

## Still Water Foundation Gifts Strengthen the Arts on UT Austin Campus



*Austin-based foundation's leadership gifts will support Blanton Museum of Art and Landmarks Public Art Program*

AUSTIN, Texas—February 11, 2020— The University of Texas at Austin is pleased to announce that two of its major arts programs have received gifts totaling \$10 million from Austin-based Still Water Foundation. The Blanton Museum of Art and Landmarks will each receive \$5 million to strengthen their respective programs.

The Blanton Museum of Art's master plan project to reimagine and transform the museum grounds will receive \$5 million in support. Landmarks, the university's public art program in the College of Fine Arts, will receive \$5 million, which will serve as the foundation of an operating endowment for the organization. Still Water's generous investment will propel forward these significant initiatives, elevating the arts across the Forty Acres and benefitting generations of students and visitors. Each grant includes a \$2 million challenge match that has been designated to inspire others to support these important projects.

"The Still Water Foundation's profound investment will bring visionary new artwork and landscaping to the outdoor spaces of our campus," said UT Austin President Gregory L. Fenves. "For over 130 years, the Forty Acres has grown and evolved with each generation. The Still Water Foundation is leaving their own creative imprint on our historic campus, one that will be appreciated and enjoyed by students, scholars and visitors at UT for decades to come."

The Blanton's master plan project will reshape the footprint and face of the Blanton to create an iconic destination that facilitates the museum's vision for innovative outdoor programming. It will form a vital connection between the university, the city of Austin, and the Texas State Capitol Complex.

“A long-standing supporter of the museum for three decades, the Still Water Foundation has had an impact that can be felt across the Blanton,” said Blanton director Simone Wicha. “The foundation has helped the Blanton curate an encyclopedic collection of works on paper in one of the most active print study rooms in the country. This recent gift towards the Blanton’s master plan project, one of the museum’s most significant projects, underlines Still Water’s dedication to championing the arts, education, and the environment on campus, in Austin, and beyond.”

Still Water’s gift to Landmarks will serve as the cornerstone of the organization’s upcoming endowment campaign, ensuring its ability to serve the campus and community for generations to come. With its collection sited throughout the Forty Acres — more than 40 works of art are on view across campus — Landmarks is often students’ first opportunity to engage with great works of art. The Still Water gift will consolidate Landmarks’ core strengths, positioning the program to expand educational initiatives, outreach to new and more diverse audiences, and conservation and communications efforts—fostering a lifetime of meaningful engagement with the arts.

“Still Water has supported Landmarks from the outset. They understand that having art in our daily lives shapes the ways we see the world and our connections to each other,” said Andrée Bober, founder and director of Landmarks. “Simply put, their gift is transformative. In one bold stroke, it promises the continuation of our award-winning program and enables us to serve the broadest possible community.”

“Landmarks and the Blanton represent outstanding programs at The University of Texas,” said Jill Wilkinson, President of the Still Water Foundation. “In making these gifts, our hope is to raise the visibility of the visual arts on campus and to encourage broad participation in the fundraising campaigns. These programs are jewels in our community that all of us should be excited to experience and support.”

###

About the Still Water Foundation:

A private family foundation, Still Water is based in Austin and primarily supports organizations in Texas. The Foundation’s main areas of concentration include the arts, education and the environment. The foundation is also deeply committed to partnering with rural communities, particularly those in West Texas.

About the Blanton:

Founded in 1963, the Blanton Museum of Art holds the largest public collection in Central Texas with around 19,000 objects. Recognized as the home of Ellsworth Kelly’s *Austin*, its major collecting areas are modern and contemporary American and Latin American art, Italian Renaissance and Baroque paintings, and prints and drawings. The Blanton offers thought-provoking, visually arresting, and personally moving encounters with art.

About Landmarks:

Landmarks is the award-winning public art program of The University of Texas at Austin. Its collection of modern and contemporary art celebrates diverse perspectives, featuring commissioned projects

alongside sculptures on long-term loan from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. By making great art free and accessible to all, Landmarks inspires thought and growth. For more information visit [landmarksut.org](http://landmarksut.org).

Images:

Left: Ellsworth Kelly, *Austin*, 2015, artist-designed building with installation of colored glass windows, black and white marble panels, and redwood totem, 60 ft. x 73 ft. x 26 ft. 4 in., ©Ellsworth Kelly Foundation. Photo courtesy Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin

Right: Nancy Rubins, *Monochrome for Austin*, 2015. *Photo by Paul Bardagjy*. Courtesy of Landmarks, the public art program of The University of Texas at Austin.