

**Art4Water Sacred Springs Kite Exhibition Opening Reception
Friday, May 6th
Austin Central Library**

Terry Zee Lee, Curator of the Sacred Springs Kite Exhibition

Hello everyone and welcome to the opening of the Sacred Springs of Texas Kite Exhibit, brought to you by the amazing Art4Water program of the Watershed Association.



I am so sorry that myself and several of the people that have worked so hard to get the installation up cannot be here in person, but we don't want to chance spreading Covid to anyone here. The day after we finished the installation, several of us came up positive. How's that for timing?

The exhibit you see here tonight is a love story that started two years ago.

It is the result of my love for a man, Ryan Willett, who funded this effort.

It is the result of the love that the director of partnerships and programs here at the library, Jieun Beth Kim, has for kites.

This exhibit is the result of the love that the Watershed Association board, staff and members have for the waters that flow from the springs in Texas and their dedication and commitment to educating the Austin and Hill Country public about the vital need to use One Water practices in all residential and commercial building projects.

Two years ago, I came to Austin to secure a location to display my Visions of Lewis and Clark kite exhibit. Ryan and I walked into this library and knew it was the perfect place. What an outstanding building! How proud you all must be to have this in your community.

I submitted a request to the board, and it was accepted after they saw the pictures of the kites and the proposed layout. Then Covid hit and the entire project was moved back for a full year. I suggested to Ryan that there was time in that extra year to create an entirely new collection of kites to be based on water, in all its sacred forms.

He immediately said, "You need to meet David Baker, director of the Watershed Association."

We met and agreed to try to convince the Austin Library to allow us to create an exhibit just for Texas water, that would be both beautiful and educational.

What you see here tonight is the result of the Austin Central Library board taking a chance at something they could not view before it was installed.

It is the result of David Baker and his passion for saving Jacob's Well and keeping spring water flowing throughout the Hill Country.

And it has become a reality because of Ellen Evans (David's remarkable wife) and Aliya Rose working non-stop for the last year, coordinating about forty artists and kite builders through the process of commissioning and coordinating 50 kites and artwork and kite fabricators and getting them all made and shipped and paid for.

Additionally, the Watershed Association managing director, Robin Gary coordinated kite building sessions for 175 second graders at Blue Hole School, the first One Water School in Texas, located in Wimberley. We are also coordinating a kite building activity here at the library next weekend.

The Watershed Association directed the call for a dozen Texas artists, finally selecting 18 from over 200 submissions.

I want to thank all the people that helped in this complex, difficult installation. Friends from Colorado, Oklahoma and California came to Austin to assist with hanging the kites and a great team of local art installers worked hard to assure that every kite found its' perfect location.

It is a gift of love to all of you, from all of us, asking that you will heed this call for action. Take the messages these wonderful kites tell of the immediate need for Austin and the Hill Country builders, developers, and residents to adopt the best water use practices possible before it is too late.

Thank you for being here tonight and enjoy this amazing collection of artworks, created by people across America, who all share a common vision of good for the residents of Texas.

I feel very honored to be a part of this remarkable effort. Thank you to everyone that made it possible.

Best Winds, Terry Zee Lee