

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

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



# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Hermann Park Conservancy Friends,



What would Hermann Park be without Hermann Park Conservancy? If you remember what the Park looked like 20 years ago, no doubt the memory generates a shudder! Thanks to the determination and dedication of the community, the Conservancy has had a transformative impact on the state of the Park, and fiscal year 2011—July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011—was no exception.

Armed with the clear vision laid out by the master plan adopted in 1995, the Conservancy and public partners have been steadily working to turn the once deteriorating Park into an urban oasis and adapt it to the growing needs of the community. The Conservancy aims to complete the final stage of improvements in time for the Park's 100th birthday in 2014.

The fiscal year got off to a fantastic start with news in July that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) had approved \$3 million for renovation of the Park's historic main entrance, the Grand Gateway. Shortly afterwards, construction began on the Bill Coats Bike Bridge, and renovation of the pedestrian trail kicked off in the spring. With funding for the Grand Gateway nearly complete, the Conservancy has set its sights on the Centennial Gardens, the last major capital project identified by the master plan.

Beyond tackling multi-million-dollar improvement projects, the Conservancy is also committed to stewardship, ensuring the responsible and long-term care of these enhancements as well as the Park's natural resources. Through the expansion of its volunteer and maintenance programs, the Conservancy generated 23,000 hours toward operations and stewardship initiatives.

I hope you're as proud as I am of this past year's accomplishments. They would not be possible without the hardworking and committed board, staff, and volunteers. Thank you! You're the ones who made this possible. We appreciate your continued support as we approach our 2014 centennial and the completion of the master plan for Hermann Park.

Sincerely,

ann Kennedy

Ann Kennedy 2011 Board Chair



# PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Hermann Park's master plan, adopted in 1995, guides all improvements in the Park. Its goals include increasing accessibility, bringing life to lesser used areas, and restoring historic elements. Several projects undertaken this year meet these objectives and make the Park friendlier, safer, and easier to get around.



# Lake Picnic Area

The Park's most popular place to picnic got even better with the continued renovation of the Lake Picnic Area. This site includes eight heavily wooded acres between Lake Plaza, the Jones Reflection Pool, and Miller Outdoor Theatre, with access from the Park's largest parking lot. This year, new decomposed granite paths were added to provide access to 21 new picnic tables, while protected woodland areas were designated with bollards and cable. A boardwalk over the Hermann Park Railroad tracks, swing set, grill, and trash receptacles were also installed.



# Bill Coats Bike Bridge

Named in memory of one of the Conservancy's founders and a driving force behind many improvements, the Bill Coats Bike Bridge broke ground this year and will impact the Park's accessibility and its standing as a recreational resource when it opens in fiscal year 2012. This bicycle bridge will span the width of Brays Bayou, connecting cyclists to trails on both sides.

## The Conservancy donors who generously supported the Pedestrian Trail project include:

The Brown Foundation, Inc. The Elkins Foundation The Fondren Foundation H.A.R.R.A. Marian and Speros Martel Foundation, Inc. The Susan Vaughan Foundation, Inc. John E. Walsh, Jr. Meg and Dick Weekley The Wortham Foundation, Inc.

# Pedestrian Trail

To the delight of Park runners and walkers, the renovation of the pedestrian trail began in the spring. Matching funds provided by Conservancy donors leveraged federal funding administered by TxDOT for the \$2 million project.

The new trail features a decomposed granite surface with concrete curbs, new lighting, drainage, and a widened path of up to 14 feet across. Where the old path was forced to curve toward the street to circumvent a ravine, a new bridge takes Park users over the ravine, thus avoiding busy street traffic. Thanks to the rerouting of North MacGregor Way last year, the trail route was also adjusted to claim the old



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roadbed, which had been built on a historic carriage path.

Not just beneficial for runners, the new light posts along the trail near Fannin will be particularly appreciated by Miller Outdoor Theatre patrons who come to evening performances by METRORail.



# CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

Planning and fundraising continued this year for the Centennial Campaign, which aims to complete the master plan for Hermann Park and provide an unforgettable celebration year in 2014 when the Park turns 100. With the Park's centennial around the corner, the Conservancy is rallying community leaders to prepare for one of Houston's most special occasions. Volunteer committees are planning temporary public art exhibitions and civic celebrations to take place throughout 2014, while others are helping spread the word and encourage community and cultural partners to get involved in the commemoration. The Conservancy will showcase the exciting improvements that have taken place in recent years and unveil major new projects, including the Grand Gateway and Centennial Gardens.

# Grand Gateway

The first project set for completion in the centennial year is the renovation of the Grand Gateway, the historic entrance to the Park. The Gateway spans from the Mecom Fountain to the Sam Houston Monument and from the Fountain to the Texas Medical Center along Main and Fannin streets. This renovation will restore the area, giving visitors a proper welcome to one of Houston's finest and most historic green spaces, and safely connect surrounding communities to the Park. Features include new drainage and irrigation to preserve the Live Oaks along Main Street, extensive landscaping and seasonal plantings between the Sam Houston Monument and Mecom Fountain, and improved walkways with benches and lighting to provide convenience for walkers and bicyclists.

The Grand Gateway project has been made possible thanks to fundraising efforts spearheaded by several Conservancy board members and Park neighbors. Their hard work secured enough funding for the Conservancy to apply for support through TxDOT's Transportation Enhancement Program. In July 2011, TxDOT approved nearly \$3 million in funding to support the renovation, which is budgeted at \$5 million.

# Centennial Gardens

Planning continued for the transformation of Hermann Park's Garden Center into the Centennial Gardens, a project aimed for significant completion by 2014. The project, estimated at nearly \$30 million, including a \$7.5 million maintenance fund, will reconfigure the 15-acre site and will substantially complete the Conservancy's 20-year effort to realize the master plan for the Park.

The Conservancy continued working this year with Chicago-based landscape architects Hoerr Schaudt on the design, which includes such features as a children's maze, educational demonstration gardens, a traditional rose garden, a new home for the Chinese pavilion, a grand lawn that can be utilized for special events, and an improved international sculpture garden. The new configuration will enhance connectivity to the Museum District by increasing pedestrian and vehicular accessibility to the Park from Hermann Drive.



# **CONSERVATION & MAINTENANCE**

The Conservancy's Conservation and Maintenance department is charged with stewardship of the Park. The staff and volunteers who make up this team help keep the Park's beautiful improvements well-kept and its natural resources healthy.



In February, esteemed landscape architect Mr. Terunobu Nakai made his sixth visit from Japan to Houston to continue the ongoing renovation of the Japanese Garden in Hermann Park. During the visit, he focused primarily on maintenance, recommending appropriate plant material and planting locations and supervising the planting of new trees. He also made suggestions regarding continued Japanesestyle maintenance of the plant material and additional design and planting plans. Thanks to Mr. Nakai's vision and guidance, the Garden has been transformed from a "Texas-style" Japanese Garden into an authentic one reflective of Japanese principles and design.





# Reforestation

Thanks to interns funded by Shell Oil Company and ExxonMobil, the Conservancy's tree inventory was updated to include a total of nearly 8,000 trees. The interns noted tree-planting sites made available by trees lost to Hurricane Ike and the 2009 drought.

The addition of a portable 50-gallon water tank helped staff water new trees planted during the fiscal year. Shell Oil Company funded yearlong tree treatments for five stressed oaks, two in Lake Plaza and three by the Jones Reflection Pool, while KBR continued to support reforestation initiatives in the Lake Picnic Area.

# Conservation

Project Blazing Star, a conservation effort to restore native coastal prairie plants in Hermann Park, continued to thrive this year. The Whistlestop Prairie site between McGovern Lake and the entrance to the Japanese Garden is now thick with lush, colorful plants, which give a sense of what the Park and the region may have looked like long ago. Educational signage details the plant species featured and explains the importance of preserving them. Several community partners have helped this project achieve success, including lead sponsor Waste Management.

# VOLUNTEERS

From weeding flowerbeds and watering trees to providing office and event support, volunteers are critical to keeping the Park looking its best and Conservancy operations running smoothly. Volunteer programs accommodate individuals, families, and groups large and small. This year, 3,900 volunteers dedicated their time to the Park.

As Conservancy volunteers know, hard work pays off. Their efforts make a visible difference and can even have a direct impact on the local ecosystem. For example, thanks to the efforts of volunteer groups including CenterPoint Energy, Green Team America, NJROTC, IKEA Trading Services, and Second Baptist School to clear overgrown shrubbery and invasive plants, bats have moved back to the bat houses on one of the migratory bird islands in McGovern Lake. As the primary predators of night-flying insects, bats are important to a healthy habitat in the Park.

Volunteers also assisted the Parks Department garden staff with care of the flower and shrub beds in the highly visited Lake Plaza. Individual and family volunteers helped keep young trees alive during the year by carrying buckets of water from McGovern Lake to nourish the saplings with needed moisture.





According to a maintenance study conducted in 2002, a gap of 20,000 hours exists in the amount of time the Houston Parks and Recreation Department can dedicate to Hermann Park and the amount of time necessary to keep the Park properly maintained. Therefore, the Conservancy's goal each year is to close this gap through its maintenance and volunteer programs. This year, the Conservancy exceeded this goal by contributing over 23,000 hours



# VISITOR SERVICES

Everyone who walks through Lake Plaza benefits from the hard work and dedication of the Conservancy's Visitor Services team. Its staff is on the frontlines nearly every day of the year making sure that operations are running safely and efficiently around Lake Plaza, home to Kinder Train Station, the Conservancy Gift Shop, pedal boat lagoon, public restrooms, and more. Team members are there to greet patrons with a smile and ensure they have a fun and memorable experience, whether riding the train for the first or hundredth time!



The Visitor Services department offers a number of programs that bring in vital revenue to support the Conservancy's mission to preserve and improve the Park. The Hermann Park Railroad ended the year with over 367,000 tickets sold and exceeded \$1.1 million in revenue, a 2.4% increase over the previous year. Meanwhile, the pedal boat operations saw an increase in revenue of 13.4% over the previous year with a total of \$182,000 generated by more than 20,000 boat rides.

Additionally, private train rides and birthday party packages raised over \$10,000 in revenue. In March, the department introduced the Engineer for a Day program, which gives train enthusiasts young and old a behind-the-scenes experience on the Hermann Park Railroad and produces further support for the Conservancy.

This year Visitor Services also started the Student Performances in the Park Series, a community outreach initiative. Over the school year, hundreds of students from 28 schools gave free performances in Lake Plaza to the delight of Park visitors. The series featured elementary, middle, and high school groups specializing in band, orchestra, jazz, vocals, dance, cheerleading, and theater.



# SPECIAL EVENTS

# Park to Park Run



On October 16, 2010, 800 participants and over 100 volunteers supported the 7th Annual *Park to Park Run*, overseen by Run coordinator

Mindy Campbell, race director Jack McClintic, and race chair Scott Dorfman. While the 5 Mile Run started at Discovery Green, the 2 Mile Family Walk, 1K Kids' Run, and post-race party took place entirely in Hermann Park. Thanks to sponsors and participants, this community-boosting event raised over \$40,000 for Hermann Park.



Sandy Godfrey and Franci Crane



Doreen Stoller and Ned Holmes



# Hats in the Park Luncheon

The fourth annual *Hats in the Park* luncheon, chaired by Franci Crane and Sandy Godfrey, welcomed nearly 300 fashionably clad guests to the Historic Clubhouse at Hermann Park on March 8, 2011, for a luncheon on the lawn by Jackson and Company. Mayor Annise Parker presented honoree Ned Holmes, Park friend and TxDOT commissioner, with the Bob and Elyse Lanier Award for his commitment to the Park. With the addition of gifts made at the luncheon to support the match opportunity presented by TxDOT toward the renovation of the Grand Gateway, the Park's historic main entrance, the event raised nearly \$275,000 for Hermann Park.



# Evening in the Park Gala

A sell-out crowd of 500 guests joined chairs Isabel David and Judy Nyquist on April 28, 2011, for the *Evening in the Park* gala, which raised over \$416,000 to support Conservancy operations. The evening honored "Princes of the Park" Jay Baker and Sanford Criner, both longtime Park advocates and Conservancy leaders. The lakeside event featured the debut of ROXOR artisan gin, dinner by A Fare Extraordinaire, music by The Quebe Sisters Band, and a record-setting luxury raffle.



Sanford Criner, Judy Nyquist, Isabel David, and Jay Baker



Pierce Bush, Jennifer Pritchett, Lauren Covey, and Claire and Rick Thielke

# Urban Green

Urban Green, the Conservancy's young professionals' group, presented two major fundraisers, which each drew over 300 quests. Always festively themed, Park Avenue: Green Never Sleeps, chaired by Pierce Bush, Lauren Covey, Jennifer Pritchett, and Claire and Rick Thielke, recreated New York City on the stage of Miller Outdoor Theatre on December 2, 2010, while Caddyshack: Gophers on the Green, chaired by Kristy and Chris Bradshaw and Christine and Chris Transier, teed off at the Historic Clubhouse on May 19, 2011. Urban Green is led by a steering committee, chaired this year by Annie Criner. Through events and membership dues, Urban Green raised over \$40,000 this year.



Chris and Kristy Bradshaw and Christine and Chris Transier

# DONORS

Hermann Park Conservancy is grateful to all who generously contributed to the beautification, restoration, and improvement of Hermann Park during fiscal year 2011.

# **Grand Gateway**

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# **Centennial Campaign**

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All gifts in honor of Jay Baker and Sanford Criner, honorees, and chairs Isabel David and Judy Nyquist \$25,000-\$49,999 Cherie and Jim Flores Kathrine G. McGovern/ John P. McGovern Foundation

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A-Rocket Moving & Storage Athlete's Honey Milk Cari-Fit.com Fleet Feet Sports Harris County Sports Authority KBR, Inc. Lott Marketing Luby's Minute Maid My Fit Foods Picnic RaceShots.net Sports Photography Schepps/Dean Foods Silver Eagle Distributors, L.P. United Airlines W.J. Ford & Associates, Inc.

# **Urban Green**

\$1,000-\$4,999 Momentum Audi

## \$500-\$999 Kristy and Chris Bradshaw

Frank Breazeale Lindsey and Guy Brown Avery Burns Chris Canonico Lauren Clark Sophia Ewalt James Galloway Elizabeth Glassell Ami Herrera Michael and Dash Lane Westside Lexus and Northside Lexus

#### \$100-\$499

Jerry Michael Acosta Farhana Ahmed Whitney Airheart Lauren Allen Sean Andrews Rachel and Tim Ballengee Victoria Beard Sam Bowen Catherine Bradley Divya and Chris Brown Allison Butts Chloe Byers Mindy and Heath Campbell Michael Choa Audrey and Brandon Cochran Lesley and Earl Correll Annie Criner Susie and Sanford Criner Sara D'Agostino Lindsay M. Dalmolin Valerie and Tracy Dieterich Steve Dolman Elizabeth and Alexander Dwver Schuyler Evans Deborah and Paolo Fronza Naji Ghorayeb Claire Green Brian Hagstrom Caroline Hutcheson Ashlie Hutton Angela and Dallas Jones David King Jesse Robert Krynak Lauren and James LaFleur Gabe Lerner Mandi Lewis Benton Love Justin R. Marlles

Jordan Marye Nina Masterson Brett McDanald Joao Metelo Lauren and Aaron Morris Brian Niemczak John N. Papadopoulos James Phelan Michael Queen Brittany Sakowitz Bradley Schott Kelsey and Greg Talbert Vanessa Tijerina Christine and Chris Transier U.S. Capital Advisors LLC Allen Ueckert Tor Van Dyke Jeannine and Paul Vincent Kristen Welsh Maudie Werlin John D. Woods Jr. Janae Wu Amy Zolkoski In Kind A&A Airport Transportation Academy Sports and Outdoors Alden Houston Hotel America's/Michael Cordua Events Miguel Angel Armenta Beck's Prime Bellaire Yoga Center Benjy's in the Village BenMaru Kristy and Chris Bradshaw Branchwater Tavern Brennan's of Houston BrightBox, Inc. Britton Sudduth Clothier Guy Brown and Anvil Buffalo Trace Avery Burns Butter Catering Candelari's Pizzeria Canopy and Shade Restaurants Charde Crowley Signs CultureMap Owen Daniels Digital Alchemy Photography DJ MAV The Do Bar Mary Elizabeth Donovan Houston Dynamo Elaine Turner Enchanted Rock Texas Vodka Fit Athletic Club Fleming's Prime Steakhouse and Wine Bar – River Oaks Four Seasons Hotel Austin Galleria Tennis and Athletic Club GIGI'S Asian Bistro and Dumpling Bar Hamilton Shirt Company Harold's in the Heights A Healing Collective Hermann Park Golf Course Hilton Houston Plaza/ Medical Center

The Hot Bagel Shop Hotel Sorella Hotel ZaZa Houston Houston Ballet Houston Grand Opera Houston Museum of Natural Science Houston Zoo, Inc. The Houstonian Hotel, Club, and Spa Ice Occasions Joy Yoga Julie Wilhite Photography Kata Robata Kenneally's Korcula Last Concert Cafe l emel Lucky Strike Lanes and Lounge – Houston Magnolia Hotel Houston Main Street Theatre Maker's Mark Marnie Rocks LLC Montalbano Lumber Mosaic on Hermann Park Mugsy's Muse Mary Nichols Nino's, Vincent's & Grappino di Nino's Restaurants The Owl Bar Pappas Restaurants PF Chang's Prego Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers Red Room Republic National Distributing Company LLC **Rice Epicurean Markets** Rugales Green Saint Arnold Brewing Company Salon 2512 Edward Sanchez Sarah Tucker Joe Shaughnessy Smilebooth Southland Hardware Splash Hand Car Wash & Detail Sweet Lola Swift + Company The Tasting Room Third Coast Rods The Ticket Experience Tony Mandola's Tootsies TOLA Uchi and Uchiko The Upper Hand Vincent Ford Custom Apparel Vintage Lounge/Antique W Austin Zoe's Kitchen

# **Community Outreach**

\$5,000-\$9,999 McClain Gallery Texan French Alliance for the Arts

\$1,000-\$4,999 Doreen Stoller and Dan Piette \$500-\$999 Jay Baker

## Membership

\$2,500+ (Conductor's Circle) Cockrell Family Fund Electra and Douglas Elliott A Friend of Hermann Park Elizabeth A. Germani Christine and Gregg Hollenberg Kathy and Randy Lake \$500-\$2,499 (Platinum) Beau Alexander Jane Anderson Curtis and Bill Curtis Anonymous (2) Lee and Bob Ardell Kathryn and David Berg Leslie and William Coe Ritsuko and James Cox Cathy and Wayne Donnelly Susan Garner Lainie Gordon and David Mincberg G.G. Hsieh and Mark Hausknecht Dana and Neil Kelly Barb and Will Noel Kay and Robert Onstead Shelly and Marty Power Mary and Brian Rollins Susan Schwaitzberg and Ron Misrack Doreen Stoller and Dan Piette Marisue and George Tallichet Karen and Wil Uecker Adrienne and Tim Unger Cheryl and James Watson Beth and Joe Weikerth Lea Weingarten Sallie and Bob Wright \$250-\$499 (Gold) Suzanne and Brian Adams Anonymous (2) David Archer Mary and Marcel Barone Sadie Gwin Blackburn Susan and Major Bradshaw Irma and Louis Bujnoch Frances and Oskar Cerbins Concordia Foundation Connie and Bill Cox M. J. and Joe Figard James Fiume Rod Frazier Susan and Mike Garver Annie and Bob Graham Edna G. Houston Demetra C. Jones Elizabeth and Albert Kidd Dan A. King Katherine Kohlmeyer Antoinette and Joseph Listengart The Mast Family Carol and Bob Miller H. Dixon Montague Melinda Muse Karol and Dan Musher Kitty Neuhaus Tassie Nicandros Judy and Jim Nicklos

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# George Hermann Society

Genevieve Lykes Duncan May Shelmire Duncan Steppie and Robert Holsclaw David Langworthy Jackie and Malcom Mazow Terrylin G. Neale Doreen Stoller and Dan Piette John E. Walsh, Jr.

The George Hermann Society recognizes donors who have provided for the future of Hermann Park through bequests or life income gifts to Hermann Park Conservancy.

The names listed in this annual report include donors who made gifts or pledges of \$100 or more during the fiscal year from July 1,2010 to June 30,2011, as well as all George Hermann Society members. In compliance with IRS standards, commitments paid over time in installments are recognized once in full at the time of the



# Statements of Financial Position as of June 30, 2011

# ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents \$	1,380,610 108,107
Pledges receivable	944,450
Prepaid expenses and other assets	47,509
Investments	6,749,507
Property, net	1,508,412
TOTAL ASSETS \$	10,738,595

# LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities: Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 80.216
Construction payable	 43,122
Notes payable	1,674,369
Funds held on behalf of City of Houston	1,567,292
Total liabilities	3,364,999
Net assets:	
Unrestricted	2,918,265
Temporarily restricted	2,228,457
Permanently restricted	2,226,874
Total net assets	7,373,596
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 10,738,595

# Statement of Activities for the year ended June 30, 2011

	UNRESTRICTED		TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
REVENUE					
Contributions	\$	473,136 \$	1,082,175 \$	53,404 \$	1,608,715
Special events		683,266			683,266
Donor benefit costs – special events		(128,788)			(128,788)
Park concessions		986,852			986,852
Investment return		413,645	131,157		544,802
Total revenue		2,428,111	1,213,332	53,404	3,694,847
Net assets released from restrictions:					
Park projects and programs		314,600	(314,600)		
Total		2,742,711	898,732	53,404	3,694,847
EXPENSES					
Program services:					
Visitor Services		640,048			640,048
Planning, design, and construction		339,774			339,774
Park program and maintenance		284,694			284,694
Total program services		1,264,516			1,264,516
Management and general		135,888			135,888
Fundraising		273,061			273,061
Total expenses		1,673,465			1,673,465
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS		1,069,246	898,732	53,404	2,021,382
Net assets, beginning of year		1,849,019	1,329,725	2,173,470	5,352,214
Net assets, end of year	\$	2,918,265	\$ 2,228,457	\$ 2,226,874	\$ 7,373,596

Chair Ann Kennedy

**Executive Committee** Jay Baker Sanford W. Criner, Jr. Danny David Steve Dolman Ellie Francisco Gregg Hollenberg Linda Hunsaker Margaret L. Kripke, Ph.D. Diann L. Lewter Terrylin G. Neale Gary Kenneth Porter James L. Robertson Brian Rollins Cassie B. Stinson Phoebe Tudor Keith Watson Wade

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Michael Treviño Kimberly A. Tutcher John E. Walsh, Jr. Joe Weikerth Sheridan Williams Dan Wolterman Herbert H. Yuan

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Executive Director Doreen Stoller

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STAFF

# The Conservancy Team

Doreen Stoller Executive Director

Lynne Donoghue Accounting Manager

Barbara Jo Harwell Conservation Director

Derrick Jackson Maintenance Coordinator

Mike Johnson Project Manager

Diane Kerr Manager of Volunteer Programs Meghan Miller Director of Development

Ron Misrack Director, Visitor Services

LaTonya Scott Assistant Manager, Visitor Services

Caroline Urquhart Development Assistant

Eliza Wright Marketing Manager









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