



# Brack Pack

## NEWSLETTER

Brackenridge Park Conservancy

February 2022

**DONATE**

*Your gift supports the BPC mission to protect, restore, and preserve Brackenridge Park.*

### City Council Approves SGT Funding

The San Antonio City Council recently approved \$5 million in the Parks Bond for the Sunken Garden Theater, which will contribute the first building block to realize the restoration of the historic amphitheater for the citizens of San Antonio.

The BPC Board of Directors and staff wish to express our appreciation and gratitude to those who have guided us through this process: Mayor Ron Nirenberg, City Manager Erik Walsh, Assistant City Manager Lori Houston, and the members of the San Antonio City Council.

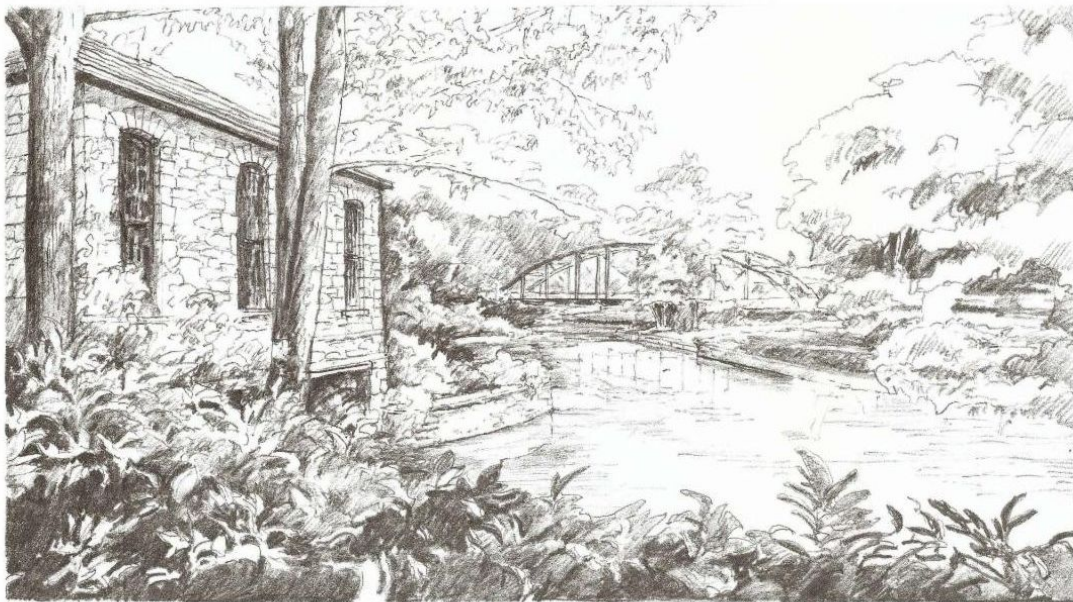
**The Bond will go before the voters on May 7, 2022.**

**Please vote for and support the Park Bond.**

Click [here](#) to view our SGT presentation video.

**Party In the Park Tickets on Sale Now**





Brackenridge Park

H. White '21

Tables and tickets for the BPC annual fundraiser, ***Party In the Park***, are now available [online](#).

Please join our presenting sponsor, the Mays Family Foundation, in honoring the Hon. Nelson W. Wolff and Mrs. Tracy Wolff for their numerous contributions to our community and to the Park.



***Party In the Park*** will be 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, 2022, on the north river bend in Brackenridge Park near the iron bridge and pump house.

Invitations will be in your mailboxes soon! (We are encouraging our guests to build their own tables for safety reasons.)

**Thank you for your support!**

As of 2/17/2022

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Mays Family Foundation

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Mrs. Robin Howard  
Mrs. Liece Hollis

**Invitation Artwork Courtesy of**  
Mac White, AIA, Principal Michael G. Imber Architects

## New Jingu House Partnership





The San Antonio Parks Foundation announced recently that local restaurateur Cappy Lawton will take over the Jingu House at the historic Japanese Tea Garden. Plans or opening dates are not yet available.

The Lawton family also owns and operates Mama's Cafe, Cappy's Restaurant, Cappycchino's, and La Fonda on Main.

The San Antonio Parks Foundation operates the Japanese Tea Garden as a free, public, pet friendly attraction in Brackenridge Park.

## Artisans of Trabajo Rústico

### ARTISANS of TRABAJO RÚSTICO

*The Legacy of Dionicio Rodríguez*



by PATSY PITTMAN LIGHT photographs by KENT RUSH

A new book by San Antonio author Patsy Pittman Light offers a broad panorama of the art form, trabajo rústico.

With photographs by Kent Rush, emeritus professor of art at the University of Texas at San Antonio, "Artisans of Trabajo Rústico: The Legacy of Dionicio Rodríguez" presents a comprehensive look reflected in the works of those he trained, mentored, or influenced.

As documented in Patsy's award-winning book, "Capturing Nature", Mexican artisan Dionicio Rodríguez arrived in San Antonio in the 1920s and created concrete bus stop shelters, park benches, footbridges, and other structures in the style known as faux bois (false wood), or trabajo rústico (rustic work).

Light asserts that San Antonio has the largest concentration of this art form in the country and includes copious full-color photography of the work of Rodríguez and other artisans.

"Artisans of Trabajo Rústico" is available for purchase at the [Twig Book Shop](#) at the Pearl and online through the [Texas A&M University Press](#).

## Why Things Are

### Brackenridge Park: The Driving Park





The curving picturesque vistas along the trails in the Wilderness Grove are the result of the carriage and automobile roads designed by Ludwig Mahncke.

As the original park superintendent and a friend of George Brackenridge, Mahncke was instrumental in developing Brackenridge Park during its early years.



Ludwig Mahncke



From its inception, Brackenridge Park was a regional expression—distinctly San Antonian—of a larger park design movement in the late 19th century and early 20th century.



It was decided that the Park 'should be a driving park more than a picnic place.' To this end, Mahncke designed and opened several miles of driveways that all converged on the San Antonio River at the north end of the Park.



The Wilderness Grove and trails today.

Most notably, the design and decisions regarding placement of Brackenridge Park's roads did not reflect the formality such as those of Central Park's roads.

Instead, the directive that the design would be grounded in the "the existing visual character" of the indigenous landscape became an important principle as Brackenridge Park was developed. A San Antonio Express newspaper article noted, "These roads have been opened through the dense forest upon a plan to give the most pleasure and variety of scenery."

By late February 1901, the initial layout of the Park's drives and walkways was complete.





Like national parks, Brackenridge Park connected visitors to vast and scenic woodland areas and to the San Antonio River by automobile. Brackenridge, Mahncke, and their colleagues took their most important cues from the site's indigenous hydrologic and vegetative patterns as well as its exposed limestone geology.

They determined the placement of roads in response to the existing woodlands and to the San Antonio River. For example, a low-water crossing physically connected automobiles with the San Antonio River.

Together, Brackenridge and Mahncke created a park that is inextricably linked to the automobile—with the "only-in-Brackenridge" opportunity to run your fingers through the cool water as your vehicle rolled through the river.



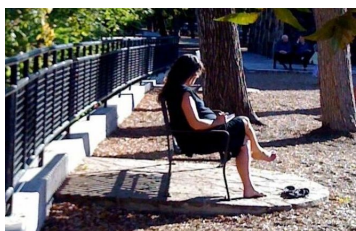


Brackenridge Park, from the outset, was a masterpiece of regional vernacular design. The many surviving roads created by Brackenridge and Mahncke continue to shape the Park today.

Sources: Brackenridge Park Cultural Landscape Report;  
Maria Watson Pfeiffer, National Register of Historic Places

## Presidents Day

Celebrate Presidents Day in the Park!



Presidents Day is Monday, Feb. 21.



Choose Brackenridge Park Conservancy as your charitable organization, and make your Amazon purchases through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Amazon will then donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the BPC.

### OUR MISSION

The Brackenridge Park Conservancy is a steward of and an advocate for the park and an instrument for preserving and enhancing the park's natural, historic, educational, and recreational resources for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Brackenridge Park Conservancy



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