

Houston Reframed Brings Houston Art to Eye Level in Downtown Houston

New public art initiative transforms plate-glass windows and blank street-level surfaces into a walkable gallery featuring Houston's creative community

HOUSTON, TX, UNITED STATES, July 8, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Downtown Houston has a new frame of reference for public art, and it does double duty, not just beautifying blank walls, but also making walking on the streets feel less daunting and more enjoyable.

Downtown is building a growing reputation as the world's largest unofficial open-air art gallery because of its 50+ Big Art. Bigger Change. Murals by globally recognized street artists. Now "[Houston Reframed](#)," a new initiative from [Downtown Houston+](#) brings creative energy and a focus on Houston-connected artists down to the sidewalk. Downtown Houston+ has curated a collection



"Go West" mural by Houston artist Renee Aless Martinez is a bold reworking of Western iconography

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Kris Larson, Downtown Houston+

of 13 artworks and installed them on plate-glass windows and other blank surfaces, creating moments of connection, reflection, and delight for people walking through Downtown Houston every day. The murals also bring vibrancy to monolithic expanses that can make walking feel less appealing* and even defeat the sense of exploration and discovery that is a hallmark of truly walkable urban places.

As a complement to the city's sky-high landmark murals in the Big Art. Bigger Change series spearheaded and funded by Central Houston, Inc. and the Houston Downtown Management District in partnership with Harris County

Precinct 1, Houston Reframed focuses on the human scale. Installed along storefronts, façades, and highly visible pedestrian corridors, the works invite residents, workers, and visitors to

encounter art up close as part of the everyday downtown experience.

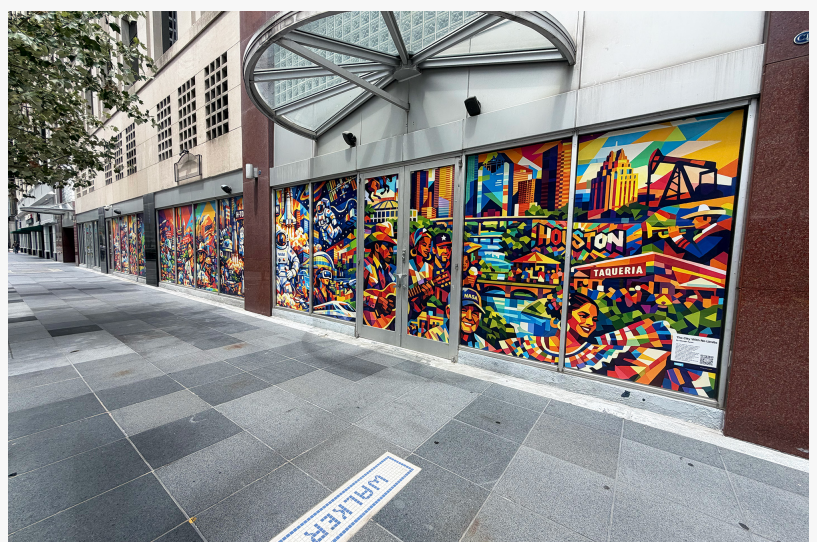
“Downtown has built incredible assets—parks, stadiums, restaurants and cultural attractions—and now the next big move for Downtown is for the public realm connecting these assets to receive additional focus and investment,” said Kris Larson, President & CEO, Downtown Houston+ “Without attractive experiences on the street level to support ground-floor retail that visitors, residents, and employees want, Downtown risks losing foot traffic to keep its economy thriving.”

Larson said supporting local artists, while activating Downtown at street level and creating a more vibrant, welcoming public realm multiplies public benefits.

Houston Reframed also celebrates the strength and diversity of Houston’s creative community through large-scale works that reflect a wide range of voices, perspectives, and artistic approaches. Artists were invited to submit work that captures the spirit of Houston, drawing on its multicultural neighborhoods, people, and landscapes while folding the city’s many layers into the experience of Downtown.

Together, the installations contribute to the evolving visual and cultural character of Downtown Houston, reinforcing the area as a place where commerce, diverse cultures, and daily life meet. The project also advances a more walkable, engaging, and welcoming public realm by turning lifeless surfaces into meaningful points of interaction at street level.

From photography and portraiture to collage, painting, and mixed-media installation, selected artists bring a rich mix of personal histories, cultural references, and visual languages into the



"The City With No Limits" by Houston artist Gbenga Ayeni is a vibrant tribute to Houston, capturing the city's diverse culture, legendary figures, and major industries.



"The Grown Up's Table" by Houston artist Loc Huynh echoes "The Potato Eaters" by Vincent Van Gogh, depicting the quiet dignity and resilience of Vietnamese American culture.

Downtown streetscape. Their works reflect themes of identity, migration, memory, belonging, ecology, family, and place — offering new ways to see Houston through the people who know it, shape it, and embrace its future.

Houston Reframed is part of a broader effort outlined in the Downtown Public Realm Action Plan to enhance Downtown Houston as a connected and welcoming destination for everyone — one that supports local artists, strengthens street-level vibrancy, and creates more reasons to explore downtown on foot.

Residents, workers, and visitors are invited to discover Houston Reframed as they move through downtown and experience Houston's creativity in a new way — not just overhead, but right alongside them.

To learn more: Visit <https://downtownhouston.org/experience/public-art/houston-reframed>

Participating artists include:

- Kaima Marie Akarue
- Gbenga Ayeni
- Charis Ammon
- Colby Deal
- Nela Garzón
- Loc Huynh
- Renee Aless Martinez
- Emily Peacock
- Alexis Pye
- Preetika Rajgariah
- Irene Reece
- Ernesto Solana
- aisha tida (note: this artist's name is all lower case)

Installations are located across Downtown Houston, including:

- 1100 Texas Ave. (Magnolia Hotel)
- 914 Main Street
- 909 Fannin / Two Houston Center (facing McKinney)
- 609 Main Street (facing Texas Ave.)
- 1016 Fannin Street
- 1002 Commerce Street (University of Houston, Downtown College of Public Service Building)
- 1400 McKinney Street (Phoenicia grocery side wall)
- 1401 McKinney Street
- 803 Fannin Street

The artwork selection committee included leaders from across Houston's arts and civic

communities:

- Zhaira Costiniano, Curator & Exhibitions Manager, Art League Houston
- Karen Farber, Vice President of External Affairs, Buffalo Bayou Partnership
- Spencer Lightsy, Associate Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, University of Houston-Downtown
- Anna Walker, Executive Director, Lawndale
- Grace Zuniga, Chief Programming Officer, Houston Arts Alliance
- Piper Faust, Curator and Project Manager for Houston Reframed

ABOUT DOWNTOWN HOUSTON+

Downtown Houston+ stewards the vision of Downtown as a center of global commerce and local culture and Houston's heart for opportunity, excitement, and joy. Its family of aligned entities — Central Houston Inc., Central Houston Civic Improvement, Inc., Houston Downtown Management District, and Downtown Redevelopment Authority — collectively advance a shared mission to champion and enhance Downtown Houston as a connected and thriving place for everyone. For more information, Visit downtownhouston.org

*For additional Background on the importance of creating visual stimulation to make walking more comfortable and enjoyable, visit Downtown Houston+ online to see the [Downtown Houston Public Realm Action Plan](#) by Gehl Architects.

For more information on how gathering with others in supportive environments can offset negative emotions and physical impacts of stress, See Social Baseline Theory: The Role of Social Proximity in Emotion and Economy of Action

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