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New Public Art Piece in Midtown Park Captures Beauty of Native Houston Landscape

HOUSTON, February 20, 2018- [Midtown Houston](#) has commissioned a monumental new public art piece at [Midtown Park](#) by nationally acclaimed Houston artist Dixie Friend Gay. The 12 by 63 feet mosaic, 'Wild Wonderland,' will greet visitors to the park at the Main Street entrance, offering a colorful welcome into Midtown Houston's latest green space. Friend Gay's original work of art will feature over 800,000 hand-cut and placed glass tiles embodying a gorgeous representation of the native Houston landscape.

Friend Gay's multi-colored mosaic at Midtown Park includes native butterflies, caterpillars and the endangered Houston toad, as well as the hognose snake, lizard and bee. The artist collaborated with mosaic design and manufacturing company Mosaika to fabricate the expansive piece of art, which is planned for completion by the end of February 2018.

Dixie Friend Gay is known for her remarkable breadth of artistic production encompassing public art, sculpture and painting inspired by an awareness of the natural world. She has created public art for George Bush Intercontinental Airport, the Port of Miami, Indianapolis International Airport, Sam Houston State University, and Texas A&M Galveston during a career spanning over three decades. Her studio art can be found in prestigious collections such as Houston's Federal Reserve Bank and Rice University.

"By commissioning the work of talented local artists like Dixie Friend Gay, we simultaneously support Midtown Houston's arts community while enhancing the quality of the Midtown Park experience," said Matt Thibodeaux, CEO of Midtown Houston. "This mosaic is a beautiful representational piece that speaks to the fascinating diversity of our unique natural environment."

Midtown Park spans three acres that includes a lush lawn for games and activities, a

playground and interactive water features for families, public art installations and the [Reliant Dog Park](#). Midtown Park also features the [Camden Pavilion](#), an open-air pavilion and stage area that provides a flexible space for concerts and performances, public events and exercise groups. When not in use for events, it serves as a casual gathering spot with movable seating and large fans overlooking the rain interactive water feature and great lawn.

The Midtown Park Parking Garage, located directly below the park, is now open and provides 400 spaces for public use and boasts round-the-clock security. More information is available at midtownhouston.com. To schedule interviews, contact Ashley Small at pr@oneworldstrong.com or 281-827-3419.

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About Midtown Houston

Midtown Houston is comprised of three organizations; Midtown Redevelopment Authority / Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone No. 2, Midtown Management District and Midtown Parks Conservancy. The organizations share the common vision of shaping Midtown Houston into a thriving, pedestrian-friendly, “new urban” community beyond the ability of individual property owners or businesses within the district. Midtown Houston holds the Texas Commission on the Arts Cultural Arts and Entertainment District accreditation.