

CAPITAL GAINS

NEWS, TALK & SPECULATION

THE POWER OF ART

Form and function have come together with a recently completed solar energy project in Austin.

"SunFlowers — An Electric Garden," the city's largest public art project, was finished along the **Mueller** development's hike and bike trail.

The electric garden comprises 15 sunflower sculptures that collect solar energy during the day and illuminate at night. The oversized sculptures extend for nearly 540 feet and tower 18 to 24 feet above a footpath.

The panels are expected to produce more than 18,000 kilowatt hours of power

each year.

"Mueller is a model for a variety of goals our community wants to achieve, and these SunFlowers are a vital step in the ongoing effort to create more public art," said **Megan Crigger**, the city's Art in Public Places administrator. "Our hope is that by having a massive, permanent art installation in such a visible location it will inspire other developers and businesses to embrace public art."



Developer **Catelus** funded the SunFlowers project with \$500,000. **Applied Materials** donated \$50,000, and **Austin Energy's** Solar Program will donate \$65,000 in solar rebates.

Artists **Mags Harries** and **Lajos Héder** made the sunflower sculptures

utilizing local products and services from **Atlantis Energy Systems**, **Texas Solar Power Co.** and **Dennis Steel Inc.**

by Andrea Zaragoza