



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Karine Parker-Lemoyne
Executive Director
Texan-French Alliance for the Arts
713-822-2060
info@texanfrenchalliance.org
www.texanfrenchalliance.org

OPEN THE DOOR at the Houston Public Library

-March 16, 2013 at 2 pm-

Houston (Date) – The Texan-French Alliance for the Arts invites Houston to celebrate the kick-off of *Open the Door*, a collaborative public art project that will culminate in 60 doors being transformed into works of art to be exhibited in 16 locations throughout the city. The kick-off is the first in a series of events and will include the official presentation of the first 12 doors in the project, as well as an opportunity to meet the artists. This event will be held in partnership with the Houston Public Library (HPL) on Saturday, March 16, 2013 from 2 p.m.-5 p.m. at the Central Library Plaza, 500 McKinney, 77002. For more details contact Karine Parker at 713-822-2060 or visit www.openthedoor-houston.com and www.facebook.com/openthedoorproject. This event is free and open to the public.

Houston arts organizations will also participate in the kick-off festivities with live entertainment programs. *Inprint!*, will be ready to type out poems coming from the audience's reactions of the doors. *Writers in the schools (WITS)* and *The Storyteller's Guild* will participate with workshops and spoken word performances. For theater buffs, the French troupe, *Et Voila' Theatre*, will perform as will the dancers from *Urban Souls*. Additionally, music from the *Hustlers Brass Band* from New Orleans, the young orchestra *Virtuosi of Houston* and a *DJ* will be live on the Central Library Plaza.

The HPL *Open the Door* exhibit will be available for viewing throughout 2013 on the Central Library Plaza.

About Open the Door

Open the Door is a public art project developed by the Texan-French Alliance for the Arts and 9eme Concept, the 9th Concept, a Parisian artists collective, in collaboration with many Houstonian educational, cultural, and community organizations.

The *Open the Door* art project stems from the idea that every new experience we encounter, be it a new phase of life, learning about a new culture, or meeting new people, can be represented by the image of a door. We can choose either to leave the door closed or open it and step across the threshold.

Open the Door includes a total of 60 doors created by 12 professional artists from France and Texas, as well as by professors and students laureates, that will be exhibited in 16 locations around the city of Houston throughout 2013. Each artist will turn one side of a door into a work of art. One side will be a work of art by a French artist and the other by a Texas artist.

Open the Door is proposed as a transformational journey, designed as a “Cultural Trail” leading the public from one location to another through a creative narrative. This will allow the public to discover Houston through the artworks, placed in a way that reflects the surrounding community. The artwork on the doors reflects a gateway through which a person can experience and embrace another culture. The public will be invited to discover these sites through live performances by dancers, storytellers, musicians, actors, and the local communities. The French and Texan professional artists will also interact with the audience.

Some of the locations where the doors will be installed are: Houston Public Library Central Library Plaza, Hermann Park, Heights Boulevard Park, Memorial Park, Castillo Park, Baker-Ripley Neighborhood Centers, French Consul Residence, Hong Kong Market, Altharetta Yeargin Art Museum, and Willow Street Pump Station.

Houston educational and cultural institutions supporting the *Open the Door* project, include: the Art League of Houston, the Awty International School, the Glassell School of Art, the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA), Lone Star College, Neighborhood Centers Inc., Rice University, University of Houston, University of Houston-Downtown, and Westchester Academy for International Studies.

The project is also supported by the City of Houston, the French Consulate, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Diverseworks, Fotofest, Avenue CDC/GoNeighborhoods, Project Row Houses, and Texas Children Cancer Center.

#####