



Photo: Egidio Narvaez



DISCOVERY GREEN®

What will you discover?

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YEAR IN REVIEW

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I joined Discovery Green four years ago, a wise colleague advised it would take a full trip around the sun to fully understand this organization. This is because every season in the park is celebrated in its own unique way and, with each season, comes unique challenges. But this year I had one special challenge that none of us saw coming. In December 2025, I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

Ever resilient, the Discovery Green community came together with grit, sacrifice and passion. Our talented team broke records, completed a strategic plan, created an additional season of summer and soccer programming, launched a successful new fundraiser, renovated the park and welcomed over 3 million visitors! While I am ever in awe of these people, this year is their year.

In this impact report, we are proud to share that over 190 new donors and 19 new and returning sponsors committed to Discovery Green's mission while Board of Directors Chair, Andrew Abendshein guided us throughout his tenure. I am grateful for his dedication and his leadership. And I know that Lacey Dalcour Salas will continue to build on that legacy. Discovery Green's future looks bright, joyful and, as always, filled with the best of Houston's culture.

Two surgeries and six rounds of chemotherapy later, I am very happy to report that I have rung the bell. As you read this, I am healthy and the park looks as stunning as the day it did when it opened in 2008.



Photo: Julie Soefer Photography

Discovery Green's future looks bright, joyful and, as always, filled with the best of Houston's culture.

Discovery Green was built to be a place where Houstonians come together to be a part of the community and hold pride in celebrating our city. This year, that mission resonated a little more deeply with me as the people of Discovery Green came together to create one of the park's most successful years.

Thank you all. Here's to health and happiness!

— Kathryn Lott

DISCOVERY GREEN'S FUTURE

With the guidance of Michael Kaiser at the DeVos Institute of Arts and Nonprofit Management, Discovery Green Conservancy underwent a 9-month long process to create a strategic plan. A committee of 14 members—including representatives from cultural institutions, stakeholders, architects and city planners—crafted a 5-year vision for the park's future.

STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC FOCUS

Since its founding, Discovery Green has set a high bar for community engagement, creativity, and diversity.

Over the next five years Discovery Green will elevate its role as the premier urban Arts Park in both Houston and the nation.

With a renewed commitment to dynamic programming, strengthened infrastructure, and an energized donor base, Discovery Green will heighten its role as a source of joy, connection, and cultural discovery for Houstonians and visitors alike, securing its place as a transformative force in Houston's downtown and beyond.

A MODEL FOR INSTITUTIONAL GROWTH AND STABILITY



DISCOVERY GREEN'S NEXT STEPS:

- Sharpen its programmatic identity
- Expand its investment in amenities that elevate the visitor experience
- Grow its marketing reach
- Broaden its base of donors



A Night of DISCOVERY



\$320K raised in support
of park operations



300 attendees



29 performers



Photos: Daniel Ortiz & Hung L. Truong

YEAR IN REVIEW



DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Discovery Green Conservancy development department saw major changes this year as new hire Jenna Lindley started early in the fiscal year. She quickly got to work on her team and hired development assistant Kamilah Ruiz-Rodriguez.

Tasked with launching a new spring fundraiser, Jenna worked with co-chairs Frances Lummis and Gillian Sarofim to create the inaugural A Night of Discovery. As cousins of Discovery Green co-founder Maconda Brown O'Connor, the co-chairs represented a new generation of philanthropy in the park.

The event was designed as “choose your own adventure” and translated a year of Discovery Green programming into one, unforgettable night. Next up: An Evening in the Emerald City. Save the date!



YEAR IN REVIEW

A \$1M DOLLAR SURPRISE SEND OFF FOR CLARK CURRY

This year Clark Curry's planned retirement was postponed when he agreed to stay on to help shepherd the Conservancy through the initial phase of the strategic plan. A million dollar grant from Kinder Foundation provided the funds to restore Discovery Green to the original, untouched beauty of opening day in 2008.

Clark pushed to get the work done before the start of the summer. He managed the teams planting over 43,000 square feet of garden beds, resodding the Grace Event Lawn and the Lindsey Waterside Lawn, improving irrigation and drainage systems, installing new water-bottle friendly drinking fountains and security cameras, restoring art installations and improving beloved amenities like the John P McGovern playground and The Gateway Fountains.

What Clark didn't know, was the grant was given in his honor for the work he did before the park even opened. Now, the 12-acres of uncommonly beautiful greenspace is as fresh-faced and green as it was when he started before more than 25 million people visited. Thank you Kinder Foundation!

Clark will be very missed, but we wish him many more fantastic adventures in his well-deserved retirement. Thank you Clark, for all you have done for Discovery Green!



Photo: Monica Rhodes



Photo: Lawrence Knox

BEFORE & AFTER



YEAR IN REVIEW

NEW FACES, NEW ADVENTURES

New hires and promotions at Discovery Green



KAMILAH RUIZ-RODRIGUEZ
Development Coordinator



EISELEY BISCHOFF
Facility Manager



WILLIAM FLOWERS
Operations Director



CAROL BOLEN
Controller



CANDACE SIGUST
Revenue & Services Director

Photos: Nic Martinez & Lawrence Knox

SPECIAL EVENTS

DISCOVERY GREEN CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPLORATION, MAGIC AND JOY.

20

EVENTS

60,000

ATTENDEES



GIRLS ON THE GREEN
10,000 ATTENDEES



GREEN MOUNTAIN ENERGY EARTH DAY
5,500 ATTENDEES



ART CAR SNEAK PEEK
4,900 ATTENDEES



LUNAR NEW YEAR
6,000 ATTENDEES



FLEA BY NIGHT
5,000 ATTENDEES



DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS
16,000 ATTENDEES

ARTS

CHROMA COLLECTIVE BY KAREN NAVARRO

52
DAYS

45,000
ENGAGED VISITORS

Photo: Nicki Evans



FAMILIES AND CHILDREN
TODDLER TUESDAYS

31
EVENTS

11,400
EVENT ATTENDEES

HEALTHY LIVING

FITNESS



112
EVENTS

9,300
EVENT ATTENDEES

Photos: Nic Martinez

NEW EVENTS

H-TOWN HOLIDAY LIGHTS
25,600 ATTENDEES



GREAT AGE ON THE GREEN
2,000 ATTENDEES



MINI MAKERS WORKSHOP
400 ATTENDEES



CRUISER BOATS
10,000



TAI CHI
300 ATTENDEES



HIP HOP YOGA
1,900 ATTENDEES



“

“Since it’s opening in 2008, Discovery Green has been an extraordinary partner in shaping Houston’s convention district into a vibrant, connected destination that serves both visitors and residents alike. The park’s presence and popularity have helped drive new development across the broader campus, making this a vital part of Downtown. With its millions of annual visitors, Discover Green’s success demonstrates the power of public spaces to foster community and drive economic development.”

— Michael Heckman, President & CEO, Houston First Corporation

”

VENUE LICENSE

DISCOVERY GREEN SUPPORTS TOURISM & REVITALIZATION OF DOWNTOWN HOUSTON

199

OTHER EVENTS HELD AT DISCOVERY GREEN





Photo: Egidio Narvaez

“

The best free entertainment you can attend in Houston for the family.

— Calvin C

”

“

"I am from New Orleans and every Sunday there was jazz on the river front in the French Quarter. I got that vibe at Jazzy Sunday, Thanks!!!"

— Jean M

”

FREE CONCERT SERIES

**MADE POSSIBLE BY
KINDER FOUNDATION**

JAZZY SUNDAYS IN THE PARKS

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF A FAVORITE HOUSTON TRADITION



130,000
ATTENDEES



59
CONCERTS



\$ 5 MILLION
IN LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACT



107
MUSICIANS/BANDS



75
FROM HOUSTON



48 GRAMMYS
97 NOMINATIONS



Photos: Egidio Narvaez, Nicki Evans, Nic Martinez & Emancipation Park Conservancy

“

It's not just a park, but a living, breathing testament to what happens when the bustling city gives way to tranquility and green space becomes the soul of a city.

Discovery Green is a place where the city slows down, joy speeds up and every season brings its own kind of magic, and I look forward to visiting again.

– Janecze Wright, Fort Hood Sentinel

”



Photo: Egidio Narvaez

DISCOVERY GREEN BY THE NUMBERS



3 MILLION
VISITS



602
EVENTS



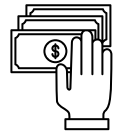
181
ARTISTS OR
PERFORMING
GROUPS



54
COLLABORATIONS
WITH NONPROFITS



190
NEW DONORS

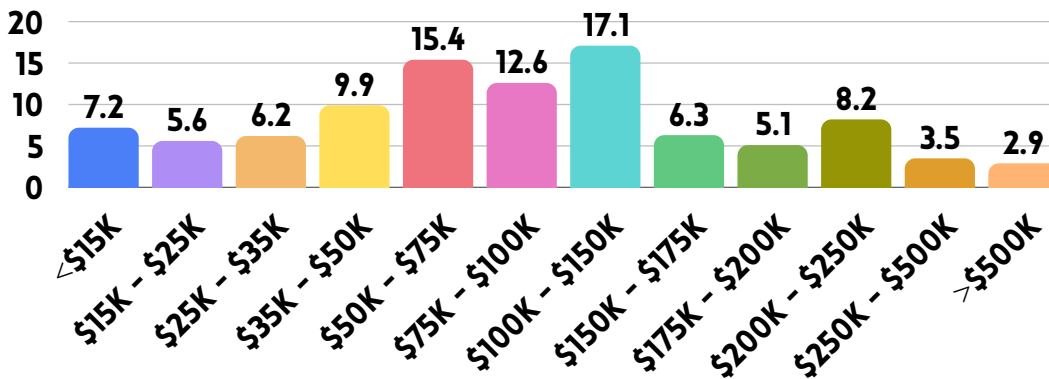


6
NEW GRANTS

AUDIENCE

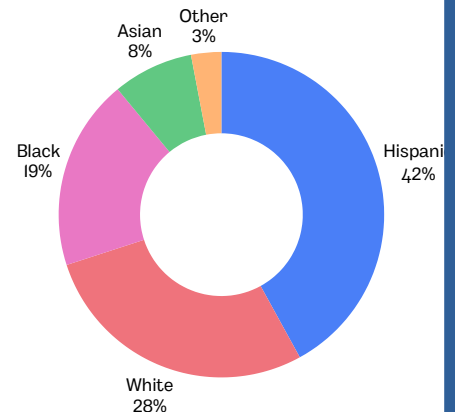
Discovery Green boasts an audience as diverse as Houston!

PERCENTAGE OF AUDIENCE BY INCOME



PLACER.AI

DEMOGRAPHICS



\$86,000
MEDIAN INCOME

Discovery Green's audience overindexes relative to Texas residents in households earning less than \$50K and more than \$200K annually. The audience underindexes among households earning between \$100K and \$150K.



32% HOUSEHOLDS
WITH KIDS

The share of households with children in Discovery Green's audience is on par with the Texas statewide average.

Stats compiled for FY 2026 using Placer.ai, visitor surveys and Conservancy records

DISCOVERY GREEN BY THE NUMBERS

ENGAGEMENT

NEWSLETTERS



53,500 SUBSCRIBERS
45% OPEN RATE

SOCIAL MEDIA



530,000
TOTAL FOLLOWERS



18 MILLION
TOTAL IMPRESSIONS



725,000
TOTAL ENGAGEMENTS

GOOGLE REVIEWS



4.7 RATING
1400 NEW REVIEWS

IN THE NEWS



\$1.1 BILLION
PUBLICITY VALUE

”

“A great park for kids to play, relax, and have fun right in the heart of downtown... My kid had a wonderful time here, and it’s definitely worth a visit for families.”

— Ajinkya P

A beautiful place to take a break... Beautiful trees, kind people, lots of greenery and seating. My favorite part of visiting Houston for work I was also able to catch a bit of a jazz performance on a Sunday. It was awesome. I love seeing that many people together celebrating music and it was free!

— Dana F

”

Family-friendly atmosphere – 167 reviews

Guests consistently describe Discovery Green as a welcoming place for kids, families, and multigenerational visits.

Free events and performances – 119 reviews

Many highlight concerts, movies, and festivals as key reasons they visit and return.

Beautiful green space – 88 reviews

Visitors praise the park's natural beauty, trees, and open lawns as a much-needed escape in the city.



Photo: Nic Martinez

“

I took my first grade class to Discovery Green for a field trip! We had a great time! We needed to find educational opportunities at the park. We found so many! From the agriculture, artwork, event space, playground, architecture, and sculptures. We learned so much! I always suggest Discovery Green to anyone visiting Houston.

— Candyss S

”

THANK YOU DISCOVERY GREEN SUPPORTERS

Andrew Abendshein
Nancy and Butch Abendshein
Maconda Abinader
Emily Shields and Todd Adam
Sallie and George Alcorn
Chinhui and Eddie Allen
Amegy Bank of Texas
 In honor of the Lindley Family
Anonymous
 In honor of Frances Lummis and Gillian Sarofim
Avenida Houston
June and Steve Barth
Dr. Christie Billings
Bracewell, LLP
Fredricka Brecht
The Brown Foundation, Inc.
Buffalo Bayou Holdings
The Gordon A. Cain Foundation
The Carruth Foundation, Inc.
Arturo Chavez
Community Health Choice
Megan and David Conover
Kari and John Dagley
Downtown Houston+
Gary and Kathryn Dudley
Jenny Elkins
Embassy Suites Houston Downtown
Encompass Health
EOG Resources Inc.
ExxonMobil
Elaine Finger
Katie and Alex Field
Baha and James Flavin
Fondren Foundation
The Marie M. and James H. Galloway Foundation
Garver/Black/Hilyard Family Foundation
Florence and Frederic Gautier-Winther
Green Mountain Energy
The Guild Shop of St John the Divine
Guy Hagstette
Susan and Bill Harmeyer
H-E-B
Elizabeth Hedden
 In honor of Gerald Isaac
Michelle and Frank Hevrdejs
Hilton Americas-Houston

The City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance
Houston Association of REALTORS®
Houston First Corporation
Jenny and Chris Johnson
John B. Johnson
Willard M. and Ruth Mayer Johnson
Charitable Foundation
JoyCare
JP Morgan Chase & Co.
Jenny and James Kempner
 In honor of Frances Lummis and Gillian Sarofim
The Kempner Fund
 In honor of Frances Lummis and Gillian Sarofim
Anne L. Kinder
Kinder Foundation
Nancy and Rich Kinder
KPRC 2
Kathy and Randy Lake
Elizabeth and Kris Larson
Leadership Houston Inc.
Audrey and Stan Leong
Kande Devoe Lewis
Lindley Family Foundation
Shelli and Steve Lindley
Cherie and John Lindley
Janiece Longoria
Kathryn Lott
Frances Lummis
Louisa Lummis
 In honor of Frances Lummis and Gillian Sarofim
Isabel and Ransom Lummis
Marvy Finger Family Foundation
The John P. McGovern Foundation
Memorial Hermann Health System
Metro by T-Mobile
Mid-America Arts Alliance
Ruthie and Adam Miller
Ginni and Richard Mithoff
Maria and Eduardo Morales
Desrye Morgan
Sara and Bill Morgan
 In honor of Nancy Kinder
Kimball and David Moriniere
John L. Nau III

Roxann and Tim Neumann
Karen and Bobbit Noel
North Houston Mitsubishi
The Northern Trust Company
Scott and Judy Nyquist
One Park Place and The Finger Companies
The John M. O'Quinn Foundation
Claire Padgett
Phoenicia Specialty Foods
PNC
Port Houston
Elisa and Cris Pye
 In honor of Frances Lummis and Gillian Sarofim
Judy and Bill Ramsey
Jackie and Albert Richey
River Oaks Garden Club
Beth Robertson
Sarofim Foundation
Courtney and Christopher Sarofim
Gillian Sarofim
Leslie and Shannon Sasser
Skanksa
Sterling-Turner Charitable Foundation
Judy and Charles Tate
 In honor of Frances Lummis
Ann-Marie Tcholakian and James Pendleton IV
Texas Department of Transportation
Krystal and Garrett Thompson
Elizabeth and Glenn Thompson
Charlie Thompson
The Unger Family
United Airlines, Inc.
The University of Texas Health Science Center
Univision Houston
UTEX Industries
Kara and Ulises Vidal
Vivian L. Smith Foundation
Kimberly and John Watson
Carrie and Ron Welsh
 In honor of Bennett Brown Welsh
The Winston Charitable Foundation
The Wortham Foundation, Inc.
Scott and Yvonne Ziegler
Zero Waste Houston