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# Quick

ENTERTAINMENT

*Meet the creative minds behind*

*Deep Ellum's upcoming  
sculpture series*

*Here comes  
the*

# Traveling Man

**INSIDE** Up All Night at Mantus | Trees reopens | Comic Con & QuakeCon

# theplaylist



Your weekend weather



Friday | 98/76



Saturday | 97/77



Sunday | 98/78

## Quick

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### On the cover

Traveling Man image courtesy of Brandon Oldenburg and Reel FX

### On the move

Dallas creative talents Brad Oldham (left) and Brandon Oldenburg are the brains behind the Traveling Man sculptures. **8**



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### Editor's Note

Dear readers,

We wanted to let you know about a survey we have going on that includes prize giveaways.

The survey is designed to get your feedback on interests, expectations and interaction with the advertising you see in *Quick*. When you complete the survey, you'll get enrolled in a

contest drawing that features more than 50 prizes, including the big prize of \$2,500.

We hope you'll take the time to share your feedback. Go to [www.pulseresearch.com/quick](http://www.pulseresearch.com/quick).

Thanks for reading.

Rob Clark  
*Quick* editor

### > Win concert tickets

Visit [QuickDFW.com](http://QuickDFW.com) today for a chance to win tickets to Saturday's Los Campesinos show at the Granada Theater.

# THAT'S ONE TALL TALE

Giant art project tests artists' creative mettle

**T**he Traveling Man is almost home.

The massive sculpture series under construction in Deep Ellum is the brainchild of two of Dallas' top creative talents — Brandon Oldenburg and Brad Oldham.

For the past 14 years, Oldenburg has served as vice president of creative for Reel FX, the Dallas animation studio he helped establish. Oldham is an architectural sculptor, artist, craftsman and designer, and the hands-on, innovator-in-charge at Brad Oldham, Inc.

The Traveling Man is part robot, part artist and all character: heart and soul encased in stainless steel. He is accompanied by a friendly flock of birds representing the inspiration and aspirations of neighborhood artists, residents and business owners. Part of the old Good Latimer tunnel is incorporated into one of the sculptures as well.

Oldenburg, Oldham and their respective creative teams and partners have been brainstorming and building the Traveling Man for two years. DART funded the \$1.36 million, three-site sculpture installation, which is designed to capture the history and creative energy of the Deep Ellum district. Its target completion date is Aug. 31, and it will accessorize the new Deep Ellum DART rail station scheduled to open next month.

The creation and construction of the Traveling Man has had to take place alongside Oldenburg's and Oldham's regular lives and work duties (not to mention Oldenburg's upcoming relocation to Shreveport to launch Moonbot Studios, a digital animation and visual-effects house).

Still, the guys took time out of their busy schedules to answer our questions in an e-mail interview. *Geoff Johnston*

Brandon Oldenburg (left) and Brad Oldham at the 'Walking Tall' site



## ALL ABOUT TRAVELING MAN ...

**Q: What was the inspiration for creating a character that would embody a neighborhood mythology, as opposed to just coming up with some cute little mascot?**

**Oldenburg:** I guess this goes back to our love of storytelling. We built the sculptures in the computer the same way we would build a character [to be] animated. When I think of mascots, I think of that scary little guy from the Atlanta Olympics. We did not want that with these sculptures. We did want to create something that would be a destination, like "the Bean" in Chicago.

**Q: How would you like the Traveling Man to be received?**

**Oldham:** I look forward to hearing about how people see the pieces in ways I haven't imagined, and I want to see pictures people take with the sculptures. The Traveling Man inspires creative, interactive photography. You just want to jump into a picture with the Traveling Man and his bird friends.

**Q: What have been some of the unforeseen challenges in completing the project?**

**Oldham:** Due to the physical size and complexity of building the pieces, the Traveling Man series has been built in several locations. Traditional fabrication and construction companies run from a project like ours because of the guaranteed unpredictable challenges.

**Q: Did anything turn out to be easier than expected?**

**Oldham:** Honestly, there really has not been an easy part to this project. Overall it has flowed well and will turn out as we planned, but building something of this magnitude is not an easy task. If I had to pick an easy part, I would say it is having Aaron Liles from C1S Group on our team as construction supervisor. He is a life saver.

**Q: What's it been like working with each other?**

**Oldenburg:** It's been effortless. We are very like-minded. We have been formulating a new name for our collaborative works together ... Oldesign, the 2 B.O.'S, or Ham-Burg?

**Oldham:** We have a mutual respect and admiration for each other that has grown into a great friendship. We are currently collaborating on a few other projects that stemmed from the Traveling Man series.

**Q: Such as?**

**Oldenburg:** Like the birds that are a part of the Traveling Man sculpture — we are already designing more stainless steel furniture, setting our sights on Basel and Milan.

**Q: How did you come across that portion of the old Good-Latimer tunnel that's been incorporated into the "Waiting on a Train" sculpture?**

**Oldham:** As far as I know, the only piece DART saved from the tunnels is the concrete chunk with the year 1930 stamped into it. When we found out the artifact was available to us, we all wanted to include it in the series to physically link the tunnel to the sculptures. What's cool about the artifact is that the way it is shaped and how we are using it in the sculpture; it will create sort of a bench. We think it is meaningful to use the tunnel artifact as a place to sit and look into Deep Ellum.

### The story

"The story goes that some time before 1900, an old steam train was buried near the intersection of what today is Main Street and Good-Latimer. A majestic elm tree grew nearby in a grassy area, providing a shady spot for visitors to gather, and shelter for many songbirds. As the roots of the elm tree grew closer to the buried train, magic started to happen. The surrounding dirt, fertilized with all that is Deep Ellum, created a womb. The Traveling Man was conceived late one night when a splash of gin spilled onto the dirt reached the tip of the elm tree root that rested on the train — and his gestation is nearly complete."

— deepellumgateway.com

### The sculptures

#### • 'Awakening'

**Location:** Good-Latimer and Elm Street

**Height:** 4½ feet

**Position:** The Traveling Man's head (designed to resemble the headstock of a guitar, tuning pegs jutting from each side), peeks out from the concrete and doubles as a public seating area.

**Says Oldenburg:** "Although this site might appear as just a head and some birds, it's about what you don't see. I like what this site conjures in the imagination. I personally can see the rest of his emerging form below ground, transmodulating out of a forgotten steam train."

#### • 'Waiting on a Train'

**Location:** Good-Latimer and Gaston Avenue

**Height:** 9 feet

**Position:** Our hero sits cross-legged with his guitar, dusking against a slab of the old Good-Latimer tunnel.

**Says Oldenburg:** "'Waiting on a Train' is a great piece, as he reminds us that life can slow down a bit to hear the music. As cars and trains go by, there will be a large dude, 'chillin'' among all of the movement."

#### • 'Walking Tall'

**Location:** Good-Latimer and Swiss Avenue

**Height:** 38 feet

**Position:** The Traveling Man is extended fully upright, strolling forward and frozen in mid-step.

**Says Oldenburg:** "Originally we wanted our giant metal man to straddle Good-Latimer. Needless to say, we had to tone things back a bit. However, thinking gigantic is always the best place to start. It inspired everything."

### The birds

The Traveling Man's winged companions are cast using versatile yet durable ¼-inch thick, grade-304 stainless steel. They also serve as seats for visitors.

### The nuts and bolts

The Traveling Man's structural skeleton is constructed out of steel that varies in thickness from ¾-inch to 1½ inches, and more than 1,800 pounds of welding rod anodes. The sculptures' outer casing is mostly 12-gauge stainless steel, a tough material with a high nickel content that will protect the Traveling Man from the elements. The "Walking Tall" sculpture is supported by 16 5-foot-long bolts that secure the Traveling Man's feet to reinforced concrete piers rooted 32 feet into the ground.

### On the Web

**Official site:** deepellumgateway.com

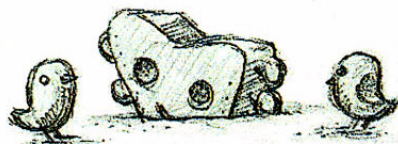
**Facebook fan page:** facebook.com, search "Traveling Man Dallas"

**ReelFX:** reelfx.com

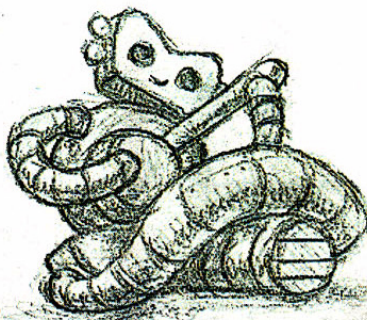
**Brad Oldham, Inc:** bradoldham.com

**Moonbot Studios:** moonbotstudios.com

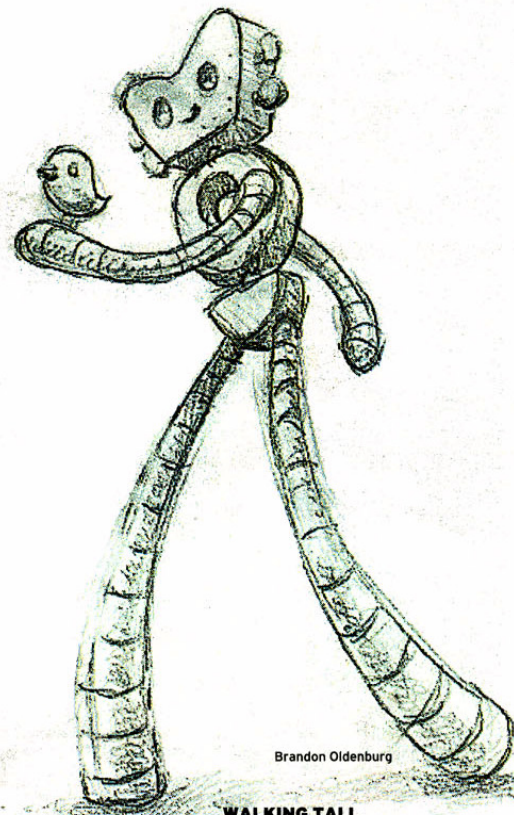
— Geoff Johnston



**AWAKENING**  
Good-Latimer and Elm Street



**WAITING ON A TRAIN**  
Good-Latimer and Gaston Avenue



**WALKING TALL**  
Good-Latimer and Swiss Avenue