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AURORA'S BIENNIAL RETURNS WITH EXPANDED REACH, DATES, FOOTPRINT, AND ARTIST ROSTER, WRITING A NEW CHAPTER FOR DALLAS' CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

"States of Becoming"-themed Biennial expands from a one-night public art event into a nearly three-week cultural experience, bringing internationally recognized artists to North Texas and a free outdoor contemporary art exhibition to Dallas City Hall

DALLAS, TEXAS — (Sept. 30, 2026) — What began in 2010 as a one-night experimental event that brought contemporary art to public spaces has evolved into something much larger: AURORA is now a nonprofit arts organization with year-round programming that helps position Dallas as a place where ambitious artists and audiences come together to imagine what's next.

AURORA's evolution continues with its signature program, AURORA Biennial 2026, taking place for the first time over nearly three weeks, from November 4-21. With a "States of Becoming" theme, the Biennial will activate spaces and communities across North Texas, including **Dallas**, and **Fort Worth**. The culminating event on November 21 will be a free, outdoor exhibition displayed across Dallas City Hall, the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, and the AT&T Discovery District – each, notably, in various states of becoming.

AURORA BIENNIAL'S ART EVOLUTION

Continuing its evolution, AURORA announces today its first tranche of AURORA Biennial 2026 artists, including acclaimed artist **Trevor Paglen**, who reflect the organization's international scope and commitment to presenting artists on the leading edge of contemporary culture:

Monira Al Qadiri (Berlin), **Eduardo Cassina** (Norway); **Melanie Clemmons & Zak Loyd** (Dallas); **Josh Kline** (New York); **Ksawery Komputery** (Poland); **Ezra Masch** (Austin); and **LaJuné McMillian** (New York), **Christopher Meerdo** (Ohio); **New Red Order** (New York); **Trevor Paglen** (New York); **Diana Rojas** (Dallas); **Sasha Stiles** (New York); **Eric Trich** (Dallas); **Tramaine Townsend** (Dallas); **Derek Tumala** (the Philippines); **Holly Veselka** (San Marcos); and **Saya Woolfalk** (New York.)

This year's Biennial is curated by New York City-based **Julia Kaganskiy** and Toronto-based **Tairone Bastien**, internationally experienced curators working at the intersection of

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contemporary art, technology, performance, and culture. Their curatorial leadership is supported by a first-time grant from the **National Endowment for the Arts** to AURORA.

Through their artist research, studio visits, and conceptual development, Kaganskiy and Bastien have curated Biennial artists whose work has been presented at or connected to institutions and platforms including the **Venice Biennale and Venice Architecture Biennale, Whitney Biennial, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), Tate Modern, Times Square Arts, Christie's, and Sotheby's**. Additionally, these artists have been recognized through fellowships, awards, and grants from organizations including **ArtReview, Carnegie International, Fellbach Triennial, Joan Mitchell Foundation, LG Guggenheim, MacArthur Foundation, Pollock-Krasner Foundation, Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, and Eyebeam**.

The artists' works span AI and computational poetry, generative art, immersive media, experimental film, digital performance, public art, ecological futures, and technology-driven installations, giving North Texas audiences a front-row seat to some of the ideas shaping contemporary culture.

"AURORA and its Biennial have put Dallas on the map as a place where art and technology coalesce in exciting ways, powered by incredible partners and a vibrant local arts scene," said **Kaganskiy and Bastien**. "We're thrilled to bring AURORA Biennial to life with ambitious, visionary work by artists from Texas and around the world. And we can't wait for audiences to see how they respond to City Hall, an iconic landmark at the center of an important conversation about change. This is going to be one of the moments people remember from the Biennial."

For the AURORA team, the caliber and diversity of the artists are part of the organization's larger evolution: to make ambitious contemporary art as visible and accessible as the city itself.

"Art shouldn't be limited to people who already know where to find it," said **Shane Pennington, AURORA co-founder and Dallas-based artist**. "AURORA has always believed that museum-caliber art can—and should—exist outside museum walls. By bringing artists and their ideas into public spaces, we can reach people where they are and create opportunities for discovery, curiosity and connection."

Biennial and City Hall – a “States of Becoming” Collab

With AURORA intentionally centering both its 2026 Biennial graphic design and culminating exhibition on Dallas City Hall, the Biennial 2026 “States of Becoming” theme is particularly meaningful this year. The decision was deliberate.

Designed by I.M. Pei, Dallas City Hall has long been one of the city's most recognizable civic landmarks. Today, its future is the subject of an ongoing public debate over whether the building should be renovated, repurposed, replaced or ultimately demolished. AURORA is not

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attempting to resolve that debate. Instead, it is using the building as a platform for artists and the public to consider what a city becomes when places that define it are in transition.

By placing contemporary art at the center of debate, AURORA turns the city into both subject and canvas.

“AURORA has always been interested in what happens when art enters public space and gives people a reason to look at their city differently,” said **Joshua King, AURORA co-founder and executive director**. “There may be no more powerful example of that right now than Dallas City Hall. There is a very real conversation happening about what this building—and this part of downtown—should become. We see art as a way to open that conversation up, not to tell people what to think, but to create a space where people can experience, question and imagine together.”

The AURORA Biennial 2026 is supported by the **The Eugene McDermott Foundation, The M.R. and Evelyn Hudson Foundation, The Theodore and Beulah Beasley Foundation, The J. Erik Jonsson Fund, Communities Foundation of Texas, Dallas Tourism Public Improvement District (DTPID), Lightware Labs, The National Endowment for the Arts, City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture, Anonymous, Downtown Dallas Inc., PaperLyte, The Charlton-Cole Family Fund, The Bowdon Family Foundation, The Moody Fund for the Arts, Ruibal’s, The Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia and Hoque Global**, and media sponsors **KERA and WRR**.

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PRESS KIT: Press may go [HERE](#) to download images and b-roll from 2024, artist bios and descriptions of 2026 AURORA Biennial artwork, “States of Becoming” animated logo, and curator headshots and bios.

ABOUT AURORA

Founded in 2010 by artists Shane Pennington and Joshua King, along with veteran Dallas arts supporter Veletta Forsythe Lill, AURORA is a Dallas-based nonprofit arts organization working at the intersection of art, technology and community. What began as a one-night public art event has evolved into a year-round organization presenting artists, exhibitions, commissions, and programs that bring ambitious contemporary art into public spaces. Through their signature AURORA Biennial and expanded year-round AURORA programs, the organization connects regional and international artists with diverse audiences and works to establish Dallas as a global cultural center for art and technology. Find more information at www.dallasaurora.com and engage with us at @dallasaurora on Instagram, X, and LinkedIn, and @dallasaurorachannel on YouTube.