



# CITY OF KENNER

## PRESS RELEASE

**MICHAEL SIGUR**  
ACTING MAYOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## NEWEST PUBLIC SCULPTURES TO BE INSTALLED TUESDAY IN KENNER

*RENOWNED ARTIST HUNT SLONEM  
TO BE PRESENT*

Two new public sculptures will be installed in the Power Boulevard median next week, adding to the city's growing collection and featuring the work of two very different artists.

One, Hunt Slonem, is an internationally known sculptor and painter whose work is on display in at least 50 museums worldwide, and has had solo shows from New York and San Francisco to Istanbul, Turkey and Venice, Italy. The other is local architect and businessman Henry Shane, who with his wife Pat, is responsible for bringing a total of 15 sculptures to Kenner so far, not including the two new additions.

All have been donated to the city by the Shanes, with Kenner only responsible for the installation and maintenance of the growing collection.

Shane studied art at Tulane University and both he and his wife have donated some of their paintings and sketches – created in the art studio in the side yard of their home - to charitable events over the years. Shane said the importance of education is the motivation for his sculpture.

“I am just having fun with my artwork, and I hope others will enjoy what I have designed,” Shane said.

The public art is a main component of Kenner's 2030 Plan, a series of nine beautification and improvement projects at some of the largest thoroughfares in the city. The program is being paid for with the proceeds from a refinanced tax millage, together with a significant amount of federal matching funds.

The goal is to create a unique identity for Kenner that will appeal both to existing residents and to young families looking for a place to purchase a home and raise a family.

In addition to the Slonem and Shane sculptures being installed Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Power Boulevard median between 37<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> streets, there are four additional sculptures that are currently being built, and Shane said he and his wife are working with four new artists on proposals.

“We have a fairly lengthy process in place for a sculpture to be approved and brought into the city’s collection,” Shane said. “That includes seeing a model of the design and then having the proposal approved by the city administration. We’ve had quite a few that did not make it through the process.”

For the sculptures to have the proper impact on the city, Shane said he believes many more are needed so that public artwork is visible throughout Kenner. “I am hoping to find some other people interested in making a donation to the city,” he said.

Meanwhile, Shane said he is impressed – as always – with Slonem’s work, and quite proud of his own. Here are the details on the two latest Kenner sculptures:

- “Divine Assembly” – artist Hunt Slonem
- 6-foot by 6-foot base, 1,200 pounds and 13 feet tall
- Constructed of aluminum and hand painted
  
- “First Spelling Lesson” – artist Henry Shane
- 4-foot base, 1,000 pounds and 13 feet tall
- Constructed of aluminum

For more information on the two new sculptures, or the city’s public artwork program, contact Kenner Public Information Officer Bob Ross at (504) 717-7694.

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