“I hope visitors will experience Austin as a place of calm and light.” – Ellsworth Kelly

Campaign for Austin

The Blanton is undertaking a $23 million campaign to construct and fabricate Austin, build the endowment for the operation, care, and conservation of this singular work of art, and redevelop the grounds of the museum.

Gifts of $100,000 or higher will be celebrated as part of the legacy of this work in special donor recognition adjacent to Austin. In addition, all gifts to the museum of $5,000 or more will be recognized in various donor listings, including the annual donor wall, during the year that the building opens. For more information, please contact the museum’s team at 512.475.6013.
**Director’s Message**

In January 2015, renowned American artist Ellsworth Kelly gifted to the Blanton Museum of Art the design concept for his most monumental work. *Austin* is the first and only freestanding building Kelly has designed and will be his most lasting legacy. He has chosen to call this work *Austin*, honoring his tradition of naming particular works of art for the places for which they are destined. Envisioned by Kelly as a site for joy and contemplation, *Austin* will become a cornerstone of the Blanton’s permanent collection and will enrich the lives of visitors from around the world.

An intimate stone building with vaulted ceilings and brilliant colored glass windows, *Austin* will be realized on the grounds of the Blanton and will serve as an alluring gateway, connecting the city and The University of Texas at Austin. To be built along the sight lines of the State Capitol, *Austin* will be nestled within one of the largest green spaces on the university’s campus. *Austin* will welcome students and visitors to the museum and offer a place of reflection. Inside the work, visitors will discover a redwood totem and fourteen black-and-white marble panels—all designed by the artist. Visitors will also experience the ephemeral beauty of the Texas sun shining through the vibrant windows, representing the first time Kelly renders his celebrated color spectrum in glass and light.

*Austin* continues the tradition of modernist artist-commissioned buildings into the twenty-first century. This distinguished tradition includes the *Rothko Chapel* in Houston, Texas, and Henri Matisse’s *Chapelle du Rosaire* in Southern France. *Austin* is unique from these precedents in that it has no religious affiliation, and Kelly designed every facet of the work.

It is an honor for the Blanton to partner with Ellsworth Kelly in the realization of *Austin*. As a global arts destination, it will undoubtedly transform the campus and the city of Austin. We are deeply grateful to Ellsworth and Jack Shear, the director of the Ellsworth Kelly Foundation, for their generosity and invaluable partnership, and to the university’s Board of Regents, UT Austin President Greg Fenves, former UT president Bill Powers, and the Blanton National Leadership Board, whose support and enthusiasm for this project have been essential. We are also thankful to our visionary donors who, with the help of others, are making *Austin* a reality.

I look forward to sharing more with you in the months ahead and to celebrating this landmark achievement together.

Simone Jamille Wicha
Director
About the Artist

Ellsworth Kelly (b. Newburgh, New York, 1923) is considered one of the most important artists to emerge from the postwar era. At the age of 92, he continues to make work and is regarded as essential to the history of American art. After serving in WWII, Kelly traveled to Paris in 1948 to study art on the G.I. Bill. His work has been exhibited internationally and is included in prestigious collections around the world, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Gallery of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Blanton’s own collection. Kelly also has made numerous public art installations and produced major site-specific works in collaboration with many of the world’s leading architects. In recent years, he unveiled new work at three concurrent gallery exhibitions, worked with Frank Gehry to create an installation for Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris, and curated the exhibition Monet/Kelly at the Clark Art Institute. In recognition of his remarkable sixty-year career, in 2013 Kelly won the National Medal of Arts, an honor bestowed by the White House and the President of the United States to extraordinary individuals whose artistic achievements have made an indelible impact on American life.

The Blanton owns a significant early canvas by Ellsworth Kelly, High Yellow (1960), a gift from novelist James A. Michener and his wife, Mari, an untitled Kelly print gifted by Robert Rauschenberg, and Red Relief with White (2007), a promised gift of David G. Booth.