

TMC | HELIX PARK

Helix Park Adirondack Chair Art Contest

— 2024 FINALISTS —

helixpark.com



Gabriel Peña

A Lone Star Night

What a better way to capture the essence of Texas then to show the state flower, native plant species, the armadillo, and the iconic lone star that was part of Texas's rich history and origin, I also am trying to portray Texas Innovation by painting the recently built Helix Park, the fountain, TMC₃, and the Dynamic building. A place where all cultures work together and build friendships in health research and other fields here in Texas. I tried to highlight the Texas environment, culture and innovation using a Folk Art style which was developed here in Texas. The artwork is also a homage to the Starry Night which I saw at the MFAH when I was a kid; one of the reasons I started painting.



Vanessa Perez Ortega

Bayou Fiesta

Bayou Fiesta is a lively tribute to Houston, creatively encapsulating the city's unique cultural, environmental, and innovative history. My fondest memories of this city come from attending festivals held at local parks where I could marvel at and participate in diverse celebrations; hence, I seek to recreate that feeling for others through my design.

The fiesta is set in a lush garden adorned with redbuds and vibrant papel picado banners. Each panel is intricately designed to honor different facets of Houston's identity.

Top Row:

- The left panel consists of music notes, instruments, and dance figures, paying tribute to Houston's thriving music scene and its deep connection to uplifting local talent.
- The middle panel displays designs inspired by Houston's booming art scene, with abstract shapes and brush strokes symbolizing the creativity and diversity of local visual and performance artists.
- The right panel incorporates motifs of medicine, like the caduceus and stethoscopes, recognizing Houston's groundbreaking leadership in health and biomedical innovation.

Bottom Row:

- The left panel features local wildlife, including coyotes, armadillos, and diamondback rattlesnakes, capturing the wild beauty of our southern ecosystems.
- The middle panel depicts a wide variety of Houston's culinary delights, with motifs of barbecue, tacos, and local seafood, highlighting the city's mouthwatering food culture.
- The right panel is an assemblage of cultural symbols inspired by local communities, encapsulating the city's friendly and pioneering spirit.

Magnolias and bluebonnets on the armrests and bottom panel frame the fiesta and tie the design to Texas pride, creating a harmonious depiction of the city's natural beauty and dynamic arts, cuisines, traditions, and innovations.



Michelle Luster

Celebrating Texas Natives and Science

My chair design aims to celebrate Texas native plants and animals. It features natives such as the Texas bluebonnet, the nine banded armadillo, horn tailed lizard, monarch butterflies, greater roadrunner, and others. The NASA rocket is also featured as an homage to Houston's contribution to advancing space exploration.