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

Dear Friends,

What an exciting year for Hermann Park Conservancy planning and fundraising for the Park’s upcoming 2014 centennial! For the past twenty years, the Conservancy has been committed to raising funds for the improvement of Hermann Park and has been executing these improvements against the Park’s guiding master plan. As we near the Park’s centennial we are very pleased to be close to realizing the grand vision laid out by early Park planners.

In fiscal year 2013, in an extraordinary gesture, June and Tommy Lott provided the generous gift that completed fundraising for the Grand Gateway renovation, whose launching grant they also contributed. This project will restore the Park’s original main entrance from the Mecom Fountain to the Sam Houston monument with new landscaping, hardscapes, lighting, and pathways, as well as make improvements to the median stretching from the Fountain to the Medical Center. In addition, a $5 million birthday gift from Jim Flores to his wife Cherie complimented the extraordinary gift from the McGovern Foundation to bring the Conservancy ever closer to the $31 million goal for the McGovern Centennial Gardens. Both improvement projects are set to be completed during the Park’s centennial year.

Preparations are underway for community-wide celebrations of the Park’s centennial. The first ever Hermann Park Kite Festival will be held March 29, 2014. The Park to Port Bike Ride will co-celebrate the centennials of the Park and the Port of Houston with a bike ride along the largely-completed 12 mile bike trail that connects the Park and the Port along Brays Bayou.

Excitement is also building for the centennial art project. Art in the Park will bring contemporary artworks to the Park from renowned artists including Trenton Doyle Hancock, Yvonne Domenge, Orly Genger, and Patrick Dougherty. In addition, ReFRAME X FRAME, a Micro Pavilion by University of Houston Graduate Design/Build Studio, and A Centennial Threshold to Hermann Park, by students of the Rice Building Workshop will be installed during the centennial year. We are delighted to present a diverse array of public art to the 6 million-plus people who visit the Park annually.

As you read through this annual report, which reflects on the Conservancy’s fiscal year from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, you will learn more about major capital improvements undertaken by the Conservancy as well as efforts made every day to revitalize, maintain, and improve the resources of Hermann Park.

Thank you to the board, staff, donors, and friends who made this year’s achievements possible. We look forward to celebrating with you in the Park during our 2014 centennial!

Sincerely,

Ann Kennedy
2013 Board Chair
**Centennial Campaign**

**McGovern Centennial Gardens**

Nearly seven years ago, the Conservancy began work on its largest improvement project in its history—both in size and budget—the transformation of the Garden Center into the McGovern Centennial Gardens. One of the last major projects identified in Hermann Park’s master plan, the McGovern Centennial Gardens will be a $31 million reimagining of the 15-acre Garden Center site.

Fiscal year 2013 was the final planning and design year for the McGovern Centennial Gardens design team Hoerr Schaudt of Chicago, White Oak Studio of Houston, and Bohlin Cywinski Jackson of Philadelphia. This stellar team, along with the Conservancy’s projects committee, prepared for construction to begin in September of 2013 with the grand opening of the Gardens set for October of 2014 during the Park’s centennial year.

Over $28.5 million had been secured for the McGovern Centennial Gardens by June 30, 2013.

Newly-restored statues from the collection of the City of Houston will have a new home along the Hawkins Family Sculpture Promenade.

The Tudor Pine Hill Walk, will be home to the relocated Chinese Pavilion.

A relocated parking area off Hermann Drive will offer more efficient vehicular access to Hermann Park while helping reduce the urban “heat-island” effect.

Guests will be greeted by a grand entrance pavilion, named in fiscal year 2013 the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion. Famed Apple Store architect Peter Bohlin of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson is the architect for the contemporary glass pavilion.

The 30-foot Garden Mount at the west end of the centennial green will feature an ADA-accessible walking path to the top and a cascading water feature down the front.

The Woodland Walk will celebrate the Park’s majestic, mature trees with species native to Houston and Texas.

Newly-restored statues from the collection of the City of Houston will have a new home along the Hawkins Family Sculpture Promenade.

The Arid Garden will showcase sustainable landscaping and drought-friendly plant materials.

The Rose Garden will feature a variety of species chosen for their sustainability, including heritage, antique, native, and shrub roses in all shapes, sizes, and colors.

Flowering plants adaptable to Houston’s changing weather conditions will keep the perennial borders blooming year-round.

The Family Garden with vegetable and herb plots, an orchard, a kitchen garden, and a learning pavilion will help teach kids about growing food and urban gardening.

The Celebration Garden with a formal hedge and manicured lawn is sure to be a new favorite venue for special events and weddings in Houston.

New pedestrian promenades will connect the surrounding neighborhoods to the interior of the Park.

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Rendering courtesy of White Oak Studio and Hoerr Schaudt
Park Improvements

Bill Coats Bike Bridge
On November 16, 2012, Hermann Park Conservancy dedicated a new bike bridge in honor of late Hermann Park Conservancy founder and Park crusader, Bill Coats. The new bridge, spanning 290 feet, is critical to providing increased connectivity between the Park and surrounding neighborhoods and is a key piece in completing 35 miles of bike trails along Brays Bayou. Located on the Bayou Parkland side of Hermann Park, the contemporary bridge, designed by Barnhart Engineering with MC2 Architects, and new pedestrian underpass enable cyclists and pedestrians to explore parkland on both sides of Brays Bayou and provides safe passage to the heart of Hermann Park.

The project was made possible thanks to a federal bikeways program grant, the Texas Department of Transportation, the City of Houston, Houston Parks and Recreation Department, and Public Works and Engineering in conjunction with Hermann Park Conservancy. The project received the prestigious Landmark Award in Keep Houston Beautiful’s 2012 Mayor’s Proud Partner Competition. The bridge’s general contractor was SpawGlass Civil Construction, Inc.

Grand Gateway
Fundraising for the Grand Gateway renovation project was completed in fiscal year 2013 by longtime board member and Park neighbor, Tommy Lott, and his wife June. Tommy Lott, along with fellow residents of the Warwick Towers, Steppie Holsclaw and Jackie Mazow, led a multi-year grassroots fundraising campaign to garner financial support from building residents. Their gifts, along with generous contributions from the Lykes/Duncan Family, The Cullen Foundation, The Elkins Foundation, and CenterPoint Energy, ensured the fundraising goal was met in time for construction to begin on schedule. During fiscal year 2013, SWA Group put the finishing touches on the design for the Grand Gateway incorporating landscaping and hardscaping techniques utilized in the Heart of the Park project with the goal of creating greater cohesion between the Gateway and the Park.
Japanese Garden

The expert team from Japan arrived in February for their seventh annual visit to assist the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD) gardening staff with maintenance to the Japanese Garden. The staff continued the planting of appropriate plant material and maintenance of existing trees and shrubs under the expert direction of landscape engineer, Hiroshi Iwasaki, and his son Taiki. A memorial stone was dedicated in the teahouse garden in honor of Mr. Terunobu Nakai, longtime landscape architect and Conservancy friend, who passed away one year ago and whose dedication and skill transformed a Texas-style Japanese Garden into a Japanese Garden worthy of those seen in Japan. Conservation director, Barbara Jo Harwell, made a visit to Japan in March, sponsored by the Japan America Society of Houston, as part of the City of Houston’s delegation to sister city Chiba City in honor of 40 years of the two cities’ relationship.

Horticulture

In fiscal year 2013, the raised woodland beds, seasonal and perennial plantings, and lakeside flora in and around Lake Plaza and Kinder Station received increased care. Replacement plantings, weeding, mulching, and seasonal maintenance have kept the staff busy making Lake Plaza a welcoming entry for Park visitors.

Reforestation and Conservation

In fiscal year 2013, Hermann Park Conservancy planted a total of 763 trees in Hermann Park. Rice University generously donated and planted 100 trees to create the Rice Centennial Grove to commemorate their centennial, as well as Hermann Park’s upcoming 100th birthday in 2014.

In order to protect the Park’s prized live oaks and other trees from dangerous conditions the Conservancy continued preventative tree care, including compost tea treatments, root invigoration, fertilization, and pruning.

Replacement of tall grass prairie plants into pockets of Hermann Park continued with the completion of the first phase of Project Blazing Star (PBS). Whistlestop Prairie, visible to riders of the Hermann Park Railroad as it crosses the bridge over McGovern Lake, has been completed and is maintained solely by volunteers. Phase two of PBS began in Bayou Parkland adjacent to the picnic pavilion with a working visit by Mayor Annise Parker in October who assisted with the initial planting of a prairie demonstration garden.

Maintenance and Volunteers

The Conservancy’s maintenance staff assumed responsibility of keeping the Jones Reflection Pool, McGovern Lake, and the Lake Picnic Area blue, green, and clean. The maintenance team contributed over 3,120 hours of work to those areas while supervising court-ordered community service clients who contributed an additional 6,000 hours in fiscal year 2013. Approximately 6,800 volunteers contributed over 15,800 hours of volunteer work in the Park either as individuals or part of the over 230 groups that came to volunteer.

Through these combined efforts, the Conservancy oversaw 21,800 hours of hard work in the Park in fiscal year 2013.

Job Shadow

Twelve students participated in the Conservancy’s summer job shadow program for youth. This unique volunteer program supplies middle and high school students interested in learning more about the outdoors with an opportunity to observe and participate in a variety of park maintenance activities. These students put in between 20 and 100 volunteer hours each over the summer months working in the Park a minimum of three days a week.
Community Outreach

Hermann Park Dog Walk
In February of 2013, the Conservancy partnered with the Houston Rockets to host the 1st Annual Hermann Park Dog Walk, an event that drew close to 300 walkers and their furry friends for a scenic 1-mile trek around McGovern Lake and the Jones Reflection Pool and a post-walk party in Lake Plaza with Clutch the Rockets Bear and pet adoptions. Thanks to the success of this event, the Dog Walk will return in 2014 as part of the exciting line-up of Centennial Celebration events.

Libbie Masterson Illuminated Lillies
Local artist Libbie Masterson created a tranquil installation of 80 floating white fabric water lilies on the surface of the Jones Reflection Pool. Raising funds on Kickstarter, the installation was timed with the Japan Festival and delighted visitors to the Park during its short-term installation.

Tai Chi with Living Well Therapies
Instructor Henderson J. Smith, Jr. led five free sessions of stress-relieving Tai Chi in Lykes Grove overlooking McGovern Lake.

Houston Children’s Festival
Hermann Park Conservancy joined Apache Corporation in their booth at the Children’s Festival to lead a seed ball-making activity for kids. The seed balls, once rolled and dried, will be used to spread wildflower and prairie seeds in the Park.

Earth Day with the Houston Dynamo
The Conservancy was the beneficiary of a special Earth Day ticket package put together by the Houston Dynamo. The Conservancy was excited to have a table at the pre-game street party outside the stadium to help spread awareness about Hermann Park.

Up For Air Dance Performance
Recked Productions/Erin Reck created a site-specific dance performance inspired by and created for the Jones Reflection Pool featuring over 40 dancers and 7 opera singers.

B-Cycle Station
In March 2013, Hermann Park Conservancy worked with Houston B-Cycle to install a new bike sharing station in Hermann Park. Located just off of Lot F behind Lake Plaza on the path to Miller Outdoor Theatre, park visitors may stop at the kiosk to check out a bike and explore the Park on two wheels or venture outside the Park to any of the other 28 stations located around Houston. According to statistics provided by Houston B-Cycle, the B-Cycle sharing station in Hermann Park is consistently in the top three for check-outs every week, and is frequently the number one sharing station in the city averaging 122 check outs per week. Hermann Park is proud to be a part of this program that reduces carbon emissions and helps enable people to explore all 445-acres of the Park.

Breakfast Yoga Club of Houston
Nearly 100 yogis came to the May BYC event to practice their downward dogs on the McGovern Promenade overlooking McGovern Lake.

Save the Dates
Hermann Park Conservancy will be celebrating the Park’s 100th birthday with special events throughout 2014. Events include art installations, a kite festival, a bike ride, and joint events with our community partners. Please visit www.hermannpark.org/calendar to view all of our upcoming events and be sure to mark your calendars! We look forward to seeing you in the Park in 2014!
Visitor Services

Hermann Park Conservancy’s visitor services team touches the lives of millions of Park-goers each year and is responsible for creating a memorable and positive experience for everyone. While enhancing the visitor experience, the team also brings in vital operating income to support the Conservancy’s mission.

In fiscal year 2013, visitor services operations generated over $1.4 million in revenue. Over 329,000 passengers took the two-mile trip around Hermann Park on the Hermann Park Railroad generating $1.1 million in ticket sales revenue. An additional $165,000 in revenue was generated by our pedal boat operations with nearly 18,000 boats traveling on McGovern Lake. The Conservancy visitor services department also manages a number of concession sub-contractors, including food carts, the Conservancy gift shop, and fitness boot camps. These concession businesses generated $137,000 in revenues for the Conservancy. Other Park programs including birthday parties, private train rentals, and the Engineer for a Day programs generated $31,000 in revenue.

The visitor services team organized a number of programs throughout the year to enhance the overall visitor experience. Free events included George Hermann’s birthday party in August and a holiday party in December. The department also oversaw the successful third season of the Student Performances in the Park series with hundreds of talented Houston-area students performing in Lake Plaza during the school year. In December, the train was lit up with holiday lights and evening rides around the Park were offered, and in February, the Conservancy held the first annual Valentine’s Day “Dinner and a Cruise” event where couples enjoyed fare from Pinewood Cafe on the dining terrace and a romantic pedal boat ride on McGovern Lake.

In September, the Santa Fe High School Marching Band held a special tribute concert for Mrs. Kathrine McGovern whose foundation donated brand new band uniforms for the students.

In October, the Hermann Park Railroad was used as a backdrop for a marriage proposal for a couple who had their first date on the train.

In June of 2013, the Conservancy took over daily operations of Pinewood Cafe. The Conservancy hired a seasoned food service professional to manage the Cafe as well as a new team of cooks and cashiers. Look for major improvements in the Cafe in the year ahead.

Pinewood Cafe
Priscilla Dickson

after-party.

Wheelhouse provided live music at the after-party. Cheerleaders enthusiastically cheered the runners on, and local band Middle School cheerleaders enthusiastically cheered the runners on, and local band Jones Reflection Pool. The Johnston Memorial. The Kids’ 1K Fun Run went by Memorial. The Kids’ 1K Fun Run went by Molly Ann Smith Plaza around the Pioneer same 5K route, with the start and finish in \( \text{same 5K route, with the start and finish in} \) event. Runners and walkers followed the Park to enjoy this family-friendly event. Volunteers, and spectators, came out to the Park to enjoy this family-friendly event. Runners and walkers followed the same 5K route, with the start and finish in Molly Ann Smith Plaza around the Pioneer Memorial. The Kids’ 1K Fun Run went by Miller Outdoor Theatre and around the Jones Reflection Pool. The Johnston Middle School cheerleaders enthusiastically cheered the runners on, and local band Wheelhouse provided live music at the after-party.

Run in the Park

Hermann Park Conservancy’s 9th annual Run in the Park was held in Hermann Park on Saturday, November 3, 2012. Over 700 participants, including runners, volunteers, and spectators, came out to the Park to enjoy this family-friendly event. Runners and walkers followed the same 5K route, with the start and finish in Molly Ann Smith Plaza around the Pioneer Memorial. The Kids’ 1K Fun Run went by Miller Outdoor Theatre and around the Jones Reflection Pool. The Johnston Middle School cheerleaders enthusiastically cheered the runners on, and local band Wheelhouse provided live music at the after-party.

Special Events

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Urban Green

Glow in the Park

Houston’s young professionals lit up the Park on December 6, 2013 when Urban Green threw this neon-themed party on the stage of Miller Outdoor Theatre. Chairs Caroline Bean, Cynthia and Chad Mabry, and Megan McGraw; welcomed 200 supporters clad in brightly-colored outfits and glowing accessories.

Event chairs Cynthia and Chad Mabry, Caroline Bean, and Megan McGraw

Urban Green

Hula in Hermann Park

Lake Plaza was transformed into a tropical paradise on May 9, 2013 for Urban Green’s Hula in Hermann Park. Cassie Detering, Megan Kaldis, and Bridget and Gabe Vick chaired this luau on the lake, which was complete with a whole-roasted pig, music by DJ Mav, and a silent auction made possible by generous sponsors. The two events and Urban Green membership raised $28,000 to contribute to the Conservancy’s general operating fund. Urban Green is led by a steering committee, chaired this year by Brittany Sakowitz.

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DONORS

Hermann Park Conservancy

$1,000–$4,999

July A. Cohn and John A. Cohn – In honor of Heights Heights Literary Guild Sharon and Geoff Cronin Carol and Dan Price Y. Ping Sun and David W. Leewin $300–$999

Rod Danielson and Kelly DeHay Barbara and Andy Gesner Ann Jackson Caroline and George Mason $100–$499

Anonymous Kathy and Don Barrhill BHLDN Houston (Urban Outfitters, Inc.) Shirley Budau and Mike Gloger Josie and Michael Jones – In honor of Carol and Dan Price Malen M. Corcoran III Lisa and Mike McGuff Sue K. Odell – In memory of Jeanie Cogan

Dedication of Art in Centennial Gardens In honor of Ann Kennedy Manana and Chris Brewster Janet McKee Linda Gipriani and Gary Horning Janet F. Clark Virginia A. Clark Linnel F. DeFeo Clare and Jim Doyle Francie and Jim Crane The Cullen Foundation Marita and J. B. Fairbanks Cece and Mack Fowler Linda and George Kelly Jackie and Frank McCready Terynn G. Neale Suzanne and Bob Nimocks Cathryn and Douglas Salmen Lois and George Stark Karen Texthell and Kirk Heyne Barbara and Skip Vaughan Sue and Mark Volk

Centennial Campaign

$100,000–$249,999

H.E.B

$10,000–$24,999

Nancy Manderson Barbara and Louis Sklar

$5,000–$9,999

Gracie and Bob Cavanaugh

Warren R. Nicholas Texas Children’s Hospital

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Jerry and James Calaway Linda and Mark Egan Susan and David Lummis John E. Walsh, Jr.

$500–$999

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Art Guild VI – In memory of Emily Baker Jane Block

Katharine Shank’s Dollar

In honor of Carol and Dan Price

Fredda Glover – In honor of Juanita Howard. In memory of Arthur N. Smith and Kirby Shank’s

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Ellen Simmons – In honor of Ann Kennedy

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$500–$999,999

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$25,000–$49,999

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The Cullen Foundation

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$500–$999

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Dorothy Carey Sunner

$100–$499

Kelsey and Mitch Dalton – In memory of

Samuel Gregory Neale

Lynn and Jary Craven – In honor of

Carolyn Robertson

Leslie and...
Statements of Financial Position  
as of June 30, 2013

ASSETS  
Cash and cash equivalents ................ $  1,556,237  
receivables 213,646  
Prepaid expenses and other assets 50,343  
Pledges receivable 16,719,918  
Investments 17,560,917  
Property, net 1,374,413  
TOTAL ASSETS  $  37,475,474  

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS  
Liabilities:  
Accounts payable and accrued expenses  $ 184,022  
Commissions payable to the City of Houston 63,548  
Construction payable 384,488  
Notes payable 847,640  
Funds held on behalf of City of Houston 605,483  
Total liabilities  $  2,085,181  
Net assets:  
Unrestricted 4,291,573  
Temporarily restricted 28,831,290  
Permanently restricted 2,267,430  
TOTAL NET ASSETS $  37,475,474  

Statement of Activities for the year  
ended June 30, 2013

REVENUE  
Contributions  $ 336,045  
Special events 717,780  
Donor benefit costs – special events (133,745)  
Park concessions 954,826  
Investment return 498,583  
Total revenue 2,373,489  

Net assets released from restrictions:  
Park projects and programs 1,862,259  
Total 4,235,748  

EXPENSES  
Program services:  
Visitor Services 627,505  
Planning, design, and construction 1,455,778  
Park program and maintenance 549,579  
Total program services 2,632,862  
Management and general 137,858  
Fundraising 363,203  
Total expenses 3,133,923  

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
1,101,825 11,065,276 36,905 12,204,006  
Net assets, beginning of year 3,189,748 17,766,014 2,230,525 23,186,287  
Net assets, end of year $ 4,291,573 28,831,290 2,267,430 35,390,293  

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Manager of Volunteer Programs  
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