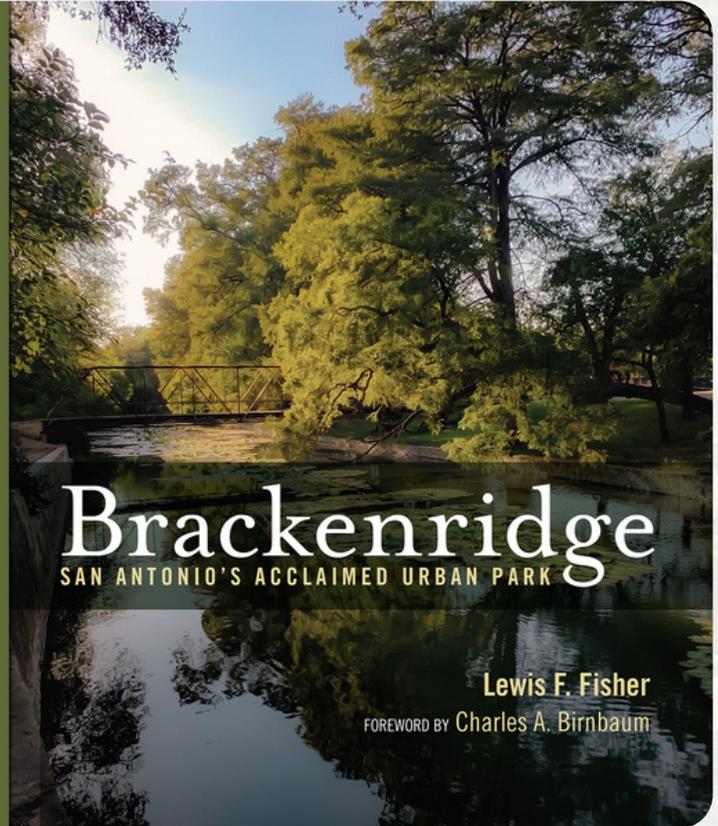
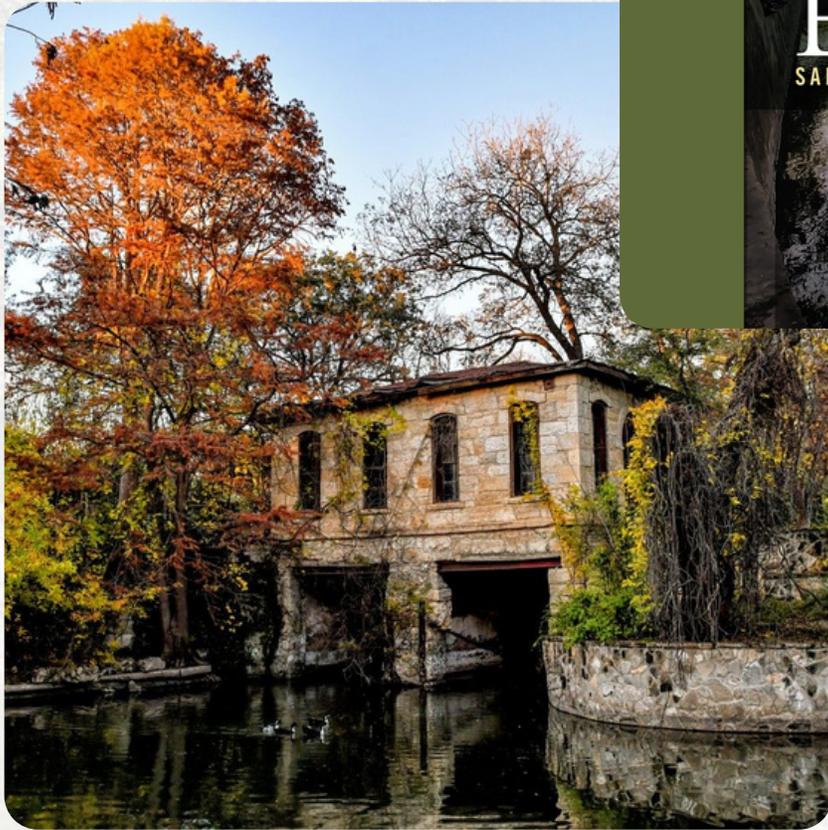


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BRACKENRIDGE PARK
CONSERVANCY
Established 2008



Brackenridge
SAN ANTONIO'S ACCLAIMED URBAN PARK

Lewis F. Fisher

FOREWORD BY Charles A. Birnbaum

Annual Report 2023



Mission

City and community leaders came together to establish the non-profit Brackenridge Park Conservancy with the specific mission to preserve, protect, and restore the park.

The Brackenridge Park Conservancy works with civic and community groups to cooperatively create a unified vision and values to transform the park into a more walkable, enjoyable place while respecting the traditions of its users and highlighting its deep history.

On behalf of the City of San Antonio, the mission of the Brackenridge Park Conservancy is to secure long-lasting financial, institutional, and community support for the park's preservation, enhancement, and maintenance of our threatened historic treasures, through an annual gala, grants, and gifts from individuals, foundations, and corporations.

Guiding the conservancy is the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR). The CLR provides a holistic vision of the park through an understanding of the entire park landscape and will be the primary tool for the long-term management and preservation of Brackenridge Park.

Leadership



Executive Committee

Nicolas S. “Nick” Hollis, Chair
Lukin T. Gilliland, Jr., Vice President
Timothy L. “Tim” Swan, Secretary
Suzanne Scott, Treasurer

Board of Directors

Joseph D. “Joe” Calvert
Mary Alice Cisneros
Lewis F. Fisher
Ana M. “Cha” Guzman, Ed.D.
Robin P. Howard
William B. “Bill” Kingman
Joe Earl Linson
Suzanne Mathews
Charlotte Mitchell
Ricardo Romo, Ph.D.
Claudia Salinas
Robert F. “Bob” Scherer, Ph.D.
Stuart S. Selig
Leticia Van de Putte
Samuel M. “Mac” White
Lori Houston, Ex Officio, Assistant
City Manager
Kathy Krnavek, Ex Officio, President,
Conservation Society of San Antonio

Advisory Board

Charles A. Birnbaum, CEO and Founder,
The Cultural Landscape Foundation
Anthony “Tony” Cantu
C. LeRoy Cavazos-Reyna
Everett L. Fly
Jordan Ghawi
Michelle Lugalía-Hollon
Eduardo Parra
Maria Pfeiffer
Corinna Holt Richter
Ethel T. Runion
Paula Shaver

Staff

Terry M. Brechtel, Interim Chief Executive Officer
Lynn Osborne Bobbitt, Director of Development
Krys Turner, Administrative Assistant
Stock Wayne Chenault, M.A., Special Projects
Coordinator
Audrey Schneider Medina, Special Events
Coordinator
Dora Ann Verde, CPA
W. Joe Turner, Capital Projects Consultant

Letter from the Board Chair



A park as special as Brackenridge succeeds when we come together as a community to protect and grow its legacy. This 343-acre is an urban oasis. It is a critical natural area in the heart of the nation's seventh-largest city, but it also has a storied cultural legacy. Brackenridge Park lives in the hearts and minds of our citizens as much as it exists in physical space with deep Indigenous roots, Spanish colonial dams and irrigation, Civil War industry, an infrastructure shaped by the Works Progress Administration, a setting marked by traditions like Easter campouts, and a calendar full of free events to ensure that Brackenridge remains the people's park.

The Brackenridge Park Conservancy is committed to working with the City of San Antonio, neighbors, and community partners to ensure that the story of this special park lives on, and we are paving the way for future generations.

Should you like to learn more, the conservancy is here to help. We have a devoted team of staff members, an all-volunteer board, esteemed donors, and friends.

We are here to serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Hollis".

Nicolas S. Hollis
Board Chair
Brackenridge Park Conservancy

Letter from the CEO



The Brackenridge Park Conservancy is honored to be your partner in preserving the legacy of Brackenridge Park while also shaping its future while we work to remember the past and build the future, we are forever mindful that we must also meet parkgoers' needs today.

To that end, 2023 has been a year of healing and reset for Brackenridge Park. The BPC is co-chairing a 27-member citizen stakeholder committee that is comprised of a broad spectrum of community members that are an integral voice in the development of the Brackenridge Park Reconciliation Plan.

We've just wrapped a wonderful year full of events, fundraisers, educational opportunities, stewardship, and goats! Every day brings us closer to our goals.

Brackenridge Park Conservancy's Annual Report is another chapter in the story of this great park. Everything in it has been made possible by your time and generosity.

We're here to walk with you every step of the way and invite you to join us this coming year for an even larger lineup of free park events.

My Sincerest Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry M. Brechtel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Terry M. Brechtel

Interim CEO

Brackenridge Park Conservancy

Highlights

Birdsong Brackenridge

The 2023 Birdsong Brackenridge: Party in the Park was the most successful fundraising event in Brackenridge Park Conservancy's history. Thank you to our generous sponsors and a special thank you to co-chairs Board Member Suzanne Mathews and Randall Poster, Grammy-award-winning music supervisor who created, The Birdsong Project. Funds will help to preserve the park's natural and cultural resources while creating educational and recreational opportunities.

Birdsong-Associated Programming Throughout the Year:



Birdhouses at McNay Art Museum

Ten birdhouses that were created as part of Birdsong Brackenridge for the conservancy are on display at the McNay Art Museum. These were created by architects from across the country to house different species of birds known to visit the park. Each has a unique appeal.



Bird Walks

The conservancy hosted a series of bird tours in partnership with The Nature Conservancy in Texas. Birding enthusiasts enjoyed exploring the park's woodlands and natural stretches of the San Antonio River while observing bird and plant life. This was a no-experience-required event open to all ages. Complimentary binoculars were provided by Warby Parker.



UTSA's Young Artist Program Designed Birdhouses

Fifth grade members of UTSA's Young Artist Program designed birdhouses in support of Birdsong Brackenridge. This project brought together 5th graders from Bonham Academy and Hawthorne Academy, architects, and artists. A reception was held at San Antonio's Central Library where the birdhouses were displayed. The workshop, reception, and exhibit were sponsored by Lucifer Lighting, a San Antonio-based manufacturer of architectural lighting fixtures.

More Highlights



Goats in the Park

For the second year, 160 goats were engaged to help with the natural mowing of dense overgrowth in the park. Goats are natural climbers and adept at scaling hills and mountains with ease, making them an ideal choice for clearing challenging park landscapes. They can go places where it is unsafe or unsuitable for humans and heavy machinery. The conservancy worked with Rent-A-Ruminant® Texas who provides a workable alternative to traditional land clearing, chemicals, or commercial mowing. A large portion of the herd comes from animal rescue or private adoptions. Parkgoers and social media followers got a kick out of this special event, which received international coverage.



Parktoberfest

The conservancy's 12th annual Parktoberfest welcomed more than 1,500 attendees to celebrate the land bequest of Emma Koehler made in memory of her husband Otto Koehler, San Antonio Brewing Association owner which produced Pearl beer. This annual event was brimming with German music by Beethoven Männerchor and jazz music from The Dirty River Jazz Band; artists of Hausmann Millworks displaying their artwork; free craft beer samples from local breweries and food and drink for purchase. Admission was free thanks to sponsors: City of San Antonio Parks & Recreation Department, Trinity University's KRTU Jazz 91.7 FM, 78209 Magazine, and Schilo's.



8th Annual Monarch Butterfly & Pollinator Festival

The 8th Annual Monarch Butterfly & Pollinator Festival was a great success with more than 5,000 attendees. Thanks to your generous donations, the conservancy was a keystone sponsor for this free event. Guests enjoyed an educational playland to celebrate the monarch butterfly, pollinators, and the ecosystems that sustain both them and us. Over 30 educational partners provided hands-on, nature-based experiences for children and adults. This community endeavor supports the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and the City of San Antonio as a Monarch Champion City.

More Highlights



Eclipse & Sips

230 people joined the conservancy on October 14th to watch the Annular Solar Eclipse from Alpine Drive, overlooking the Japanese Tea Garden. Alpine Drive remained open to all, while the Eclipse & Sips fundraiser provided a spectacular brunch and viewing glasses. The event raised funds to support the conservancy's free community programming throughout the year.



D9 Residents Day in the Park

Councilman John Courage and 37 residents from District 9 joined the conservancy for a tour and lunch at the Japanese Tea Garden. This is part of the conservancy's efforts to invite all of San Antonio to experience Brackenridge. A central location along the San Antonio River, Brackenridge remains the people's park, consistently welcoming patrons from all area zip codes. District Days are a special time to share the park's many assets, programs, and opportunities so that even more people understand what Brackenridge Park has to offer and its place in the story of San Antonio.



Family Fishing Day

More than 600 channel catfish were released into the San Antonio River for our second annual Family Fishing Day. This free event offered lessons, poles, and a license-free fishing experience for all San Antonians at no charge thanks to Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, City of San Antonio Parks & Recreation Department, Fin Addict Angler Foundation, and San Antonio River Authority. A big thank you to sponsor Brush Country Photo Safari and Big Give Friends for supporting the conservancy's Big Give SA's fundraiser which was dedicated to raising funds for this event.

Brackenridge Park Stakeholder & Advisory Committee

Brackenridge Park Conservancy is co-chairing a community planning effort to reconcile the 2017 Brackenridge Park Master Plan, 2020 Cultural Landscape Report and 2019 Midtown Regional Plan. A broad spectrum of stakeholders are participating to ensure all aspects of the Park are considered moving forward. The Stakeholder and Advisory Committee are developing guiding principles and creating criteria that address the various facets of projects to evaluate and prioritize. Community input through workshops and a survey will further inform the work of the committee. The result will be a Reconciled Plan that consolidates the projects in the three plans and evaluates them through the criteria lens developed by the Committee and the Community.

Committee Members

Co-Chairs

Lori Houston, City of San Antonio, Assistant City Manager

Terry M. Brechtel, Brackenridge Park Conservancy, Interim CEO

Neighborhood Associations

Taylor Watson, Mahncke Park

Toni Van Buren, Monte Vista

Bill Ayler, River Road

Parker Dixon, Tobin Hill

Joe Bravo, Westfort

Technical Committee

Office of Historic Preservation

Parks & Recreation Department

Department of Planning

Bexar County

Brackenridge Park Conservancy

San Antonio River Authority

San Antonio Zoo

Witte Museum

Consultant Group

Jay Loudon, Work5hop

Allison Chambers, Ford, Powell & Carson

Selina Angel, Work5hop

Anamaria Suescun-Fast, talkStrategy

Rachel Trevino, talkStrategy

David Dunn, talkStrategy

Stakeholder Organizations

Alex Gonzales, Visit San Antonio

Allison Cohen, Parks and Recreation Board

Andrew Peterson, Alamo City Golf Trail

Carrie Kimbell, First Tee

Frates Seeligson, San Antonio River Foundation

Irby Hightower, Alamo Architects History and Culture

Daniel Menelly, The DoSeum

Kathy Amen, Tuesday Musical Club

Mary Jane Verette, San Antonio Parks Foundation

Patsy Inglet, Parks and Wildlife Advocate

Ramon Vasquez, History and Culture

Dr. Randall Preissig, Parks and Wildlife Advocate

Sabina Carr, San Antonio Botanical Garden

Dr. Thomas Evans, University of the Incarnate Word

Dr. Vanessa Beasley, Trinity University

Dr. Vincent Michael, The Conservation Society of San Antonio

Sara Beasley, Parks and Wildlife Advocate

Updates

Finance

Brackenridge Park Conservancy is supported by the generous donations of our board, friends, foundations, corporations, and members of our Founders Circle. Fundraising events like Birdsong Brackenridge: Party in the Park were also a significant contributor to the bottom line that provided resources for free programs like the annual Parktoberfest and Family Fishing. The conservancy operates with a lean budget and relies on private funding to support programs and events, maximizing your investment in the park.

We ended our fiscal year with Total Assets of \$5.9 million of which \$5.1 million are for restricted purposes. Funds raised for the Capital Campaign are included in this amount and are restricted for capital projects.

Each year, we welcome 1.5 million visitors to the park or online.

Communications

Newsletter:

2,476 Subscribers

48% Open Rate (Industry average is 21%)

Media Stories:

1,430 Stories Noting the Park

152 Stories Noting Conservancy

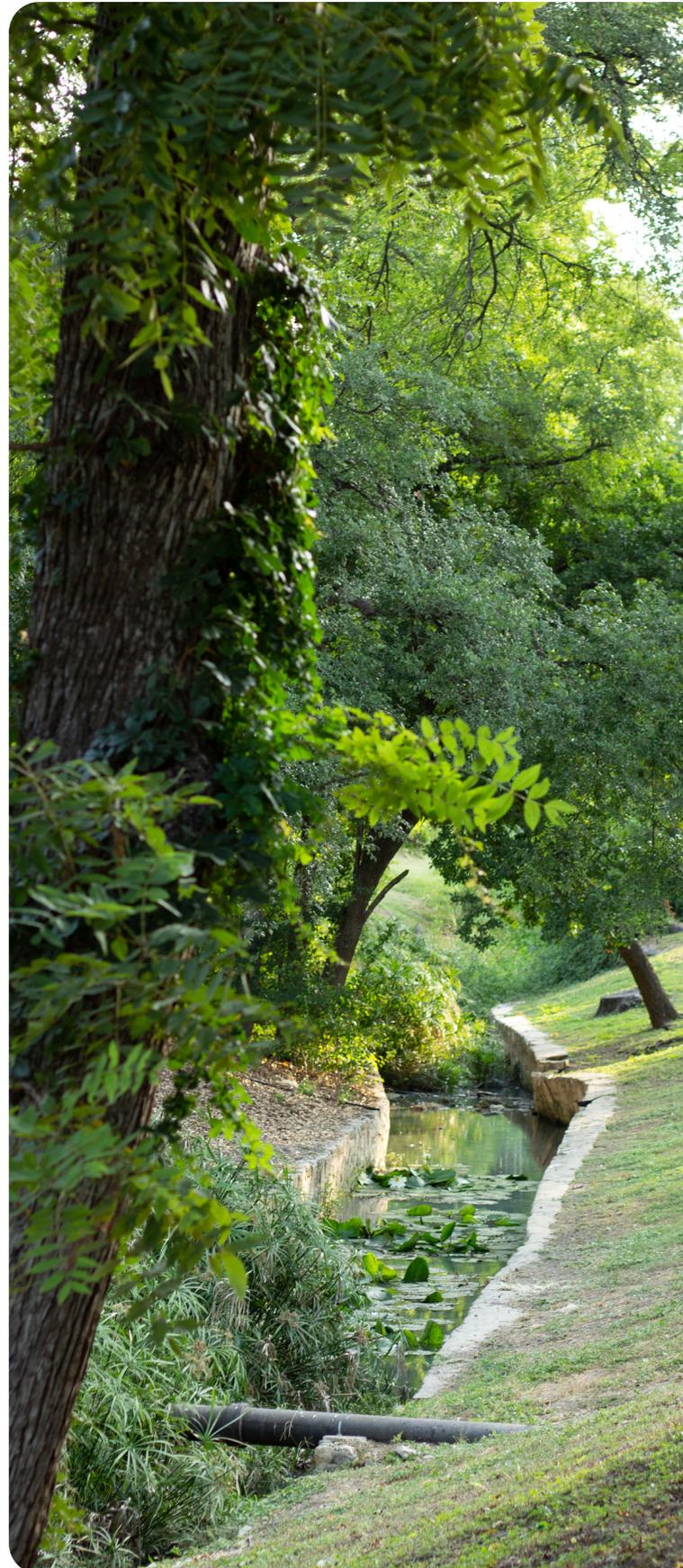
Social Media:

Instagram 3,717

Facebook 4,800

LinkedIn 31 (Account was created in May.

Engagement strategies are underway.)





With Gratitude to All of Our Donors

Founders Circle

Unrestricted Gifts to Support BPC Operations (\$100,000 or more)

Malú and Carlos Alvarez

Walter F. Brown, Jr.

Rhonda and Joe Calvert

F.B. Doane Foundation

Richard Calvert

Emma and Toby Calvert

Lukin T. Gilliland, Jr.

Gwen and Christopher Graham

Licie and Nick Hollis

Holt Foundation

Corinna Holt Richter and Peter John Holt

Suzanne and Gilbert Mathews

Laura and Lew Moorman IV

Ann and John “Chico” Newman

Semmes Foundation

Pat and Tom Semmes

Paula and Herbert Stumberg

The Louis H. and Mary Patricia Stumberg Foundation

Annie and Tim Swan

Graham Weston

Brackenridge Park Conservancy Friends

\$7,500 - \$300,000

CB and Anita Branch Trust

Broadway Bank

Charles Butt Foundation

Rhonda and Joe Calvert

City of San Antonio

Gensler and Judy Pesek

Lukin T. Gilliland, Jr.

Chris Hill and Lachlan Miles

Liecie and Nicolas Hollis

Michael G. Imber, Michael G. Imber Architects

Impetus Foundation

Kronkosky Charitable Foundation

Rick Liberto

Lucifer Lighting Company

Mays Family Foundation

Amy Shelton McNutt Charitable Trust

John and Florence Newman Foundation

Michael Neidorff School of Business/Trinity University

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Texas Cavaliers Charitable Foundation

Mary West and Richard C. Traylor

The Nature Conservancy/Texas

Norton Rose Fulbright, LLP

Carol and Peter McGanity

San Antonio Office of Arts and Culture

San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation

San Antonio Parks & Recreation Department

San Antonio Water System

Annie and Tim Swan

SWBC

Weston Ventures



Brackenridge Park Conservancy Supporters

\$1,000 - \$7,499

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Lena Ariza
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Mary Pat and Michael J. Bolner
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Brush Country Photo Safari
Richard W. Calvert
Torrey and Ed Carleton
Mary Alice and Henry Cisneros
Conservation Society of San Antonio
Claire Dewar
Lynnette and Trey Embrey
Tracee and J.J. Feik
Fern Lee "Missy" Finck
Nancy Rector Finney and Rob Finney
Katy and Ted Flato
Caroline A. Forgason
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The Nature Conservancy of Texas
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Stacey and Jamo Rubin
Jeffrey M. Rummel
Suzanne and Parker Scott
Lyn and Pete Selig
Silver Eagle Distributors Charitable Fund
Sarah Meyer Simon
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SWA Group
Suzanne and John Thomas
Jane Thomson Family Fund
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Aaron Andrade

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Elizabeth and Tom Hart

Susan and Will Hausser

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Ethel Runion
Ruthie and Johnny Russell
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Gustavo Salinas
Jerry Salinas
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Linda Nixon Seeligson
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Paula Shaver
Ann and Rick Shaw
Virginia and Bill Shea
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Sunset & Co
Barbara and Mac Sykes
Jane Ann and Devereaux Temple
Claudia Tena
Michael Therriat
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Alice and John Troy
Tuesday Musical Club
Timothy Tuggey
Krys and Frank Turner

Lorrie and Arthur Uhl
Leticia and Pete Van de Putte
Jill and George Vassar
Dora and Henry Verde
Elizabeth Villalobos
Alice and Sergio Viroslav
Marcus Walker
Peggy Walker and Myron East
Carol Ward
Angela Williams
John A. Williamson
Billinda J. Wilkinson and Max Hensley
Witte Museum
Shellie Yokum
Mollie Steves Zachry
Connie Zamorano
Sasha Zucker

Brackenridge Park Conservancy Capital Campaign

Goal: \$3,200,000 | Total Committed as of December 31, 2023: \$4,793,870

City of San Antonio
Bexar County
The Cultural Trail presented by H-E-B
Anonymous
The Brown Foundation
CB & Anita Branch Trust
The Conservation Society of San Antonio
Lou Celia & Don Frost
Kelly & Pat Frost
Frost Bank and their managed charitable trusts
John and Florence Newman Foundation
Semmes Foundation, Inc.
SWBC
Holt Family Foundation
Lukin T. Gilliland, Jr.
Carol & Peter McGanity

Amy Shelton McNutt Charitable Trust
Christian Archer
Culligan Southwest/Kristi Stanford & Bob Boerner
Whitacre Family Foundation
Circle Bar Foundation/The Family of John H. White
Impact San Antonio
Paula & Herb Stumberg
Kronkosky Charitable Foundation
Myra Stafford Pryor Charitable Trust
Betty Stieren Kelso Foundation
Rhonda & Joe Calvert
Annie & Tim Swan
The Parker Foundation
Meredith Morrill
Robin & Mark Howard
Lifshutz Foundation

Brackenridge Park Conservancy Capital Campaign

Goal: \$3,200,000 | Total Committed as of December 31, 2023: \$4,793,870

Harvey Najim in honor of Tracy and Nelson Wolff

Bonnie Reed & Stuart Schlossberg

Roxana Richardson

Licie & Nick Hollis

Leticia & Pete Van de Putte

Ann & Rick Shaw

Suzanne and Parker Scott

Michael G. Imber Architects

Samuel "Mac" White

Kate & Bill Kingman

Charlotte & Lane Mitchell

NRP Group

Elsi & Eduardo Parra

Missy Fink

Monte Vista Garden Club

Harriett & Ricardo Romo

Jane Macon

Muriel F. Siebert Foundation

Mary & Lewis Fisher

Valerie & Jack Guenther

Cha Guzman & Gilberto Ocanās

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Johanna & Robert Rochelle

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info@brackenridgepark.org



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