

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture Welcomes Robert Irwin's *Portal Park Slice* into its Public Art Collection

This site-specific sculpture located in the new Carpenter Park will be unveiled to the public at the park opening on Tuesday, May 3, 2022

DALLAS, Texas (April 25, 2022) – The City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture is pleased to welcome *Portal Park Slice*, a work by renowned contemporary artist Robert Irwin, into the City's public art collection. This sculpture is a revision to the sculpture, *Portal Park Piece (Slice)* that was originally installed in John W. Carpenter Plaza in 1981.

Robert W. Irwin is one of the most significant American artists working today and is renowned for his site-conditioned artworks that explore the effects of light through interventions in space and architecture. This artwork was originally installed in 1981 at John W. Carpenter Plaza, then called *Portal Park Piece (Slice)*. In 2016, the piece was removed from its longtime north-south position in the Plaza as a part of the redevelopment of Carpenter Plaza. Irwin worked with nonprofit group Parks for Downtown Dallas and landscape architecture firm Hargreaves Jones to add new segments of filigreed steel and reconfigure this piece to sit on an east-west axis through a hill that overlooks the park and the city skyline. This is the only time in his career that Irwin has agreed to alter a work. Irwin has re-titled the sculpture *Portal Park Slice*.

To learn more about the history and design of this work of art, watch a 10-minute short film directed by local filmmaker Quin Mathews: <https://bit.ly/3MqRvd3>

This city-owned sculpture will be maintained in perpetuity thanks to a permanent endowment established with a generous \$300,000 gift from the Howard Earl Rachofsky Foundation for *Portal Park Slice*. The endowment is overseen by Parks for Downtown Dallas and its Trustees, the nonprofit developing Carpenter Park through a public-private partnership with the Dallas Park and Recreation Department.

"We are pleased to see this work return to Carpenter Park in its reimagined form. It is so rare that an artist of Robert Irwin's significance participates in the relocation of a site-specific work completed 41 years ago. Its presence will be a cultural highlight of the park" says Benjamin Espino, interim Director of the City's Office of Arts and Culture.

Parks for Downtown Dallas President and CEO Amy Meadows says "Carpenter Park is a unique opportunity to revitalize a vacant green space bisected by roadways into a vibrant park that hosts one of Robert Irwin's early, iconic works. We look forward to sharing this space, and this art, with the citizens of Dallas when the park opens on May 3rd."

On April 30 at 11:30 am, the Nasher Sculpture Center will present '[The \(Re\)Making of Robert Irwin's Portal Park Slice at Carpenter Park](#)', a panel discussion moderated by Mark Lamster, Dallas Morning News architecture critic. This event is free with advance registration.

For high resolution images, please [follow this link](#).

Photo credit: David Woo

About the Office of Arts and Culture

The Office of Arts and Culture works to enhance the vitality of the city and the quality of life for all Dallas residents by creating an equitable environment wherein artists as well as arts and cultural organizations thrive; people of all ages enjoy opportunities for creative expression; and all celebrate our multicultural heritage. Our mission is to support and grow a sustainable cultural ecosystem that ensures all residents and visitors have opportunities to experience arts and culture throughout the city. www.dallasculture.org

City of Dallas Public Art

The Public Art Program has over 300 works of art in the current collection. The collection features works commissioned for specific sites, donations and heritage works completed prior to the [Percent for Art Program](#) in Dallas initiated in 1989. Public Art can be found in every corner of the city with concentrations in the downtown, at Fair Park and at [Dallas Love Field](#) airport. Works of public art, many created by local and regional artists, enliven parks, libraries, fire stations, recreation centers and many more public locations in Dallas.

About Parks for Downtown Dallas

Parks for Downtown Dallas (PfDD) is a 501(c)(3) foundation established in 2015 to advance the long-term development and support of public parks within Downtown. PfDD is on course to build four new urban neighborhood parks by year-end 2023, and in parallel, develop a framework for maintaining and improving Downtown's public parks. To learn more about the Priority Parks and the broader campaign for Downtown parks, visit: www.parksfordowntowndallas.org

About Carpenter Park

Carpenter Park is a 5.75-acre public park located at 2201 Pacific Avenue on the eastern edge of Downtown Dallas. The project is an expansion and renovation of Carpenter Plaza, a City of Dallas public park originally built in 1981. This public land has been reimaged into a neighborhood park that welcomes people into Downtown Dallas. Award-winning landscape architecture firm Hargreaves Jones, who co-authored the original Downtown Parks Master Plan in 2004 and led its 2013 Update, led the design team for this new park. Carpenter Park features a broad range of new amenities including Downtown's first public basketball court, open and shaded lawns, an interactive fountain, a small dog park, environmental play elements for kids, gardens, walking paths, and public art. Two pieces of public sculpture are showcased in the park. Robert Irwin's *Portal Park Piece (Slice)* has been reconceptualized and retitled by the artist for the new site conditions in the renovated park. Robert Berks' statue of John W. Carpenter has also been reinstalled. Carpenter Park is the third of four Downtown Parks to be

constructed as a result of a public-private partnership between the Dallas Park and Recreation Department and nonprofit organization Parks for Downtown Dallas. The Park opens on May 3, 2022.

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