Sculpture for Dallas Stadium

In 2009, when the Dallas Cowboys’ owners, Jerry Jones and his wife, Gene, announced their Dallas Cowboys Art Program, an innovative initiative bound to tantalize sports fans and Dallas residents alike, they said they would install 14 site-specific artworks throughout the team’s $1.3 billion AT&T Stadium. The list was to include big-name artists, including Olafur Eliasson, Mel Bochner, Gary Simmons and Lawrence Weiner. At the time, the couple vowed that the continuing efforts would bring art to the people.

In four years, the collection has grown to include 55 artworks by 39 artists. Now the Joneses have partnered with Big Thought, a Dallas-based nonprofit educational organization, to turn the stadium into the city’s biggest classroom. Teachers of students in third through eighth grades can bring classes to the stadium to learn many subjects through its art, architecture and engineering.

By next Friday, a monumental artwork will have joined that lineup, becoming a new teaching tool. The Indian-born British artist Anish Kapoor’s monumental “Sky Mirror,” a 23-ton circular sculpture shaped like a giant satellite dish, is being installed in the stadium’s east plaza. It will be the stadium’s only outdoor sculpture. (In 2006, “Sky Mirror” was on view in Rockefeller Center.)

“Science students can study everything from weather patterns to the movement of the Sun to heat calculations, using ‘Sky Mirror,’” said Mary Zlot, a San Francisco art consultant who has helped the Joneses assemble the collection. Adults can learn about the art, too, through iPhone and iPad art tours. There are also 12 on-site art tours each week that visitors can take with a guide or through a mobile app by signing up online.

“The stadium is not just for sports,” Ms. Zlot said. “It’s become a major art destination for North Texas, too.”