



City of Austin
Art in Public Places - Cultural Arts Division
Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office



For Immediate Release: June 30, 2010

Contact: Megan Crigger, Art in Public Places Administrator, (512) 974-9312

Austin Public Art nationally recognized in the 2010 Public Art Year in Review

Austin, TX – Americans for the Arts selected two Austin Art in Public Places artwork projects in its 2010 Public Art in Review. The Year in Review recognizes 40 of the year's best public art works in the United States and Canada. The works were chosen from nearly 400 entries from across the country.

Temporary Austin public art projects, *Bait Box* by Buster Graybill and *Mushroom Grove* by Bill Davenport received accolades among the nation's best at the Americans for the Arts Half-Century Summit Public Art Pre-Conference held in Baltimore on Thursday. Austin was the only city to receive recognition for more than one project.

Bait Box by Buster Graybill was temporarily installed on the east side of the LadyBird Lake hike and bike trail and consisted of a 5-foot bronze catfish displayed on a green High Voltage box. The public artwork created opportunities for the public to interact and pose for pictures with "the one that got away" on the shore of the lake.



Mushroom Grove by Bill Davenport was temporarily installed on the west side of Auditorium Shores and consisted of a 12 ft. giant mushroom grove sculpture. The public artwork articulated the moment of surprise using an odd art experience as a metaphor for other odd situations.

Mushroom Grove was also recognized locally in the Austin Chronicle's Best Top 9 Memories and Best Happenings in 2009, along with Jill Pangallo's "Let Me Entertain You".

"It is a great testament to the work our creative artists are doing in Austin," said Art in Public Places Administrator, Megan Crigger. "These nonpermanent works of public art create opportunities for the artists to engage with the broader community on topics relevant to our daily lives through the process of art-making."

To find additional information on the above projects, visit the Art in Public Places searchable database by artist at: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/aipp/search.cfm>.

The City of Austin's Art in Public Places acquires and maintains works of art for City facilities and parks through commissions, donations and loans for the cultural enrichment of Austin's community. AIPP is part of the Cultural Arts Division within the City of Austin's Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office.

###