

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Houston Foundations Symposium Part 6:**

**Closing Panel: Building on our Strengths to Become a Destination City of the Arts – City of the Future.**

Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

2:00 to 2:30 pm Open House

2:30 to 3:30 pm Panel & Open Discussion

3:30 to 6:00 pm Exhibition Closing Reception

Deborah Colton Gallery is pleased to present the Closing Panel of our Houston Foundations Symposium Panel & Lecture Series that has been taking place during our exhibition *Focus on the 70s and 80s: Houston Foundations II*. (Press Release to exhibition included below).

Our earlier panels explored what people, events and institutions that helped us become who we are today and what makes our art community and our artists unique. The Closing Panel of the Foundations Symposium will take us to the present and the future in helping our city become a true national and international destination city of arts, building on this solid foundation we have.

This panel will present some of the activities and artistic endeavors already in place that we can build on, and will also explore ideas for making the greater Houston area recognized in the arts world-wide.

The panel members are Volker Eisele, Tommy Gregory, Judy Nyquist, Dean Ruck, Dan Havel, James Surls and Bill Baldwin. The Moderator is Deborah Colton.

Volker Eisele and Tommy Gregory will present a short video about the Sculpture Month Project which started last year and showcases the unique architecture of the Silos at Sawyer Yard.

Judy Nyquist will present several city wide temporary public art initiatives and will discuss future plans including the monumental and unique Cistern at Buffalo Bayou Park.

Dean Ruck and Dan Havel will talk about their past projects and future plans to “repurpose” architectural structures into works of art.

James Surls will present the expansion of his Splendor compound to create an “art hub” close to the city with the involvement of the art community.

Bill Baldwin will talk about the relationship between art, particularly civic and community-based, and quality of life from a city planning, development and financial standpoint.

Filmed by artist, Lee Benner