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## MUELLER'S SUNFLOWERS PUBLIC ART RECEIVES HONORS FROM LIVEABLE CITY

AUSTIN, Texas – Apr. 29, 2010 – The giant blue solar “SunFlowers” public art project, noticeable day and night along I-35 at [Mueller](#), will receive the 2010 Liveable Vision Award in the Esthetics category at the [Liveable City](#) 7th annual Vision Awards on May 12, 2010 to celebrate people, organizations and efforts that have made a positive difference in the community.

Completed in July 2009, “SunFlowers – An Electric Garden” is Austin’s largest public art installation in size and funding, consisting of 15 flower-like sculptures designed to capture solar energy and cast patterns of shade along the western edge of Mueller’s hike and bike trail during the day, using a small portion of the solar energy they collect to illuminate the sculptures at night. Created by artists Mags Harries and Lajos Héder of [Harries/Héder Collaborative](#), each SunFlower towers 18-24 feet above a footpath that stretches nearly 540 feet.

Each SunFlower collects solar energy through photovoltaic arrays that enable the sculptures to not only offer visual interest, but to also sustain their own energy needs and provide excess energy to the grid. The panels are anticipated to produce in excess of 18,000 kWh each year. A dashboard indicating the amount of clean energy the SunFlowers generate is available at <http://solarsunflowers.muelleraustin.com>.

“SunFlowers is an icon for Austin, serving as a gateway into the Mueller community and a powerful symbol of the sustainability goal throughout the project,” said Greg Weaver, president of Catellus Development Group, the master developer of Mueller. “On behalf of the entire Mueller team, we thank Liveable City for this wonderful recognition of everyone’s hard work to share beautiful and functional public art with the entire city.”



*Austin’s largest public art project, the SunFlowers at Mueller use the solar energy they collect during the day to illuminate at night.*





SunFlowers was funded by a \$500,000 contribution from Catellus, and an additional donation of \$50,000 from [Applied Materials](#). The project also received solar rebates from [Austin Energy's Solar Program](#).

From a nationwide pool of 37 candidates, SunFlowers was one of four finalists chosen by a panel of visual art and design professionals. The selection process, facilitated with the help of the City of Austin's Art in Public Places program, included a period of community input in which the public overwhelmingly selected the SunFlowers design through online and in person feedback.

“Mueller is a model for a variety of goals our community wants to achieve, and these SunFlowers are a vital step in the ongoing effort to create more public art all over Austin,” said the city's [Art in Public Places](#) Administrator Megan Crigger. “Our hope is that by having a massive, permanent art installation in such a visible location will inspire other developers and businesses to embrace public art.”

The SunFlowers' photovoltaic panels were manufactured by [Atlantis Energy Systems](#) and installed by Austin-based [Texas Solar Power Company](#). [Dennis Steel, Inc.](#) of Leander fabricated the steel structures.

“SunFlowers – An Electric Garden” joins three other nature-inspired public art installations at Mueller — the Spider, Pollen Grain and Wigwam — all of which can be found in Mueller's Southwest Greenway. Additional public art pieces are planned in future development at Mueller.

The Liveable Vision Awards recognize notable community-led initiatives, private-sector accomplishments and advocacy efforts that exemplify the “Five Es of Sustainability:” economy, engagement, environment, equity and esthetics. The other 2010 award recipients are the Austin Independent Business Alliance, the Franklin Gardens/Chestnut Neighborhood Revitalization Corporation, the Sustainable Food Center and TexHealth Central Texas.

In 2009, the [PeopleTrust](#), the affordable housing arm of [PeopleFund](#), received a Liveable Vision Award in part for its work with the [Mueller Affordable Homes Program](#).



### **About the Artists**

Mags Harries and Lajos Héder formed Harries/Héder Collaborative in Cambridge, Mass. in 1990, and have worked together on all major public commissions since then. Mags brings to the collaboration her training in sculpture, teaching and 20 years of work in public art, and Lajos, in addition to working as an artist, is experienced in community projects, urban design, site planning, architecture and construction. The artists regularly collaborate with other designers, landscape architects, engineers and fabricators to realize their large-scale, complex projects. For more information, visit [www.harriesheder.com](http://www.harriesheder.com).

### **About Mueller**

Mueller is one of the nation's most notable new-urbanist communities located in the heart of Austin. The 700-acre site of Austin's former airport is being transformed into a diverse, sustainable, compatible, revitalizing and fiscally responsible master-planned community. Mueller is taking shape as a joint project between the City of Austin and Catellus Development Group, a ProLogis company, over 10-15 years following nearly 20 years of extensive citizen input. Upon completion, Mueller will feature at least 4,900 single-family and multi-family homes, a mixed-use town center district, 3.8 million square feet of prime commercial space, 650,000 square feet of local and regional retail space, 140 acres of parks and open space, Dell Children's Medical Center and the Austin Film Studios. For more information, visit [www.MuellerAustin.com](http://www.MuellerAustin.com).

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