The University of Houston was the first Texas state-assisted university to form a percent for art program. The Public Art Program began in 1966 when the University of Houston System Board of Regents stipulated that one percent of the construction cost for new buildings, later amended to include renovated structures, would be set aside to purchase or commission works of art to enhance the campus. Since that time, more than 250 works have come into the collection through this method or by gifts from alumni and university benefactors.

The collection showcases a broad range of works from traditional to contemporary in a variety of media—from painting and works on paper to monumental welded steel sculptures. The artists represent a mixture of local and emerging talents, university fine arts alumni and professors, and artists with national and international reputations.

Works added to the collection are selected by the Campus Art Committee, which is comprised of faculty, staff, and student representatives. The committee is augmented by UH System Board of Regents representatives as well as art professionals from the campus and Houston art and museum communities.

Since the university program was founded, Houston has become a major center for the arts. Houstonians can now see artwork throughout the city from municipal and corporate buildings, to parks and schools, to the airports and light rail system. The University of Houston is proud to be a leader in this area of cultural enrichment.

Unless otherwise noted, all works have been purchased or commissioned through