In honor of Hermann Park’s centennial year, the Conservancy hosted the first ever Hermann Park Kite Festival on Saturday, March 29.

The day started off a little cold and dreary but by mid-morning the sun was shining, the wind was blowing, and the blue sky over Miller Hill and the Jones Reflection Pool was filled with kites in all shapes, sizes, and colors. Over 5,000 people came to the Park to try their hand at kiting with many experiencing for the first time the joy that flying a kite can bring. For those whose kites couldn’t quite get off the ground, there was plenty more to enjoy including face painting, roaming jugglers, stilt-walkers, and ribbon dancers, as well as appearances by the Houston Texans cheerleaders and the Houston Rockets promo team.

Continued on page 3
Hats in the Park is always a magical event, but this year’s luncheon took on special meaning as we celebrated Hermann Park’s centennial. Almost 380 guests, the largest crowd ever, braved rain and near-freezing temperatures to attend the luncheon, dressed in a range of attire from spring frocks to fur hats.

Hats in the Park chair Laurie Morian, and honorary chair, Lynn Wyatt, took the chilly temps in stride and didn’t let the weather dampen their spirits.

It was our great pleasure to recognize longstanding Hermann Park advocate, Cherie Flores, as this year’s honoree, but because of her love of camellias, a grove of camellias will be planted in her honor. As Cherie graciously accepted the honor, she thanked her many friends who were in attendance that day for their support. She also thanked her husband Jim in absentia for his behind-the-scenes work on the donation to the McGovern Centennial Gardens.

Many thanks to the chairs, to Cherie, and to everyone who came to Hats in the Park. There are many more special events to come as we continue to celebrate the Park’s centennial year including Evening in the Park on April 25, the completion of the renovation of the Grand Gateway this summer, the Park to Port Bike Ride in September, and the grand opening of the McGovern Centennial Gardens in October. We hope you will join us at all of these events!

See you in the Park,

Doreen Stoller
Executive Director

McGovern Centennial Gardens
$250,000-$499,999
Susan and Mac Dunwoody
Robert L. Jamail
Marianne and Rob Jones
Anita Cannon Smith and William James Smith
$1,000-$4,999
Patricia and Wilson Griffith – In honor of Cherie Flores
Louise and Gary Moss – In honor of Phil P. Moss
Anne and Taft Symonds
$500-$999
Debra and Stephen Costello
Joan and Tommy Lamnek
$100-$499
Peggy Amante – In honor of Annie Amante
Linda and Larry Andrews
Anonymous
Diane and Mike Bevers
Shirley Burgher – In honor of Cherie Flores
Judy Chapman
Yuko and Edward Cooper
Connie and Bill Cox
Ann and Bob Croyle
Andrea and David Faulkinberry
Karen and Bob Fritz
Lynn and Jary Glazer – In honor of our grandchildren
Angela Glogowski – In memory of Stanislaw Matuschak
Nonya and Jonathan Grenader
Sarah and Reese Hazel
Punkin and Walter Hecht – In honor of our great city of Houston
Lisa and Steve Irvin – In honor of Sam and Nate Irvin
Linda and Abbe Ledbetter – In memory of George R. Moody
Kathryn Louie – In memory of Bernard and Vivien Louie
Kathleen and Tom Mach
Tiffany and Vince Morrisey
Jason Norwood – In honor of Livy and Casper Norwood
Margaret and Boris Payan
Marcia and Don Rakin
Sharon and Frank Staats
Anna Steinberger
Donna and Robert Stokes
Betty and Jesse Tutor – In honor of Phoebe Tudor and Sanford Criner; In memory of Jack Blanton

Centennial Campaign
$10,000-$24,999
Barbara and Charles Hurwitz
$5,000-$9,999
The Lionstone Group
$500-$999
Ellie and Michael Francisco – In honor of Phoebe and Bobby Tudor
$100-$499
Zach Russell

Centennial Underwriters
$5,000-$9,999
Anne and John Mendelsohn
In-kind
Houston Chronicle
TPRB Advertising
One of the most popular activities were the parachute races taking place up and down Miller Hill with many kids nearly getting lifted off the ground as their parachute filled with air above them. A day’s worth of student performances, magic shows, and music filled the main stage in Molly Ann Smith Plaza and kept the dance floor in front of the stage busy throughout the day.

The Orange Show for Visionary Arts, the Alley Theatre, and Asia Society Texas Center provided arts and crafts for kids and families in the Houston Public Media Kids Zone. S.H.A.R.K., the South Houston Area Recreational Kiters, demonstrated their high-flying skills with giant colorful kites in the shape of lizards and fish. Kids of all ages competed in the Kite Flying Contest sponsored by United Airlines. Winners in categories such as largest kite, smallest kite, best homemade kite, most unique kite, and most colorful took home medals provided by United Airlines. Guests enjoyed fine food truck fare from the Waffle Bus, Custom Confections, and Tila’s Tacos Truckeria, and sipped cold root beer from Saint Arnold Brewing Company. New park-goers and Hermann Park regulars alike enjoyed the sights and sounds of this very special and truly magical day in the Park. Chairs Morgan Garvey and Paul-David Van Atta put on a fantastic event. Many thanks to them, to the host committee, the sponsors, and to everyone who came to the Kite Festival for helping make this a memorable day for all.

Photos by Jean Miracle Whitaker and JAWEAE LLC
HATS IN THE PARK
LAISSEZ LES BON TEMPS ROULER

On Tuesday, March 4, ladies and gents headed to Hermann Park for the centennial Hats in the Park luncheon. It was a blustery day outside in Hermann Park, but the luncheon tent was transformed by Todd Events into an ethereal spring setting with custom ombre’d draped ceiling swags and a wall of hand-painted watercolor paper flowers. Black and white linens and flooring were combined with fuchsia-toned flowers to give the event a sleek and elegant feel. Adding to the fun was a delectable lunch from City Kitchen Catering and an exciting raffle of two watches donated by Tiffany & Co.

Chair Laurie Morian and honorary chair Lynn Wyatt hosted a record-breaking event with $289,861 raised specifically for the luncheon along with a portion of the $731,750 in special centennial underwriter packages which included a luncheon table. The event honored Cherie Flores, for whom the McGovern Centennial Gardens Garden Pavilion will be named. Next year’s Hats in the Park luncheon will be chaired by Estela Cockrell and Denise Monteleone at the new Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion and is certain to be another fabulous event.

Hope to see everyone next year!

Photos by Priscilla Dickson Photography
You may have noticed that Hermann Park is looking very colorful these days. In addition to spring flowers, Hermann Park has two new colorful Art in the Park installations. Art in the Park is the Conservancy’s Centennial Art Project which will bring contemporary art to the Park throughout 2014—with some works staying much longer.

On March 6, Houston-based artist Trenton Doyle Hancock unveiled his permanent installation, the whimsical mural Destination Mound Town in the Hermann Park train tunnel. Destination Mound Town depicts the Hermann Park train going through a mythical landscape filled with creatures including a purple rhino, a mischievous beaver, a wide-eyed alligator, and Hancock’s signature fur-covered Mounds, his half-animal, half-plant characters. Also hidden throughout the mural is the artist himself (look for him driving the train and cuddling up to an elephant). Train passengers will want to ride again and again to get a good look at both sides of the 150-foot long by 14-foot tall work.

On March 13, Boys Cry Too, a massive installation by artist Orly Genger, was unveiled on the banks of Brays Bayou. Stretching over 225 feet, this maze of color made from knotted climbing rope jumps off the landscape in colors like...
Ruffled Iris, Lime Pop, Jazz Blue, and Lemon Tart. For the best view, ride your bike to the Bill Coats Bridge on the Bayou Parkland side of the Park. Boys Cry Too will be on view through March 2015. These works join Patrick Dougherty’s “stickwork” sculpture Boogie Woogie, Yvonne Domenech’s Wind Waves, and the University of Houston’s Micro Pavilion: ReFRAME x FRAME already on view in the Park.

Many thanks to Art in the Park co-chairs Cece Fowler and Judy Nyquist for making this project possible. Stay tuned for more Art in the Park installations throughout the year.
Urban Green and Playground 2020 Lend a Hand

On Saturday, March 8, over 30 volunteers gathered to spruce up the Buddy Carruth Playground for All Children.

Volunteers made up of young professionals from the Conservancy’s Urban Green membership group and the Playground 2020 committee gathered to rake leaves, scrub down playground equipment, and spread mulch. The Playground 2020 committee was formed in 1995 when members of the community helped the Houston Parks Board raise $1.3 million to build a playground that children of all abilities could enjoy. The committee then left the care of the playground in the hands of their then school-aged kids.

Flash forward to this spring, Playground 2020 co-chairs Kelly Hunsaker Leonard and Claire Cormier Thielke, now young professionals, wanted to gather the group together for a project to support the Park. “It is such an exciting year for Hermann Park and we wanted to be a part of the centennial celebration,” said Thielke. “And, of course, who better to partner with than Urban Green,” added Leonard. To help get volunteers motivated in the morning, River Oaks Donuts donated their delicious breakfast treats. While the volunteers were raking and mulching, several park-goers stopped by to thank them for the hard work they were doing. After the project was complete, the group enjoyed frosty beverages from Saint Arnold Brewing Company and burritos from Chipotle Mexican Grill. A fun day was had by all!
Reforestation Project Adds New Trees to Bayou Parkland

New trees have been planted in Hermann Park's Bayou Parkland as part of the Harris County Flood Control District's Brays Bayou project. The county has flattened the banks of the grassy slopes leading to the existing channel to reduce flood damage to the surrounding area. The project also included reforestation on both sides of the bayou between Holcombe and South MacGregor Streets. A total of 1,071 mixed native trees, shrubs, and vines were added to the Park's tree inventory bringing the total number of trees in Hermann Park to approximately 9,000.

Other amenities included in the Brays Bayou project are new trails for walkers, joggers, and bicyclists, along with the Bill Coats Bridge, added in 2012, to take trail users across the bayou, and an underpass, also opened in 2012, below North and South MacGregor streets which allows passage to the heart of the Park by foot or bike from the Bayou.
Centennial Underwriters
Hermann Park Conservancy would like to thank those that signed up to be a Centennial Underwriter to help celebrate the Park’s 100th birthday this year.

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The commitments from these underwriters help ensure that the special centennial events planned for 2014 will be a success. These gifts are also directed toward the Conservancy’s beloved annual fundraising events, Hats in the Park and Evening in the Park. Centennial underwriting packages range from $25,000 to $100,000 and include a table at Evening in the Park, among other benefits. For more information about underwriting opportunities, please contact mmiller@hermannpark.org or call 713-524-5876 ext. 339.

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 and be a lasting part of Hermann Park’s legacy. 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 713-524-5876 x339 or development@hermannpark.org.
Art in the Park
Throughout 2014

Evening in the Park
Centennial Gala
Friday, April 25, 6:30 p.m.

Urban Green Spring Event
Birthday en Blanc:
Still White Hot at 100
Thursday, May 15, 7–10 p.m.

Julia Ideson Library Exhibition
May 24–July 26

Grand Gateway Official Opening
Summer 2014

Park to Port Bike Ride
Saturday, September 13

Centennial Gardens
Official Grand Opening Celebration
Saturday, October 18

Run in the Park
Saturday, November 8, 8 a.m.

Student Performances in the Park
Throughout the 2013–2014 school year

Dates and times are subject to change.

Upcoming Events

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Throughout 2014

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Friday, April 25, 6:30 p.m.

Urban Green Spring Event
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campaign
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bench
plant a tree
join the
george hermann
society
volunteer in
the park

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