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PNB : THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE FOUNDATION

WITH SUPPORT FROM: ABC STONE, BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS, WHITACRE GREER, VERMONT QUARRIES, AND VICTOR STANLEY

Abstracts

Foundations for Change

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR,



new urban park should then be first understood in the context of a larger collection of spaces, neighborhoods, communities, and linkages.

SWA has for 45 years had a relationship with Downtown Dallas that includes the design and implementation of The Dallas West End, the original Carpenter Plaza, the 8-acre Griggs Park in Uptown, and the 3.5-mile linear park The Katy Trail. As Pacific



years – from tributary to the Trinity River, to residential neighborhood, to automobile service industry to film industry full circle to its present role as a contemporary residential enclave for downtown living. This talk will focus on opportunities the park has to become a downtown community gathering and play space with unique connections with nature, the incorporation of existing significant buildings with recreational and passive courts, and the prospect of striking views to nearby architecturally significant structures, while leveraging cultural memory of this rich and powerful cultural lifeway in downtown Dallas.

Panel II: Transforming and Connecting the City

Gail Thomas, Ph.D., Hon. AIA., , Center for the City of The Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture

Introductory Remarks

This conference is about the profound relationship between our habitat, our culture, and Nature.

In turning our attention to natural spaces within our inhabited places, we are experiencing the work of recapturing the soul of the city.

Every great city on our planet was founded adjacent to a body of water. In 1842, Dallas' founder, John Neely Bryan, terminated his western exploration at the banks of the Trinity River in order to trade with the Indians he met there and because of the verdant soil and rich vegetation present where three tributaries of the Trinity River come together.

The 20th Century brought people and industry to Dallas. First the railroads and then the highways and ultimately the airports drew attention away from the source of Dallas' initial habitation, and the Trinity River lapsed into obscurity, becoming a dumping site--the repository of discarded refuse.

People came and continue coming until now Dallas finds itself the fourth largest metropolitan area in our nation.

Symbolically, the institutions concerned with healing, education, and re-creation are leading the way to a recovery of our natural habitat, acknowledging the role Nature plays in the body, mind, and spirit of every human being. Dallas, one of the most air-conditioned cities in the world, is venturing outside.

Brent A. Brown, AIA, Trinity Park Conservancy
Harold Simmons Park

For a century now, the Trinity River has cut through Dallas like a dividing wedge, but it has also given Dallas an opportunity almost any city would envy.

Directly at our core is a vast tract of underutilized, neglected green space. Thanks to the generosity of early donors, to the wisdom of city leaders and to the engagement of residents and neighbors, this land can become something more than an afterthought or dividing line.

Connecting Downtown, West Dallas and Oak Cliff, Harold Simmons Park will encompass over 200 acres and almost one mile of the Trinity River. The Park invites all of Dallas to reimagine our river as a wellspring of connection – to nature, to one another and to new opportunities shared across our neighborhoods. The Park extends beyond the Trinity River and its levees to unite the city and will anchor a network of green streets and trails that link thriving, inclusive neighborhoods on both sides of the river.

