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## **SOLAR-POWERED “SUNFLOWERS” TO BLOOM AT MUELLER NEXT SPRING**

### **New Art Selection Will Welcome Visitors to Central Austin Community, Retail Center**

AUSTIN, Texas – Nov. 14, 2006 – Following a comprehensive selection process, “SunFlowers,” a collection of sunflower-shaped sculptures containing solar collectors, will grace the west entrance of Mueller along the frontage road of I-35 near Barbara Jordan Boulevard.

Mags Harries and Lajos Héder, co-founders of Harries/Héder Collaborative, Inc., have been commissioned to install the sculptures, each up to 14 feet across and 16 feet high, along the Northwest Greenway in front of Mueller’s retail center. The “SunFlowers” are designed to collect solar energy while providing shade to walkers and cyclists along the trail.

“We wanted to create a piece of artwork that would generate interest and value for the neighborhood,” said Lajos Héder. “And sculptures that generate solar energy embody the goals and principles that Austin and Mueller stand for.”

A panel of visual art and design professionals selected Harries and Héder’s work from a pool of 37 artists that submitted proposals for Mueller’s signature public art gateway. The selection process, which was facilitated with help from the City of Austin’s Art in Public Places program, also involved a period of community input in which the public overwhelmingly selected the “SunFlowers” project through the Internet and comments submitted at Austin City Hall and Clementine’s Coffee House.

“An extensive amount of thought and public comment went into the selection process, and we feel that Harries and Héder’s idea stands out as a creative and functional piece of artwork,” said Megan Crigger of the City of Austin.

Installation is planned for late second quarter 2007. Catellus Development Group, the master developer of Mueller, will donate the \$500,000 project to the community.



“We’re honored to bring this new public art project to Mueller,” said Matt Whelan, senior vice president of Catellus. “This sustainable artwork reflects the community’s values and will add to the creative landscape and vibrant culture of the neighborhood and the City of Austin.”

**About Harries/Héder Collaborative, Inc. ([www.harriesheder.com](http://www.harriesheder.com))**

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. Harries brings to the collaboration her training in sculpture, teaching and 20 years of work in public art, and Héder, in addition to working as an artist, is experienced in community projects, urban design, site planning, architecture and construction. They regularly collaborate with other designers, landscape architects, engineers and fabricators to realize their large-scale, complex projects. The team has completed projects for museums, parks, schools and libraries, transportation buildings, and public walkways. Recent works include Marsh Islands – South Boston Harbor Trail, Connections – at Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, Conn. and Ocean Gateway: Stone Ship Tidal Park, Portland, Maine.

**About Mueller ([www.MuellerAustin.com](http://www.MuellerAustin.com))**

Mueller will be developed over 10 to 15 years and is expected to include up to 4,600 single-family and multi-family living units, a mixed-use Town Center, an elementary school, the 32-acre campus of the Dell Children’s Medical Center of Central Texas, 3.8 million square feet of office space, 650,000 square feet of retail space, a central transit corridor that provides for a possible extension of mass transit service, more than 140 acres of open space, and a pattern of landscaped streets designed to support pedestrians and bicycles. The first phase of the project, the northwest quadrant, is adjacent to I-35 and includes retail development and the Dell Children’s Medical Center.

**About Art in Public Places ([www.cityofaustin.org/aipp](http://www.cityofaustin.org/aipp))**

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.