

# Brack Pack

## NEWSLETTER

Brackenridge Park Conservancy

January 2023

### Welcome Terry



Terry Brechtel has joined the Brackenridge Park Conservancy as the interim chief executive officer.

Terry was raised in San Antonio and has worked across the State of Texas as a consultant and executive. She has served as CEO and advisor to elected and appointed boards in her role as city manager of San Antonio, Alamo Heights, and Marfa, and as executive director of the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority.

She is a managing partner at Resource Match, a grant writing and strategic planning consulting firm that formed in 2021, principally working in small rural communities in West Texas. She is the former chair of the San Antonio Humane Society and serves as the chair of the governance committee. She is a member of the Texas Women's Forum, a chapter of the International Women's Forum, and recipient of the Civic Leadership Award from the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame.

She holds a master of public administration degree from Southern Methodist University and a bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas.

### Welcome New Board

Please welcome the new members to the Brackenridge Park Conservancy Board of Directors and Advisory Board.

#### Joe Calvert

Joe is a fifth-generation, life-long resident of San Antonio. As a real estate developer, investor, and rancher, he has a passion for land stewardship that led him to join the Brackenridge Park Conservancy in

2012. He joined the board of directors in 2014 and was board president from 2016 through 2021.



Joe earned the CCIM designation in 1988 and has worked as a broker, appraiser, corporate acquisitions manager, developer, and investor. In addition to his involvement with the Brackenridge Park Conservancy, he manages his personal real estate portfolio and various partnerships, ranches in Medina and Frio Counties, and family real estate and mineral interests.

### Charlotte Mitchell



Charlotte retired from Slimp Oil Company Inc. in 2004 and has since been involved in numerous civic and charitable organizations, including the Battle of Flowers Association, Rotary Club of San Antonio, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Military-Civilian Club,

Fiesta Commission, and Goodwill of San Antonio. Her board memberships have included Goodwill of San Antonio, Rotary Club, Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library, and the Alamo.

As a seventh generation Texan and third generation San Antonian, Charlotte joined the BPC Advisory Board in 2016 and served as a board member from 2018 to 2022. She was also co-chair of the annual 2018 Spirit of Brackenridge Park.

### Claudia Salinas

Claudia manages DaVita's Kidney Care State Government Affairs Advocacy Program throughout the country. In this role, she builds company-wide support for state-related dialysis policy objectives and educates employees on the value of effective grassroots engagement with state elected officials.



Before entering the private sector, Claudia worked on numerous political campaigns at the local, state, and federal levels. Claudia is a native of Brownsville and holds a bachelor's degree in English literature from Texas State University.

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The 2023 Board Officers were elected by consent at the BPC's Annual Meetings on Jan. 27. The officers are Nick Hollis, chair; Lukin T. Gilliland, Jr., vice president; Tim Swan, secretary; and Suzanne Scott, treasurer.

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## Advisory Board



**Jordan Ghawi**

Jordan is an emergency healthcare and disaster response leader with a passion for civic engagement, working to make Texas communities more resilient. He serves as the director of strategic initiatives at the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC), the regional emergency healthcare system.



**Michelle Lugalía-Hollon**

Michelle has worked in politics, government, and philanthropy, and with several non-profits focused on addressing maternal and infant HIV/AIDS prevention, homelessness, violence prevention, trauma, youth development, restorative justice, economic, community, and workforce development and public health.

## Cavaliers Gift

The Texas Cavaliers Charitable Foundation has donated \$50,000 to the Brackenridge Park Conservancy to support the planning and design of a natural playground in Brackenridge Park.



Thank you, Cavaliers, for your investment in restoring Brackenridge Park!

## Birdsong Brackenridge



The annual BPC fundraising gala is flying to new heights!

"Birdsong Brackenridge" is an exciting new concept, joining our annual friendraising and fundraising gala with an exhibit of birdhouses specially designed by architects from across the country that will be installed in Brackenridge Park.

Organized by Board Member Suzanne Mathews and music producer Randall Poster, "Birdsong Brackenridge" will be held Tuesday, April 11, at the Pecan Grove in Brackenridge Park.

"Birdsong" is the creation of Randall, one of the film world's most prominent music supervisors, who produced a 242-track music compilation titled "For the Birds" during the Covid lockdown (available on Spotify).

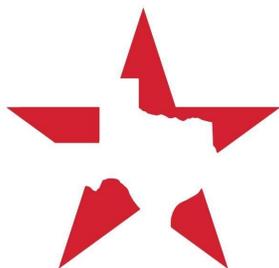
Invitations will be in the mail soon.

## Mission Statement

The BPC Board of Directors has approved rewording of our mission statement to read as the following:

"The Brackenridge Park Conservancy is a steward of Brackenridge Park's natural, historic, educational, and recreational resources and an advocate for their preservation and enhancement for the benefit of current and future generations."

## Brack Book Awards

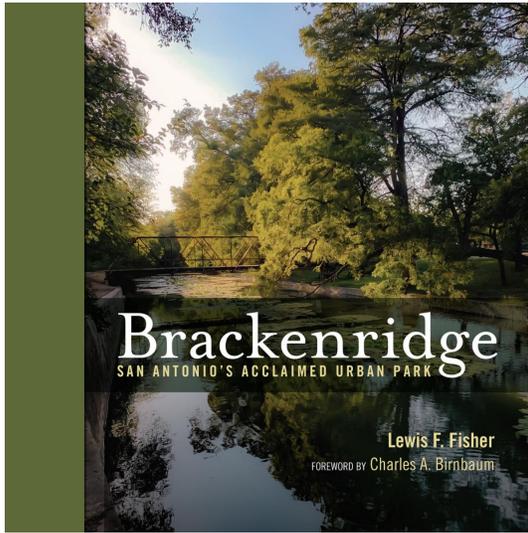


The Texas State Historical Association has selected Board Member Lewis F. Fisher, author of *Brackenridge: San Antonio's Acclaimed Urban Park*, to receive the 2023 Ron Tyler Award for Best Illustrated Book on Texas History and the 2023 Al Loman Award for Best Book on Texas County and Local History.

The Ron Tyler Award is given annually for a book about Texas history, using special visual applications such as photography and reproduction of historic paintings. The Al Lowman Award is also awarded annually to the best book on Texas county and local history.

The awards will be presented at the 127th annual meeting of the TSHA in El Paso on March 3.

## Congratulations, Lewis!

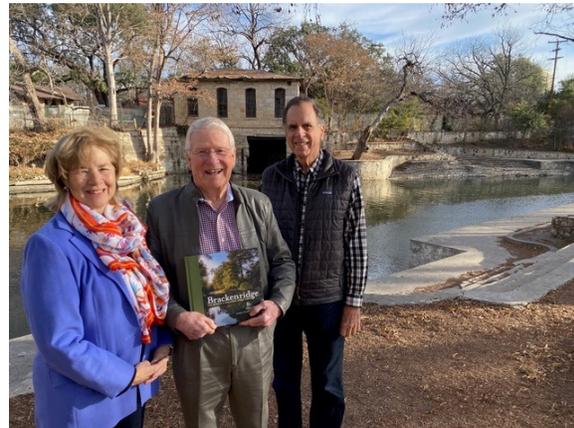


*Copies of  
"Brackenridge: San Antonio's  
Acclaimed Urban Park"  
are going fast.*

To purchase, click [here](#).

*Underwritten by the  
Semmes Foundation.  
Commissioned by the Brackenridge  
Park Conservancy and published by  
Trinity University Press.*

Jack Ray Lambert (middle) holds his copy of *Brackenridge: San Antonio's Acclaimed Urban Park* beside Lynn Bobbitt, BPC development director, and Lewis F. Fisher, the book's author, at Lambert Beach, which was designed by his legendary great-grandfather, Ray Lambert, San Antonio parks commissioner from 1915 to 1927.



## Why Things Are

Raymond "Ray" Lambert was elected commissioner of Parks and Sanitation in 1915. When he took office, he immediately requested a significant budget increase for his department—from \$27,000 to \$60,000, an increase of 220 percent.

The new progressive era of city leadership had begun, and San Antonio searched for ways to improve the physical, cultural, and infrastructural quality of the growing city. The river and its scenic beauty became an important focus of citizen involvement. And as Lewis F. Fisher writes in *Brackenridge: San Antonio's Acclaimed Urban Park*, "Ray Lambert met the moment."



Lambert's first two years as the park commissioner set in motion a new energy within the parks department. Having served as an alderman for many years, he already knew the politics and financial constraints as well as

the civic leaders whose help he would need to move his ideas forward.



Japanese Tea Garden



Low Water Crossing

During his 12-year tenure, some of the most important and defining cultural institutions, park amenities, and features were added. These include the Eleanor Brackenridge Playground, the Brackenridge Park Golf Course, the Brackenridge Park Zoo, the Japanese Tea Garden and tea pavilion, the Texas Star Sunken Garden (later transformed into the Sunken Garden Theater), Lambert Beach, the Donkey Ride and corral, the Donkey Barn, the Mexican Village, the automotive camping area, the relocation and installation of historic bridges from downtown San Antonio, Alpine Drive, the addition of multiple important pieces of art and sculpture—specifically the *faux bois* art of Dionicio Rodriguez—and, finally, the Witte Museum.



Alpine Drive



Iron Bridge



Dionicio Rodriguez Arbor Footbridge

The total effect on the park was comprehensive. By the end of Lambert's service, almost every area of existing parkland had been developed in some way.

Lewis Fisher writes, "Nearly a decade after Lambert began transforming the

contemplative driving park into a full-blown major municipal park and playground, a crowd celebrated him at the Koehler Pavilion on Ray Lambert Day. He told those present, **‘The work is just begun.’**

*Sources: Cultural Landscape Report*

*Brackenridge: San Antonio’s Acclaimed Urban Park by Lewis F. Fisher*

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### OUR MISSION

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