

PARKSIDE

HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

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MISSION

Hermann Park Conservancy is a citizens' organization dedicated to the stewardship and improvement of Hermann Park—today and for generations to come.



Discover the New McGovern Centennial Gardens in Hermann Park



The McGovern Centennial Gardens are now open to the delight of Park visitors. You may have peered through the construction fence or watched from a nearby high-rise as the former Houston Garden Center site was being transformed into Houston's newest garden attraction. The Gardens are a lasting commemoration of Hermann Park's 100th birthday in 2014 and feature eight acres of captivating gardens, each with a different theme.

The new Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, designed by famed Apple Store architect Peter Bohlin, serves as the main gateway to the McGovern Centennial Gardens. As you walk through the sleek, modern entryway, you are struck by the breathtaking sight of fountains dancing in a pool in front of you and a compelling 30-foot garden mount across the spacious Centennial Green. Few visitors can pass this spot without taking some photos before exploring the Gardens.

The McGovern Centennial Gardens are home to more than 490 new trees of over 50 species, 760 hedge shrubs, 55,000 perennial bulbs, 650 azaleas and 4.5 acres of grass. They include the Arid Garden, the Rose Garden, the Celebration Garden, and the Woodland Garden. An educational Family Garden will produce seasonal vegetables, herbs and fruit trees. The Tudor Family Pine Hill Walk features the Friendship Pavilion, given to the City of Houston by its sister city of Taipei, Taiwan.

Winter hours in the McGovern Centennial Gardens are 9 a.m.–5 p.m. In the summer, the Gardens will be open 9 a.m.–8 p.m. There is no fee to visit the Gardens. Both the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion and the nearby Celebration Garden are available for rental for special events. For information, visit hermannpark.org/facilities, or contact Linda Black, lblack@hermannpark.org.

www.hermannpark.org

from the executive director

When George Hermann donated 285 acres to the City of Houston for a park in 1914, he said that it was the happiest day of his life. He gave a gift to the community that has only grown more beloved as the years have gone by. One hundred years later, the community celebrated Hermann Park with an enthusiasm that he would have loved.

Throughout 2014, we enjoyed special centennial events in Hermann Park including *Art in the Park*, the *Hermann Park Kite Festival*, and the *Park to Port Bike Ride* — each event allowing us to celebrate a different part of the Park and share unique experiences. The milestone was also commemorated at our two annual fundraisers, *Hats in the Park* and *Evening in the Park*.

Our centennial art project, *Art in the Park*, brought a series of contemporary art installations displayed throughout the Park. The first installation was *Boogie Woogie*, an innovative creation by stickwork artist, Patrick Dougherty, and a labor of love for the community. More than 150 volunteers spent 1,000 hours working under Dougherty's guidance to harvest sticks and create a "glyph maze" near the Japanese Garden. As he worked on the project, the artist was moved by the diversity and sense of community among volunteers and visitors enjoying the Park together. He noted, "I enjoy watching the variety of Park visitors. This is clearly a special resource for them — and they love being here. They are engaged with each other and the process of creating art."

The *Hermann Park Kite Festival* brought a joy-filled day to Hermann Park. At least 5,000 people came together on a beautiful March day to fly colorful kites of all shapes and sizes.



MD Turner Photography

Doreen Stoller and Kathrine G. McGovern

Watching small children squeal in delight as their kites rose into the air made everyone smile. Another special event honored the 100th birthdays of both Hermann Park and the Houston Ship Channel. One thousand cyclists signed up for a 20-mile bike ride on the Brays Bayou trails from the Park's Bill Coats Bridge to the Houston Ship Channel and back. Houstonians got a fresh look at their city from the banks of the bayou while being a part of a unique adventure. "I didn't realize the Port was so close," was the refrain of the day.

The extraordinary year concluded with the opening of the McGovern Centennial Gardens. The completion of the Gardens was a miracle given the difficult economic times for fundraising and our goal to open during the centennial year. It was a miracle made possible by our hard-working staff, campaign and projects committees, board members, landscape architects, construction and landscape contractors, and each person who donated to the Gardens and volunteered during the opening events. For all of us, watching everyone's face light up at the first sight of the Gardens made this the happiest of days. George Hermann would be proud!

See you in the Park,

Doreen

Doreen Stoller, Executive Director



DONORS

McGovern Centennial Gardens

\$25,000 – \$49,999
Hong-Qin Fan and Donpaul Stephens

\$10,000 – \$24,999
Isabel and Danny David
Merle Hunsaker – In honor of
Linda Hunsaker
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Lamar Neale
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In memory of Diana Hobby

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Lou Ann and Milton Gray – In honor of
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Red Door Events
Saint Arnold Brewing Company
Steve Lee Photography
Texas Monthly
TPRB Advertising
United Airlines

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Sharon and Cecil Griffin
John E. Walsh, Jr.

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In memory of Mrs. William P. Hobby
Zach Russell

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Barbara Brooks

Art in the Park

\$500 – \$999

Cece and Mack Fowler

\$100 – \$499

Barbara Bass

Historic Clubhouse

\$1,000,000 – \$5,000,000

Tommy W. Lott – In memory of
June Lott and in honor of his family

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Steppie and Robert Holsclaw

Japanese Garden

\$25,000 – \$49,999

George and Mary Josephine
Hamman Foundation

\$10,000 – \$24,999

The Japan-America Society of
Houston, Inc. (JASH)

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Steppie and Robert Holsclaw

\$100 – \$499

Shirley Bludau and Mike Grimes
Darlene and George Hirasaki
Midori and Jay Mochizuki – In honor of
The Way of Tea Houston**Park to Port Bike Ride**

\$10,000 – \$24,999

BoyarMiller
Port of Houston Authority

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Gray Reed & McGraw

\$1,000 – \$4,999

The Williams Companies, Inc.

\$100 – \$499

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Katy Atkiss
Erica Baum
Angela Brown
Omar Chay
Christy and Tom Compson
Elideth and Joel Escobar
Terry Fisher
Christine and Michael Forbes
Lara FrazierRobert Fredericks
Elizabeth Moore Galtney
Dina and Paul Gasper
Rosendo Guerra
Julia and Jay Hellums
Patty Hunt
Douglas L. Lawing
Patty and Bob Mahlstedt
Anna Noack
Jeff PizarraThe Propst Family
Debra Sharp
Nancy and Deno Stamos
Y. Ping Sun and David Leebron
Karin and Jorge Werlang
Alison West
Lauren R. Whisenant
Marlene and Mark Wong

Seed, Trees, People: a Centennial Tribute



Randy Twaddle's creation salutes Hermann Park's centennial.

Stunning gardens are not the only feature unveiled as part of the new McGovern Centennial Gardens. Houston artist Randy Twaddle was commissioned in early 2014 to design a permanent art installation to crown the top of the whimsical garden mount. When contemplating the project, Twaddle's first impulse was to find a quote that embodied Hermann Park. "While looking for something suitable I was thinking about plants, trees, the stuff of parks, but a Confucius quotation I came upon introduced not only another critical component — people — but also a one hundred year time frame," says Twaddle.

The quote inscribed on the sculpture reads:

*"If you think of a year, plant a seed,
If in terms of ten years, plant trees,
If in terms of one hundred years,
teach the people."*

— Confucius

The result is a sophisticated and beautiful installation atop the 30-foot mount featuring three distinct limestone benches, graduated in size and each engraved with a line from the Confucius quote. Visitors to the Gardens who venture to the top of The Mount will not only be rewarded with an outstanding bird's-eye view, but also a chance to take a moment and relax on these gently curved limestone forms and contemplate the ever so appropriate quote to commemorate 100 years of Hermann Park.

"I'm humbled to have had the opportunity to create something of relative permanence for a city that I love. I hope *Seed, Trees, People*, in some way reflects the precept from which it was inspired," says Twaddle.

The Conservancy Remembers Mayor Bob Lanier

(March 10, 1925 – December 20, 2014)

Former Houston mayor, the Honorable Bob Lanier, died at the age of 89 on December 20, 2014. The Conservancy offers our condolences to his family and fondly remembers his visionary commitment to the future of Hermann Park. Mayor Lanier was one of the earliest advocates of Hermann Park's master plan during his tenure as mayor. He helped to make \$10 million available from the City of Houston for the first phase of Park improvements. We are grateful for the enthusiastic support that he and his wife, Elyse, provided over the years.



Mayor Bob and Elyse Lanier

National Recognition for McGovern Centennial Gardens in Landscape Architecture



Charles Birnbaum, president of the Cultural Landscape Foundation, recognized Hermann Park's McGovern Centennial Gardens in his Huffington Post article *2014's Notable Developments in Landscape Architecture*. Birnbaum wrote:

In Houston, Texas, 2014 marks the climax of two decades of activity spurred by the 1995 Olin Master Plan for Hermann Park. Long known as the city without zoning, Houston has turned a corner — by engaging many of the nation's leading landscape architects, the city's patrons and stewards are showing a deep commitment and belief in the power of transforming the civic realm through the design, construction and renewal of parks and the creation of connected green spaces. The roster of practitioners and projects is impressive: Design Workshop and Reed Hilderbrand at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, Nelson Byrd Woltz at Memorial Park, Michael Van Valkenburgh at the Menil Collection, SWA at Buffalo Bayou Park, Hoerr Schaudt at Centennial Gardens in Hermann Park, and Hargreaves Associates at Discovery Green.

Direct Energy Leaders are Heroes to Middle School Choir



The Rich Schneider Middle School Choir performs on Lake Plaza.

Direct Energy focuses on community involvement and decided to make a difference in the lives of students from Rich Schneider Middle School. After the school's youth choir completed their concert as part of our 5th Annual Student Performances in the Park Series, Direct Energy leaders from several continents took the time to talk to each student

about careers and opportunities. The choir took away not only inspiration but received books, as well. Choir director, Sharnelle Jones, summed up the day this way, "To perform in Hermann Park and meet some of the wonderful leaders at Direct Energy was an experience that will last for a lifetime!"

Park to Port Bike Ride, continued

- In Kind**
 Bike Barn
 Bike Houston
 Brady's Landing
 Houston Chronicle
 Luby's Fuddrucker's Restaurants, LLC
 Saint Arnold Brewing Co.
 Sunny 99.1
 Texas Medical Center
 TPRB Advertising

Run in the Park

- \$5,000 – \$9,999**
 The Friedkin Group
 Texas Children's Hospital
- \$2,500 – \$4,999**
 Frontier Utilities
- \$100 – \$499**
 Matthew Behrmann
 Christy and Tom Compson
 The Driven Race and Club Solutions LLC
 Edward Finger
 Cece and Mack Fowler
 Victoria Khan
 Anika Meyers
 Lucy and Ernie Seward
 Christina Staib
 Y. Ping Sun and David Leebron

- In Kind**
 Bud Light/Silver Eagle Distributors
 Fleet Feet Sports
 The Hot Bagel Shop
 Houston Chronicle
 Luby's Fuddrucker's Restaurants, LLC
 Picnic
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 United Airlines

Urban Green

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 Catherine Bradley
 Maddy Foxx
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 Patrick Moffitt
 Mark Monroe
 Robert Pelton
 Kevin Stoneking
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 Lillie and Gregory Besozzi
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 Elvis the Dawg
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 Jordan Gross
 Steven Hammer
 Carey Kirkpatrick
 Amanda Lewis
 Alley Lewis
 Darren Lindamood
 Teri Ogg
 Wes Osbourn
 David Rappaport
 Jonathan Rosenberg
 Adrienne D. Saxe
 Lander Wendland

In Kind

- Adair Kitchen
- Beirne, Maynard & Parsons, L.L.P.
- Bella Madre
- Butter & Company
- Camerata at Paulie's
- Cellar Rat Wine Tours
- Centre Fitness Fusion
- Chipotle Mexican Grill
- Christina Greene Designs
- Clique Salon
- Compass Rose Cellars
- Deep Eddy Vodka
- DEFINE Body & Mind
- Del Frisco's Grille
- DJ Mav
- DJ M-Cue
- Dream Bouquet
- Dulce Vida Tequila
- EB Inc. Event Rentals and Design
- Feed TX
- Found
- Four Seasons Hotel Houston
- Natalie Hightower
- Houston Oaks
- Houston Polo Club
- Houston Symphony
- The Houstonian Hotel, Club and Spa
- Inprint Houston
- Jawda & Jawda
- Lewis Wines
- LG Entertainment
- Local Pour
- Lucky Strike Lanes and Lounge – Houston
- Macarons by Patisse
- McDonald Land Services, Inc.
- Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
- Nice Winery
- Pax Americana
- Raising Cane's
- Relish Fine Foods
- Ruggles Black
- Ruggles Green
- Ryde
- Saint Arnold Brewing Co.
- Spec's
- Sprinkles Cupcakes
- Stones By Kate
- Sultana's Daughter
- Texas Monthly
- Tiny Boxwood's
- Underbelly
- Water 2 Wine
- William Chris Vineyards
- Yellow Rose Distillery, LLC

Conservation

A Bird Watcher's Haven in the Heart of Houston

Photos by Ben Hulsey



This Red-tailed Hawk pauses high in a pine tree.



A Red-bellied Woodpecker hunts for insects.

Hermann Park is for the birds! Literally. The Park is home to many species of local and migratory birds. Monthly, Houston Audubon members conduct a free bird survey in the Park. Feathered visitors and residents include Green and Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks, as well as Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers. Some water-loving species include the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Neotropic Cormorant, and the American Coot. There have also been recent sightings of the impressive Bald Eagle.

Check eBird.org and the Houston Audubon's website for bird lists and additional information regarding the survey walks and for access to photographer Ben Hulsey's fabulous colorful photos of Hermann Park's birds. Then, come to the Park to see them yourself!

CenterPoint Energy donates Native Trees for Reforestation Project

CenterPoint Energy donated 142 native trees to Hermann Park in December for the tree kindergarten in the eight-acre Lake Picnic Area. The 7- and 15-gallon trees, planted by Conservancy staff and volunteers, were a welcome addition to the growing woodland picnic site in a formerly "wild" area that was in great need of tender loving care. With improvements over the past several years to the site's drainage, installation of an irrigation system, addition of wooden picnic tables, a swing set for the kids, and improved access with new concrete and gravel paths and lighting, the site is being transformed into a delightful, shady first-come, first-served



CenterPoint volunteers plant trees.

woodland picnic site for visitors. CenterPoint's generous donation supplements the flourishing woodland environment that had suffered mature tree loss due to Hurricane Ike and the 2011 drought. And with the promise of additional trees in the future, CenterPoint has become a welcome partner in the Conservancy's reforestation program.

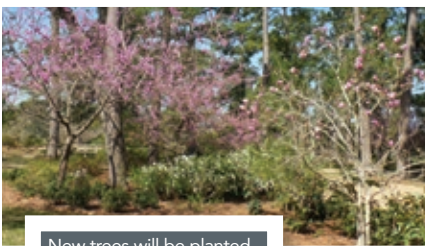
Toshiba Donation Adds Trees to the Japanese Garden

In the spirit of Toshiba's commitment to planting over a million trees worldwide, the Toshiba International Corporation in Houston donated \$5,600 to the Japanese Garden in Hermann Park for trees and understory plantings.

"At Toshiba," President and CEO of Toshiba International Corporation Mr. Tatsuo Doko said, "we value opportunities to contribute to the future of a sustainable planet. To promote

this philosophy we have committed to planting 1.5 million trees, and Hermann Park Conservancy is an ideal opportunity for our local contribution. We are honored to support the Japanese Garden so that future generations may appreciate its serenity."

We thank Toshiba for their generous support. The Japanese Garden will mark its 25th year in Hermann Park in 2017 and is in the process of a several-year renovation project. To learn more or to donate, go to: hermannpark.org/japanese-garden.

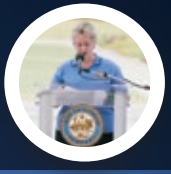


New trees will be planted in the Japanese Garden.

McGovern Centennial Gardens

Many dedicated people worked hard to make the McGovern Centennial Gardens a reality. Special thanks to: Hoerr Schaudt, landscape architect; White Oak Studio, consulting landscape architect; Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, pavilion architect; Tellepsen Construction, general contractor; and Shooter and Lindsey, landscape contractors.

M/D Turner Photography



On October 18, 2014 Hermann Park Conservancy held a dedication ceremony for the McGovern Centennial Gardens and the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion. Speakers included (front row) Mayor Annise Parker; Gardens benefactor, Kathrine G. McGovern; (back row) HPC board chair, Danny David; centennial campaign chair, Phoebe Tudor; director of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Joe Turner; pavilion benefactors, Jim Flores and Cherie Flores; HPC executive director, Doreen Stoller; and former HPC board chair, Ann Kennedy.



Our Staff



Our new McGovern Centennial Gardens staff is busy tending to the Gardens and answering questions from Park visitors. Led by Jane Curtis (center), director of horticulture, the team includes Patrick Menard, Cindy McCullough, Matthew James, Russell Galvan, Zoe Ndomba and Marilyn Ventura (not pictured: John Hightower).



Park to Port Bike Ride Celebrates Two Houston Landmarks



Cyclists enjoy a post-ride party in Hermann Park.

Houstonians of all ages joined in a two-wheeled celebration of the centennials of both Hermann Park and the Houston Ship Channel on September 13, 2014. Nearly 1,000 cyclists rolled off the starting point near the Bill Coats Bridge in Hermann Park for the Conservancy's Park to Port Bike Ride. Cyclists made the 20-mile round-trip along the Brays Bayou trails to the Houston Ship Channel then back to Hermann Park. From the banks of the bayou, riders saw Houston from a new perspective. Many discovered that the Houston Ship Channel is closer than they thought

and enjoyed getting a first-hand look at the commerce the port provides our city. A mid-ride party at Brady's Landing featured food and music. A post-ride party back at the Park gave riders a chance to relax and visit with other cyclists before heading for home.

We are grateful to HPC Board member, Cassie Stinson, who chaired this successful event as well as co-sponsors BoyarMiller and the Port of Houston Authority. Plans are in the works for Park to Port Bike Ride 2015. Visit our website for updates.

11th Annual Run in the Park



Runners take off from the starting line.

More than 600 runners, joggers, and walkers positioned themselves at the start line for Hermann Park Conservancy's 11th Annual Run in the Park, held on November 8, 2014. The run benefited the Conservancy and brought avid runners and enthusiastic walkers to the Park as well as family and friends who cheered them on. Run in the Park consisted of a 5K run/walk and a popular

1K kids' fun run. The overall male and female winners were Alden Bahr and Becky Wade. Each won two tickets from sponsor United Airlines. A post-race party in Molly Ann Smith Plaza added to the fun for participants and their supporters. The event raised \$30,233 to help with the Conservancy's maintenance program for the Park. Thank you to all who participated. Stay tuned for the 2015 date.

DONORS

Annual Fund/ General Contributions

\$10,000 – \$24,999

Marvy Finger Family Foundation
Kathrine G. McGovern

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Natalye Appel and John Casbarian
Clutch City Foundation
Cherie and Jim Flores – In memory of
Diana Hobby
The Ralph and Genevieve B.
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Karla A. Sepulveda

\$1,000 – \$4,999

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Steppie and Robert Holsclaw
Stephanie and Ed Larsen
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Mickey Ables

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 Lainie Gordon and David Minberg –
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 Jean and Donald Gray
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 Jane Curtis
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 Eleanor and Richard Viebig
 Gail and Thomas Viele
 Michael Webster
 Wells Design/Jerry Jeanmard, Inc. –
 In memory of Diana Hobby
 Vicki and Bradley Wertman
 Brian Witt

In Kind
 Aries Operating LP
 Jane and Bill Curtis
 Revolution Collaborative

Urban Green's Cheers to the Next 100 Years

Urban Green members and friends gathered at Hermann Park's Historic Clubhouse to salute the Park's centennial one last time on November 13, 2014. More than 350 were on hand for the festive fete. Chairs Bebe Browning, Maddy Foxx, and Alley Lewis put together a silent auction full of fantastic prizes donated by local businesses, music by DJ Mav and DJ M-Cue, delectable bites generously donated by local restaurants, beer provided by Saint Arnold Brewing Co., and cocktails provided by Dulce Vida Tequila and Deep Eddy Vodka. The event raised more than \$17,000 to support the



Event chairs: Maddy Fox, Alley Lewis and Bebe Browning

Conservancy's general operations. Urban Green, Hermann Park Conservancy's young professionals group, is led by chair Catherine Bradley and a steering committee.

A New Park Ambassador Joins the Conservancy

We are pleased to announce the addition of a new Park Ambassador, Barbara Shiskoff, to the Visitor Services team. Barbara will be available throughout the Park to answer questions and give directions to visitors. Barbara retired recently and was looking for a way to keep busy and be outdoors. She loves interacting with people and is a great addition to our team.

And, she's the wife of our train engineer, Larry. When you are in the Park, wave to Barbara as she drives by in the golf cart!



Meet new Park Ambassador, Barbara Shiskoff.

Join Hermann Park Conservancy Today!



HERMANN PARK
 CONSERVANCY
 MEMBER

With the opening of the new McGovern Centennial Gardens, there's a lot to be excited about at Hermann Park. Join the Conservancy as we continue our mission to maintain and improve the Park. Members receive exclusive benefits including Hermann Park Railroad tickets, a Member Express Boarding line, free train rides on the second Saturday of every month, pedal boat tickets, 10% off merchandise in the Conservancy Gift Shop and on orders in Pinewood Cafe, and more. Members joining or renewing at the \$100 Centennial level and above will receive commemorative centennial merchandise. Please consider joining — or renewing — your membership today! Visit www.hermannpark.org/membership for more information.

Save the Dates!

Please mark your calendar for these upcoming events!



Hermann Park Dog Walk
Presented by the Houston Rockets
Sunday, March 1, 2015
6:30 – 7:30 a.m. Registration
8:00 a.m. Walk begins



Tai Chi in the Park
Lykes Grove
Every Saturday in March
9:00 a.m.



Hats in the Park Luncheon
McGovern Centennial Gardens
Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion
Tuesday, March 3, 2015
11:30 a.m.



Hermann Park Kite Festival
Sunday, March 29, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



Evening in the Park Gala
McGovern Centennial Gardens
April 24, 2015
6:30 p.m.

Dates and times are subject to change; where date and time not listed, exact time is TBD

Details at
hermannpark.org

- [facebook.com/HermannPark](https://www.facebook.com/HermannPark)
- [instagram.com/HermannPark](https://www.instagram.com/HermannPark)
- twitter.com/HermannPark
- hermannparkhouston.wordpress.com

Centennial Campaign Donor Wall



Don't miss your chance to be a part of Hermann Park's history! Join other Conservancy donors for a once-a-century recognition opportunity on the Centennial Campaign Donor Wall in Lake Plaza at Kinder Station. This special donor wall, which has been on

temporary display since 2009, consists of Conservancy donors whose cumulative giving for any purpose totals \$50,000 or more. Want to learn more about the donor wall or just how close you are to qualifying for listing?

Contact mmiller@hermannpark.org or 713-524-5876, ext. 339. Deadline to be included on the wall is 12/31/15.

DONORS

Community Outreach

\$500 – \$999
Doreen Stoller and Dan Piette

Garden Conservancy

\$100 – \$499
Linda and Bill Carson – In honor of Carmela and Kelly Frels
Mary and John Eads – In memory of William Sherman Flores, Sr.
Connie and Tom Vargo

General Endowment

\$5,000 – \$9,999
Southwest Airlines – In memory of Diana Hobby

\$500 – \$999
Katy Bosworth and Brian Webster
\$100 – \$499
Anonymous

Membership

Conductor's Circle (\$2,500+)
Anonymous (2)
Kathy and Randy Lake
Jane and Ron Lerner
Nancy Manderson
Gary Mercer

Platinum (\$500 – \$2,499)
Elizabeth and Robert Ardell
Jim F. Avant
Karen and Charlie Baughn
Lana Billeaud and John McGinnis
Laura and Seth Borland
Robin and Richard Brooks
Carolyn and Thomas Caldwell
Linda Carper
Gina Castellano and David Barnhart
Marina and Alan Christensen
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Terry Murphree
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