

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
Campus Facilities Planning Committee
Agenda Item Description Form

- 1. ITEM:** Dr. Peter Guenther Memorial Plaque
- 2. REQUESTING DEPARTMENT:** University Advancement
- 3. CONTACT NAMES & PHONE NUMBERS:** Justin Sneed, x3-8565
- 4. PRESENTER:** Justin Sneed
- 5. RECOMMENDATION/
ACTION REQUESTED:** Approval
- 6. SUMMARY:**

This item proposes placement of a boulder and memorial plaque honoring the late Dr. Peter Guenther, long-time chair of the UH Art Department. The request has been shared with CLASS's Development Director, who supports the installation.

The request originated with Dr. Irene Guenther, daughter of the late professor, who herself teaches history in UH's Honors College. Dr. Irene Guenther notes that "under his chairmanship, the UH Art Department started a Ph.D. program for Art History graduate students and expanded its faculty in major ways. He also curated numerous major exhibitions for Blaffer Gallery; the catalogues he wrote for those exhibits won national recognition. He received several Teaching Excellence awards. And, he brought some of the wonderful modern art sculptures to the UH campus; for example, the Albertus Magnus "thinker" in front of the Law Center and the lovely "Orpheus" sculpture in the courtyard of the Art building, where a memorial was held for him when he passed away. . He was given the "keys to the city of Houston" by then mayor Kathy Whitmire, who commended him on his infectious love of art and the many things he did to inspire a love of art in Houstonians throughout the city."

Six oak trees were planted in his honor outside of the UH Fine Arts Building, an area which the students know as "Guenther Grove."

If approved, Dr. Irene Guenther will fund the project at an estimated cost of \$1500.

The proposed location is not allied with a tree because of tree life and lawn maintenance considerations.

The University of Houston campus features only a few other personalized markers.
Because the prominent location of this marker may encourage similar requests, the Committee is invited to comment on a protocol for small memorials.

- 7. **PROPOSED START DATE:** Upon Approval
- 8. **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:** Site Plan, Renderings, Context Photos





Existing Fine Arts East Entry



Mock-up of Boulder and Memorial Plaque at FA East Entry



EXAMPLES OF OTHER
SMALL MEMORIALS ON
CAMPUS