC Arts Network and Fund (BANF) income, among others
Federal, State, County Grants	444,723.00	PPP loan forgiveness
Share of Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT)	13,247,309.00	Related to the contract with the City of Houston for grantmaking
City of Houston Civic Art Contract	3,451,635.00	Related to the contract with the City of Houston for public artwork competitions and construction
Grant Reversions (returned from grantees)	21,379.00	Grants returned voluntarily by grantees
Direct Donor Benefit (gala)	-76,212.00	Annual gala costs that were deemed benefits received by supporters
Investment Return	-8,789.00	Losses from market downturn; funds are managed conservatively by an investment policy overseen by the finance committee of the board

Expense Type	Amount	Explanation
HOT Grants	15,942,906.00	Grants made related to the contract with the City of Houston for grantmaking
BANF Grants	2,011,750.00	Grants made by the BIPOC Arts Network and Fund (BANF) program
Disaster Services Grants	27,595.00	Final relief fund grants sent to individuals in the arts community suffering personal losses due to COVID-19
Artist Fees (civic art)	2,978,569.00	Payments to artists related to the contract with the City of Houston for public artwork competitions and construction
Grants Department	876,175.00	Cost to service the contract with the City of Houston for grantmaking
Disaster Department	274,542.00	Costs to run disaster-related services to the Houston arts community
Civic Art Department	418,432.00	Cost to service the contract with the City of Houston for civic art
BANF	239,887.00	Costs to run BIPOC Arts Network and Fund (BANF)
Communications	4,192.00	Costs related to HAA communications that are not specific to a division such as Grants or Civic Art: event calendar fees, web hosting, and others
Management and General	530,605.00	Costs associated with finance staff and systems, board, and the executive committee of the board, among other costs
Fundraising	131,766.00	Costs to run fundraising efforts

Contributors

John Abodeely	Michele Leal and George Farah	Jay Marks	Kelly Silvers
Alim Adatia	Richard Flowers	Lester Marks	Anna Silverstein
Juan Alanis	Ford Foundation	Craig and Tatiana Massey	Leigh Smith
Albertson's Safeway, Inc.	Mary Anne Fried	Adán Medrano	Tatiana Sorkin
Alice Kleberg Reynolds Meyer Foundation	Jim and Jo Furr	Marc Melcher	Lenora Sorola-Pohlman
The Alkek and Williams Foundation	Major Garrett	Daisy Mendoza	Southwest Airlines
Edward and Chinhui Allen	Jorge Garza	Jason Mironov	Bolanle Soyombo
The Alta Arts	Montserrat Gomez	Otto Misak	Caroline Starry
American International Group	Greater Washington Community Foundation	Mithoff Family Charitable Foundation	Shawn Stephens
Lauren Anderson	Tatiana Green	Virginia and Richard Mithoff	Paula Sutton
Andrew Delaney Foundation	Marnie Greenwood	Rahul Mitra	Lameese Taha
Anne Lamkin Kinder Foundation	Justin Grindal	Morgan Stanley Gift Fund	Texas Commission on the Arts
Toby Atkinson	John Guess	Sara and Bill Morgan	Anya Tish
Valentina Atkinson	Lauren Hainley	Luke Morris	Cynthia Toles
Sanjay Bapat	Karen Hartnett	Michael Morrison	Thuy Tran
Laura Bellows	Sir Mark Haukohl	Beth Muecke	Lynda Lighthouse Transier
Luba and Alan Bigman	H-E-B	Carol Mullikin	Tremaine Foundation
Carla Bisong	Rosi Hernandez	George Nelson	Michael and Ileana Treviño
Leslie Blanton	Rudy Hernandez	Fred Nevill	Phoebe & Bobby Tudor
Brown Foundation	Courtney Hopson	Anh-Minh Nguyen	Sylvester Turner
Minnette Boesel	Janis Hopson	Marc & Duyen Nguyen	Louise Upshaw-McClenny
Sam Boles	Houston Airport Systems	Don and Mary Alice Oatman	Thomas Viele
Joseph Brettell	Houston Endowment, Inc.	Enedina Pena	Sixto Wagan
Lauren Brooks	Houston First	Brenda Peters-Chase	Evan Wildstein
Nelda Brooks	Insperty	Gary Petersen	Williams Foundation
Bucher Charitable Fund	Necole Irvin	Tanja Peterson	Tiffany Wong
Sue & Rusty Burnett	Ross Jackson	Margaret Poissant	Steven Wyatt
Angie Byrne	Johnson Controls	Bridget Poizner	Seth Zarny
Jereann Chaney	Jakeen and Garfield Johnson	Troy Porter	
Garrett Clayton	Jay Jones and Terry Wayne Jones	Dean Putterman	
Deborah Colton	Judith Kachinske	Mollie Quinlan-Hayes	
C.C. Conner	Randall Kallinen	Shaheen Rahman	
Elizabeth and Peter Cooper	Tim Kollatschny	Elsie Rao	
Victor Costa	Sharon and Gus Kopriva	Marleen Ray	
Katie Cullen	George Lancaster	Monica Roberts	
Andrew Davis	Ashley and Curt Langley	Thomas Robinson	
June Deadrick	Truett Latimer	Regina Rogers	
Lulu Deboer	Lindley Family Foundation	Amy Schwartzman	
Tammy Dowe	Stacey Lindseth	Cissy Segall Davis	
Gary Dowling	Nancy Little	Gregory Shannon	
Eureka Heights Brewery	Nancy Littlejohn		
	Maria and Graham Lowrey		

Civic Art Projects

Project Name	City Dept	Status as of 12/31/21	Services Amount	HAA Fees	Contingency	LOA Total	Revenue Earned in 2021
CONSERVATION							
Houston's Police Officer's Memorial	HPD	Ongoing	1,840.00	1,530.00	1,000.00	4,370.00	443.70
Houston's Police Officer's Memorial - Refabrication of Broken Slab	HPD	Completed	14,520.00	2,655.00	2,000.00	19,175.00	9,260.40
Fonde Totems	GSD	Completed	3,205.00	1,622.50	1,000.00	5,827.50	4,827.50
Schnitzer Fountain	HPRD	Ongoing	8,260.00	1,798.75	1,000.00	11,058.75	7,407.30
Geometric Mouse	HPL	Ongoing	7,850.00	2,693.75	1,500.00	12,043.75	1,346.88
Flores Library "Metamorphosis"	HPL	Ongoing	2,565.00	2,693.75	1,000.00	6,258.75	2,662.75
Black and White Longhorn	HAS	Completed	3,404.00	2,198.75	2,000.00	7,602.75	0.00
Edge of Sky	HAS	Ongoing	60,500.00	9,075.00	6,957.50	76,532.50	18,992.50
Light Spikes	HAS	Ongoing	315,976.87	38,765.29	78,956.76	433,698.92	258,307.75
Custom Framing - Conservation (3 pieces)	HAS	Completed	10,093.75	1,872.50	2,000.00	13,966.25	128.73
Radiant Fountains	HAS	Ongoing	918,769.34	119,440.00	91,876.90	1,130,086.24	980,368.67
Installation Preparation for Edge of Sky	HAS	Ongoing	16,399.00	2,428.75	8,270.00	27,097.75	11,785.18
Identification and Didactic Plaques	HAS	Completed	5,395.00	3,163.75	1,000.00	9,558.75	8,785.75
Travessia Lights	HAS	Completed	9,045.00	2,498.75	1,000.00	12,543.75	11,903.75
Mickey Leland Plaques	HAS	Ongoing	5,365.40	3,473.75	1,000.00	9,839.15	4,852.93
West of Pecos	HAS	Ongoing	5,875.00	3,441.25	1,000.00	10,316.25	9,676.25
Beadwork	HAS	Ongoing	44,540.00	6,041.25	4,454.00	55,035.25	13,538.20
Skywall and Travel Light Electrical Components	HAS	Ongoing	46,214.00	6,196.25	5,000.00	57,410.25	1,982.80

Civic Art Projects

Call Ernie	HAS	Ongoing	6,288.00	2,628.75	1,000.00	9,916.75	7,670.70
Celestial Candyland	HAS	Ongoing	4,263.50	4,791.25	5,000.00	14,054.75	4,911.18
Winds of Change	HAS	Ongoing	12,720.00	2,693.75	3,000.00	18,413.75	7,070.88
Cloud Room Field	HAS	Completed	6,800.00	4,850.00	1,000.00	12,650.00	11,650.00
Light Wings	HAS	Ongoing	6,800.00	6,020.00	5,000.00	17,820.00	12,820.00
Info Plaques for New Portable Works	HAS	Ongoing	940.00	3,250.00	500.00	4,690.00	3,312.50
Wings Over Water - Helix Repair	PRIVATE	Completed	15,274.00	1,613.36		16,887.36	16,887.36
COLLECTION MANAGEMENT							
Civic Art Collection Management	GG	Ongoing	600.00	18,540.00	0.00	19,140.00	4,200.00
Collection Management + Other Services	HAS	Ongoing	600.00	27,780.00	0.00	28,380.00	1,929.60
Additional Collection Management	GSD	Ongoing	32,500.00	4,042.50	3,250.00	39,792.50	0.00
Exhibition and Display Services at IAH & HOU	HAS	Ongoing	58,000.00	12,000.00	7,000.00	77,000.00	0.00
NEW ARTWORK COMMISSION							
Southwest Police Station	HPD	Completed	250,000.00	39,000.00		289,000.00	4,100.00
Barbara Jordan Commemorative Monument	HPL	Ongoing	250,000.00	32,500.00	0.00	282,500.00	120,635.85
Alief Neighborhood Center (Artist Selection)	HPL/HHS/HPARD	Ongoing	238,938.05	31,061.95	0.00	270,000.00	206,549.55
Sunnyside Multi-Service Center (Artist Selection)	HHD	Ongoing	138,086.96	20,713.04	0.00	158,800.00	35,511.80
Alief Neighborhood Center (Design and Fabrication)	HPL/HHS/HPARD	Ongoing	557,522.12	72,477.88	0.00	630,000.00	231,392.86

Civic Art Projects

Municipal Workers Memorial	PWE	Ongoing	86,956.52	13,043.48	0.00	100,000.00	1,173.91
Barbara Bush Literacy Plaza	HPL	Ongoing	25,500.00	5,141.25	3,064.13	33,705.38	11,154.53
Sunnyside Multi-Service Center (Design and Fabrication)	HHD	Ongoing	258,884.96	33,655.04	0.00	292,540.00	5,048.26
North Belt Safety Complex	HPD/HFD	Ongoing	29,970.00	18,030.00	0.00	48,000.00	3,606.00
Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center Mural	HHD	Ongoing	109,860.00	14,281.80	10,986.00	135,127.80	7,200.90
Alief Neighborhood Center Video	HPL/HHD /GSD	Ongoing	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	8,000.00
New Art Acquisition for IAH and HOU	HAS	Ongoing	1,758,522.52	241,477.48	0.00	2,000,000.00	426,362.50
New Art Acquisition for Portable Works	HAS	Ongoing	881,443.48	118,556.52	0.00	1,000,000.00	923,526.85
MLIT ITRP Art Acquisition ND. 1-6 at IAH	HAS	Ongoing	796,460.18	103,539.82	0.00	900,000.00	15,152.17
MLIT ITRP Art Acquisition ND. 8 at IAH	HAS	Ongoing	442,477.88	57,522.12	0.00	500,000.00	9,942.09
MLIT ITRP Art Acquisition ND. 9 at IAH	HAS	Ongoing	884,955.75	115,044.25	0.00	1,000,000.00	17,804.47
Houston Texans/Texans Fit Gym Murals	PRIVATE/ NOT CITY	Completed	3,500.00	4,650.00		8,.50.00	7,750.00
Totals			8,357,681.28	1,220,493.28	250,815.29	9,828,989.85	3,451,635.00

Audit with Grantee List

The [2021 HAA audit is available online](#). The audit includes a list of HAA grantees, which is also provided on the HAA website. Click the link to download a PDF of the audit.