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Texas Mutual unveils public art for Mueller neighborhood

Local artists Ernesto and Cindy Hernandez bring 'Taking Flight' mural to life on neighborhood's Branch Park Pavilion

AUSTIN, Texas—Texas Mutual Insurance Company, the state's leading provider of workers' compensation insurance, is unveiling a new expressive and expansive mural at Mueller's Branch Park Pavilion, which is being gifted to the neighborhood in honor of Texas Mutual's 30th anniversary.

After a Request for Qualifications open call to local artists, a committee of Mueller community stakeholders selected local artists Ernesto Hernandez and Cindy Hernandez to create the mural, titled "Taking Flight," which spans two walls each measuring approximately 65 feet wide and 16 feet high.

"This mural celebrates our 30th anniversary and embodies our commitment to building a stronger, safer Texas," said Jeremiah Bentley, vice president of marketing and community affairs at Texas Mutual. "It honors Mueller's history as Austin's former airport while symbolizing our shared future. We're proud to create a landmark that reflects the spirit of innovation, growth, and community defining both the Mueller neighborhood and Texas Mutual."

The mural wraps around select walls of the Branch Park Pavilion, facing Aldrich Street, directly across from Texas Mutual's corporate headquarters. Its design and mix of colors pays tribute to the plant and animal life native to the Mueller area, including Yellow Jessamine flowers and monarch butterflies. It also embodies the thriving spirit of the neighborhood which came into being on the site of Austin's former airport, Robert Mueller Municipal Airport.

"This is a special mural for us because of the meaningful engagement with the community, from receiving their ideas for the design as well as their personal stories, to first-hand feedback during the painting process as they walk by and share their thoughts and encouragement," Ernesto and Cindy Hernandez said.

Branch Park Pavilion is a state-of-the-art event space frequently used for weddings, corporate events, nonprofit fundraisers and various other events, including Austin's most popular farmers' market. The pavilion sits within Branch Park, a community park on 3.5 acres that includes amenities such as water features, a kids' playscape, volleyball courts and a dog run.

"From the very beginning, this project was about creating something truly meaningful for the Mueller community. Because we followed a thorough and intentional process in selecting Ernesto and Cindy Hernandez, the mural they have created is a vibrant, community-driven piece of public art. The result is a colorful testament to the spirit of Mueller and our city," said Monica Cenicerros, founder and CEO of The Cathedral and atxGALS art collective. Cenicerros served as the curator and artistic adviser to Texas Mutual and the special committee for selecting the artists.

In addition to the physical mural, an augmented reality (AR) component is currently under development. This feature will allow viewers to use their smartphones to interact with the mural, bringing elements of the artwork to life and providing deeper insights into its symbolism and creation.

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About Texas Mutual Insurance Company

Austin-based Texas Mutual Insurance Company, a policyholder-owned company, is the state's leading provider of workers' compensation insurance. Texas Mutual provides coverage to 43 percent of the market, representing over 77,000 companies, many of which are small businesses. Since 1991, the company has provided a stable, competitively priced source of workers' comp insurance for Texas employers. Helping employers prevent workplace accidents is an important part of Texas Mutual's mission.

About Mueller

[Mueller](#) is one of the nation's most notable mixed-income, mixed-use 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 a joint project between the City of Austin [Economic Development Department](#) and [Catellus Development](#). Upon completion, Mueller will feature approximately 6,900 single-family and multifamily homes (including more than 1,725 affordable homes), a mixed-use town center district known as Aldrich Street, 5.4 million square feet of prime commercial space, including nearly 750,000 square feet of local and regional retail space, 140 acres of public parks and open space, plus Dell Children's Medical Center, the Austin Film Studios, The Thinkery Children's Museum, H-E-B Grocer and the Austin ISD Performing Arts Center. Learn more on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).