HERMANN PARK CONSERVANCY



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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





Cover Photo by Casey Dunn

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Friends,

What a year! What a centennial! What a Park! The cake's been eaten and the candles blown, but we are still glowing from what was an amazing 100th birthday celebration. Thank you for celebrating with us.

We have a lot to show for your support: our new John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Centennial Gardens and the Cherie Flores Garden

Pavilion, Art in the Park, including the wonderful Trenton Doyle Hancock train tunnel mural and the billowing Wind Sculpture IV by Yinka Shonibare, and the breathtaking book that captures our first hundred years, Houston's Hermann Park: A Century of Community, by Barrie Scardino Bradley.

We're 100 years old — but a youthful 100 — so we are already undertaking our next set of challenges. We are completing the Grand Gateway project and look forward to welcoming visitors off the Main Street corridor with a resplendent entrance starting in the first part of 2016. Thanks to an incredibly generous gift from Tommy Lott, we are working on plans to renovate the historic clubhouse, which will be known as Lott Hall at Hermann Park and soon become a destination of choice for special events. And we are busy planning for the 25th anniversary in 2017 of our spectacular Japanese Garden, designed by the late master landscape architect Ken Nakajima.

Our second centennial is a new start for us. In 1995, the Conservancy developed a master plan to guide all efforts in the Park in an effort to make sure that the big picture was always kept in mind. Once we are finished with our current slate of projects, we will have officially completed the major projects laid out in the master plan. Therefore, we have now begun the effort to create the next master plan to ensure that the Park is in great shape for the next 100 years.

As you read through this annual report, which reflects on the Conservancy's fiscal year from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, you will see the painstaking efforts undertaken every day by our staff and volunteers to revitalize, maintain, and safeguard the precious resources of Hermann Park. Finishing touches and upkeep on our new John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Centennial Gardens and the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, the Grand Gateway, and effective volunteer, reforestation, and maintenance programs are among the highlights that characterized fiscal year 2015.

None of this would have been possible without your support and the incredible efforts of the staff led by the incomparable Doreen Stoller, our board of directors and advisory board, volunteers, donors, and friends like you. Please know that we are immensely grateful to you for your kindness and generosity. With your help, Hermann Park will continue to be a vibrant urban oasis that provides respite and enjoyment for the next 100 years.

Best regards,

anny 1) air

Danny David 2015 Board Chair

The McGovern Centennial Gardens

Gardens can serve as a gathering place for the community, a place to enjoy nature and take a few moments to relax. In its first year of life, the McGovern Centennial Gardens has given Houstonians the perfect spot to do just that. After a year of building and occasional rain delays, the gardens opened to the public on December 22, 2014, the close of Hermann Park's centennial year.

The opening marked more than the completion of Hermann Park's centennial year – it signaled a new phase for the Conservancy as it took on the maintenance and operations in full for this part of the Park. The dedicated garden staff includes a horticulturist, five gardeners, three maintenance staff, and three visitor services staff, who work with both the director of horticulture and the venue manager to keep the gardens growing and the events running.

Since opening, the gardens have grown enormously, as did visits throughout the spring and early summer. Visitors new to the gardens and even new to Houston have exclaimed over the design, the diversity of plants, the view from The Mount, and the many experiences that are available for free.





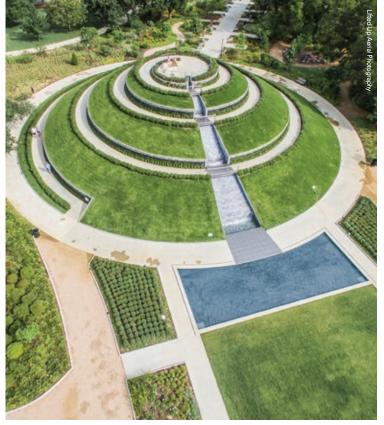
McGovern Centennial Gardens and Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion Dedication On October 18, 2014 Hermann Park Conservancy held a dedication ceremony for the McGovern Centennial Gardens and the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion. Speakers included (front row) Mayor Annise Parker; Gardens benefactor, Kathrine G. 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.

Photo by Laura Burlton Photography























Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion and Celebration Garden

The Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, the gateway building into the gardens, became a sought after event venue as soon as it opened. Designed by renowned architect Peter Bohlin of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, the sleek pavilion has hosted weddings, receptions, seminars, board meetings and other events. Just outside the building, the celebration garden has provided an elegant outdoor setting for celebrations. The Conservancy's visitor services department oversees the rental of the new venues.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS



Historic Clubhouse Renovation

Hermann Park's historic clubhouse on Hermann Park Drive served generations of golfers before a new clubhouse was built on MacGregor Way. The handsome, Spanish-style building was designed by Alfred E. Nutter and built in 1933. More than 80 years later, the clubhouse needs to be repaired and updated. The Conservancy began the planning and fundraising process to restore the historic building and selected Curtis & Windham as architects. Dedicated Park supporter Tommy Lott gave the lead gift for the renovation in memory of his wife, June. After the work is complete, the building will be named Lott Hall in Hermann Park and will serve as a rental venue for special events, bringing in revenue to help support the operation of the Park.

Japanese Garden

In fiscal year 2015, designing and fundraising moved forward for some exciting renovations in the Japanese Garden. The Conservancy and the Japanese Garden Advisory Committee plan enhancements that include a new west gate entrance for greater accessibility, a scenic dry stream garden, an event lawn, and new plants. The upgrades are set for completion in 2017, the garden's 25th anniversary.

Our gardening team from Japan made their ninth annual visit to the Japanese Garden. In addition to regular pruning and maintenance, Hiroshi and Taiki Iwasaki designed and built a new plant bed near the teahouse and chose plants suitable for the site. In April, Japan's Consul-General Nozomu Takaoka and his wife Yumi hosted a tea ceremony, garden tour and bento lunch for friends of the garden.

Reforestation & Conservation

Reforestation continues to be a vital stewardship program for the Conservancy. In fiscal year 2015, 543 trees were planted including 300 native trees donated by Apache Corporation and 100 donated by CenterPoint Energy for Arbor Day. The new trees found a home in the Park's Lake Picnic Area and in Bayou Parkland. CenterPoint added another 143 trees for their employee volunteer project. Special tree care continues for select mature live oaks including compost tea treatments and deadwood pruning.



CenterPoint Energy volunteers lend a hand in the Lake Picnic Area.





invasive species from the Park.

Maintenance & Volunteers

Hermann Park Conservancy's maintenance team works diligently to keep Hermann Park in top condition. Supplementing the Houston Parks and Recreation Department's maintenance program, the team spent 2,528 hours cleaning and maintaining the Park's grounds in fiscal year 2015. The Conservancy's Park ambassador, who answers questions for visitors, also assists the maintenance team by observing and reporting damage to plants and structures.

The Conservancy's volunteers devoted 15,791 hours to the stewardship of the Park. In the main area of the Park, 2,931 volunteers donated 10,019 hours, including 1,411 hours contributed by our 21 Job Shadow program youth and 4,568 hours added by community service workers.

A new volunteer program was created for the McGovern Centennial Gardens to assist the garden staff. Between January and June 2015, 337 dedicated volunteers weeded, mulched, and tended to flowers and vegetables during the gardens' first seasons. Volunteers also serve as Garden Ambassadors welcoming visitors and answering questions about the gardens.

Visitor Services

Train engineers, boat attendants, cooks, and other members of our visitor services team create a special experience for Hermann Park visitors while generating funds needed to operate and maintain the Park. In fiscal year 2015, more than 311,000 people took a ride on the Hermann Park Railroad bringing in more than \$1 million in revenue. Pedal boats were rented 18,347 times totaling 46,000 riders and earning \$183,347 for the Park. Also under the management of visitor services, Pinewood Cafe had its best year with \$466,000 in sales.

Visitor services hosted events throughout the year including a holiday party for kids at Kinder Station, a Valentine's Day "Dinner and a Cruise", George Hermann's birthday party and the popular Student Performances in the Park series showcasing talented Houston-area students. In a new role, visitor services manages the rental of the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion and the celebration garden in the McGovern Centennial Gardens.





George Hermann's Birthday Party

Leo celebrates his birthday at the Park.



12.

Billy Reagan Elementary entertains on Lake Plaza. Bridd ash

also.

Co-chairs Jeremy and Linsay Radcliffe and Allison and Troy Thacker





Evening in the Park

Gala chairs Linsay and Jeremy Radcliffe and Allison and Troy Thacker welcomed guests to Evening in the Park in the McGovern Centennial Gardens on April 24, 2015. Five hundred people took in the lovely garden setting before dining on fare from City Kitchen. The gala's theme, "An Enchanted Evening in the Park" inspired an elegant setting for dining on the gardens' centennial green. Long-time Park advocates, Ann Kennedy and Phoebe Tudor, were honored for their dedication to improving Hermann Park. The evening ended with dancing and music from the band KlockWork. More than \$525,000 was raised to support the work of the Conservancy.





Hats in the Park

Four hundred fashionable guests filled the tent surrounded by spring blooms in the McGovern Centennial Gardens. Chairs Estela Cockrell and Denise Monteleone put together a successful event, raising \$360,000 to support Conservancy operations. After a champagne reception at the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, guests strolled to the centennial green to enjoy an al fresco lunch by A Fare Extraordinaire. Raffle items generously donated by Burberry, Galatoire's Restaurant, Hotel Monteleone, Kokin, Tootsies, and Valobra Jewelry and Antiques brought in \$19,050. Mayor Annise Parker was on hand to introduce honoree Kathrine G. McGovern.









Special Events continued

Urban Green

Urban Green, Hermann Park Conservancy's young professionals organization, hosted two successful fundraising events in fiscal year 2015. In November, members and friends toasted Hermann Park's centennial year with *Cheers to the Next 100 Years*, a cocktail party in the historic clubhouse. In May, party-goers celebrated the lush surroundings of the McGovern Centennial Gardens with *Spring on the Green*. The two events combined raised almost \$40,000 to support the Conservancy's general operations.

Cheers to the Next 100 Years chairs Maddy Foxx, Alley Lewis and Bebe Browning





Spring on the Green chairs Topper Sheehy, Brittany Ringel, Glyn Tower and Rachel and Daniel Fein



11th Annual Run in the Park

Our centennial-year *Run in the Park*, held on November 8, 2014, drew more than 600 runners and walkers to enjoy a great morning in the Park. Participants took to the scenic Marvin Taylor Trail for the 5K run/walk and popular kids' fun run as family and friends cheered them on. After the run, all were invited to a celebratory party at Molly Ann Smith Plaza. The overall male and female winners received two tickets from sponsor United Airlines. The event raised \$30,233 to benefit the Conservancy's work in Hermann Park.

2nd Annual Hermann Park Kite Festival

The kite festival celebrating Hermann Park's centennial in 2014 was so popular with Houstonians that the Conservancy brought it back in 2015. Thousands flocked to Miller Hill and the Jones Reflection Pool on March 29 to send their kites soaring above the Park. Morgan Garvey and Paul-David Van Atta chaired the delightful free event that brought friends and family together on a perfect, breezy day in the Park. H-E-B, United Airlines, and Waste Management sponsored the festival.





Park to Port Bike Ride

Hermann Park was not the only local landmark celebrating its centennial in 2014; the Houston Ship Channel was celebrating 100 years, as well. The Conservancy teamed up with the Port of Houston Authority for a unique bike ride along Brays Bayou from Hermann Park to the Ship Channel. On September 13, 2014, nearly 1,000 cyclists rolled out of the Park's Bayou Parkland and pedaled toward the channel. The 20-mile, round-trip ride offered the community a fun way to enjoy a different view of Houston. 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.





Hermann Park Dog Walk

Dogs of all shapes and sizes trekked around McGovern Lake and the Jones Reflection Pool with their best friend at their side at the third annual Hermann Park Dog Walk. The April 4 walk was sponsored by the Houston Rockets. Dogs sported red bandanas handed out by the Rockets and owners received a commemorative T-shirt and a ticket to a Rockets game. Participants enjoyed a post-walk party on Lake Plaza.



ONOR

Hermann Park Conservancy is grateful to all who generously contributed to the beautification, restoration, and improvement of Hermann Park during fiscal year 2015.

McGovern Centennial Gardens

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

\$10.000 - \$24.999 Isabel and Danny David -In memory of Becky David Merle Hunsaker -In honor of Linda Hunsaker Margaret L. Kripke and Isaiah J. Fidler – In honor of our 40th anniversary Alene Ross Levy The Radoff Family Foundation David Enrique Ruiz William J. Schull Jane and Gary Swanson Terrie and Win Warren

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All gifts in honor of Ann Kennedy and Phoebe Tudor, honorees, and chairs Linsay and Jeremy Radcliffe and Allison and Troy Thacker

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The names listed above and on the preceding pages include donors who made gifts or pledges of \$100 or more during the fiscal year from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, 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 pledge. Please contact the Conservancy if we inadvertently have not included your name or if you would like to be listed differently in future publications



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Statements of Financial Position as of June 30, 2015

ASSETS

Cash\$	248,115
Cash equivalents designated for construction projects	
Prepaid expenses and other assets	183,027
Pledges receivable	5,547,030
Investments	18,916,893
Property, net	1,460,182
TOTAL ASSETS \$	26,355,247

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	137,322
Construction payable	813,136
Notes payable	2,995,000
Deferred revenue	40,600
Funds held on behalf of City of Houston	125,267
Total liabilities	4,111,325
Net assets:	
Unrestricted	7,023,558
Temporarily restricted	12,888,032
Permanently restricted	2,332,332
Total net assets	22,243,922
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS\$	26,355,247

Statement of Activities for the year ended June 30, 2015

REVENUE	UN	IRESTRICTED		TEMPORARI RESTRICTED	PERMANENTL' RESTRICTED	Y	TOTAL
Contributions Special events Donor benefit costs – special events Park concessions Café sales Cost of sales Maintenance contract – City of Housto Investment return	\$ on	526,291 971,480 (162,693) 1,132,906 502,331 (180,018) 470,000 (246,873)	\$	2,363,182 (15,197)	\$ 42,877 \$	10	2,932,350 971,480 (162,693) 1,132,906 502,331 (180,018) 470,000 (262,070)
Total revenue		3,013,424	1	2,347,985	42,877		5,404,286
Net assets released from restrictions: Park projects and programs Time Restrictions Total		10,545,346 171,295 13,730,065		(10,545,346) (171,295) (8,368,656)	 42.877	_	5,404,286
EXPENSES		13,730,003	-	(0,300,030)	 42,077	_	3,404,200
Program services: Planning, design, and construction Visitor services Maintenance Park programs		11,279,276 1,086,879 454,873 339,609					11,279,276 1,086,879 454,873 339,609
Total program services		13,160,637					13,160,637
Management and general Fundraising		155,003 410,954				_	155,003 410,954
Total expenses		13,726,594					13,726,594
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS		3,471		(8,368,656)	42,877		(8,322,308)
Net assets, beginning of year		7,020,087		21,256,688	2,289,455		30,566,230
Net assets, end of year		7,023,558	\$	12,888,032	\$ 2,332,332 \$	5	22,243,922

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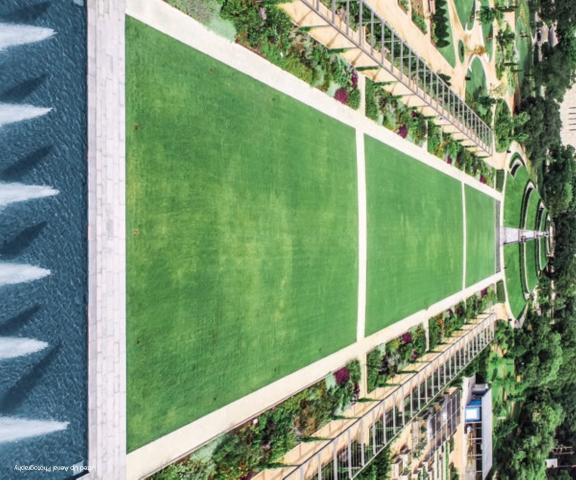






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