

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023

Birdsong Brackenridge



Welcoming Advisory Board Member, Paula Shaver



We're honored to welcome conservancy board member, Paula Shaver. Paula has been a leader in the jewelry industry for 43 years. This has given her the opportunity to build strong community relationships with customers, neighbors, and organizations. Paula has a legacy built on service working with the San Antonio Children's Bereavement Center, Alamo Heights Rotary, San Antonio Roadrunner Club, San Antonio Botanical Gardens, Brackenridge Park Conservancy, American Cancer Society, Junior League of San Antonio, and American Heart Association.

Together in Brackenridge Park for Once in a Lifetime Event

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 help the conservancy hold more free community programming throughout the year.



Artist Julene Franki donated her time to create a spectacular painting of the event. You can see more of her work [here](#).



**A special thank you to our sponsors
who made this fundraiser possible:**

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The Witte Museum

San Antonio Parks & Recreation

The Art of Donut

Eclipse Over America

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Marquee Event Rentals

Join us on April 8, 2024 for the Total Solar Eclipse.

More details to come!

Brackenridge is San Antonio's Park: D9 Residents Day in the Park



Councilman John Courage and 37 residents from District 9 joined the conservancy for lunch at the Japanese Tea Garden along with a tour of the park. This is part of the conservancy's efforts to invite all of San Antonio to experience Brackenridge. With 343 acres and 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.

The WPA's Legacy in Shaping Brackenridge Park

For more than 12,000 years,
Brackenridge has been shaped by
history. Our Native American



legacy, WPA infrastructure, and the revitalization efforts underway today. Much of the park's current infrastructure was created as part of the Works Progress Administration to create jobs and help alleviate hardships during the Great Depression. This enhanced the park's landscape, facilities, and traffic patterns. In 1936, more than 4,130 San Antonians were signed up through the WPA and 1,600 youth through the National Youth Administration. By mid-1939, WPA spending exceeded today's equivalent of more than 10 million dollars.



WPA Projects at Brackenridge Park:

- Sunken Garden Theater and concession areas
- Koehler Pavilion
- San Antonio River retaining walls
- Letters of Gold Bridge
- Drainage and culvert improvements
- Tuleta Drive extension to Broadway
- Low water crossing bridge off River Road
- Picnic area south of Joske Pavilion
- Additional bathhouses at Lambert Beach

- San Antonio Zoo Improvements:
 - Administration, hospital, and commissary buildings
 - African Panorama
 - Reptile house
 - Aviary
 - Peccary House
 - Elephant, impala, sea lion, and hippo exhibits

- Witte Museum Improvements:
 - Texas Basketmakers Indians Mural in the Witte Museum

- Reptile Garden for Witte Museum
- Twohig House reconstruction
- Dog Trot Cabin replica
- Perimeter wall at Witte Museum
- Brackenridge Golf Course Improvements
 - Starter House
 - Caddy House
 - Bridge
 - Tee boxes
 - Drinking fountains

Last Month to See Birdhouses at the McNay



November is the last month to see Birdsong Brackenridge Birdhouses at the McNay Art Museum. As part of the park's annual gala to raise funds for Brackenridge, the conservancy worked with 10 nationally recognized architects who designed and donated birdhouses to attract diverse species.

Birdhouse viewing is free and can be found near the McNay's main entrance and Stieren Center for Exhibitions Sculpture Garden.

[Learn More](#)

Tuesday Musical Club Celebrates Centennial

The Tuesday Musical Club is celebrating its 100th anniversary. The all-female club performs, discusses, and presents classical music to San Antonio. It was founded in 1901 by pianist Anna Hertzber. In 1923 the club began producing annual concerts known as Musical Teas. In 1949, they raised money for the construction of a clubhouse located at 3755 N. St. Mary's Street in Brackenridge Park, where it still stands today.



*Photo Credit
Scott Ball, SA Report*

Learn More

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