



Park Cities People

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Sculptures Set For Unveiling in Deep Ellum HP resident played key role in creating DART station artwork

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Brandon Oldenburg has a guilty conscience.

Oldenburg and Highland Park resident Brad Oldham designed the "Traveling Man" sculpture series being

installed at the new DART station in Deep Ellum.

And though Oldenburg revels in seeing his work come to fruition, he said he felt pangs of sympathy while watching welders put the finishing touches on the massive project, which will

be complete at the end of this month.

"You have these guys in the summer heat sweating and making it," he said. "I'm not a licensed art welder or anything, so I couldn't do it, but at the same time I feel bad."

The duo doesn't have too much blood on its hands, though: The timing was unavoidable thanks to a series of deadlines set by DART after the bid was awarded in June 2008.

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PHOTO: CAITY COLVARD

Walking Tall is part of the 'Traveling Man' sculpture series.

Sculpture

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The series of sculptures, which Oldham describes as "off the wall," are big. Really big. They occupy more than 4,000 square feet near the DART station, and the centerpiece, *Walking Tall*, is a 38-foot tall brushed-steel work with thousands of visible rivets. (Including the underground concrete piers, the work is about 70 feet tall.) The neighbor-

ing *Waiting on a Train* is 9 feet tall, and *Awakening*, the smallest piece, is about 4 and a half feet tall.

The steel sculpture series isn't the duo's first collaboration, Oldham said, but it's definitely the largest in scope.

"I've done multiple public projects, and as far as impact and dollar volume, this is the biggest one," he said. *Walking*

Tall alone, he said, weighs more than 60,000 pounds.

"We wanted to create a structure that is going to be here longer than us," he said.

And that, of course, required more than a bit of planning. The pair had to analyze water runoff, underground anchoring systems, and wind resistance. As Oldenburg put it, "It's kind of like building a building — it's got all these specific requirements."

Oldenburg and Oldham said they hoped the piece

would be more than just something for travelers to look at; they want the sculptures to become an icon and destination piece.

"Our biggest hope and dream for them is they become a location where people can gather, and it can help guide them into the neighborhood," Oldenburg said.

"Plus it's just different," Oldham said. "There's not a lot like this that's public art."

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