

## INSIDE LOOK:

AUSTIN AIPP PROJECT  
AUSTIN ENERGY DISTRICT  
COOLING PLANT #3



# LaunchPAD

PUBLIC ART DUO

BEILI LIU | BY TERUKO NIMURA

When I first heard about the **LaunchPAD** program, I knew I had to apply. This city-sponsored professional development program that offers artists a chance to work one-on-one with established public artists seemed like an amazing opportunity. I thought that it would help me navigate the complexities of creating my own works in the future. What I didn't anticipate, was how much I would learn about public art as part of a larger practice based in studio art and personal expression. That is due to the incredible artist I have been paired with—[Beili Liu](#). I've admired Beili since I met her in 2008 when I was a graduate student at The University of Texas, and I couldn't believe my luck at being selected to work with her as a **LaunchPAD** artist!

I've participated in multiple studio visits, meetings, and work sessions with Liu for her Art in Public Places commission, *Cloud Pavilion*, for Austin Energy District Cooling Plant #3. I've been able to see her process develop from the initial concept and design of the artwork to the approval process for its construction. For a project of this scale, there are a dizzying number of steps and many parties involved from start to finish. From the formalities of presenting to stakeholder community



groups, the city of Austin Arts Commission and the AIPP Panel, to answering tough questions from engineers, architects, project managers and city officials, Beili performed each task with grace. Observing her in these situations has provided me with many lessons on commercial and entrepreneurial skills, contract negotiation and budgets. All of the procedures I've witnessed will be wonderfully helpful for my own public projects, and I am grateful to the city and the AIPP staff for the opportunity. Getting to know Beili's practice as a whole has greatly informed my own. The scope of goals, aspirations, and possibilities for my work has expanded five-fold.

I am looking forward to participating in the next phase of fabrication for the *Cloud Pavilion* project and continuing my work with Beili. At her suggestion I will be learning SketchUp, Photoshop and video editing. I will also be researching materials, contemporary public projects that I find exciting, and potential opportunities as a part of my **LaunchPAD** studies. The goal is to gain skills and inspiration for my own application to a permanent project by the end of the year. Wish me luck!

