



## 2020 Activity Report

Hemisfair continues the work to deliver one of the world's great public places. To that end, the Hemisfair Conservancy raises funds for park operations and construction, historic preservation, environmental initiatives, and community programming. Charitable giving in 2020 supported the activities, outputs and outcomes listed below.

- Yanaguana Garden (Phase One of the Hemisfair redevelopment) continues in its popularity. Hemisfair has hosted over 2.8 million visitors, 84% of whom are locals, since opening in October 2015.
- Even with constraints on gathering, Hemisfair was able to serve more than 400,000 people through socially distant activities, individuals seeking respite in the outdoors, and through our [#ParkItAtHome initiative](#), which alone reached nearly 17,000 virtual programming participants in just eight months.
- We celebrated our largest corporate gift to-date: an anchor grant for [\\$750,000 from Bank of America](#) for the restoration of the historic Kusch House, which sits at the apex of all three of Hemisfair's public parks. Stabilization of the home is underway to ready it for solicitation and selection of a new local, small business tenant.
- We used the pause created by the pandemic to concentrate on design, construction and fundraising. This preparatory work delivered funding and scheduling of the following 2021 projects: construction commencement of the first section of Civic Park (Phase Two of the Hemisfair redevelopment); the addition of [several new small business tenants](#); ongoing restoration of historic homes; and development of design concepts for Tower Park (Phase Three of the Hemisfair redevelopment).
- Hemisfair proved its [importance as green infrastructure](#) accessible to the entire community. While traffic and play slowed down in the park, Yanaguana Garden served as a place of repose from the coronavirus. The community has used it in a peaceful, quiet way to take a breath of fresh air and connect with nature.

- Hemisfair joined the [High Line Network](#), an international cohort of infrastructure reuse projects, and the [Urban Park Roundtable](#), which convenes park professionals from around the country. Through these groups, our team collaborates with peer organizations to learn best practices, develop “next practices,” brainstorm new ideas, and strengthen our approach to critical issues such as racial justice, equity and inclusion.
- The Urban Land Institute recognized Yanaguana Garden at Hemisfair as an outstanding example of [a vibrant, urban open space](#) that has been instrumental in promoting healthy, sustainable and equitable outcomes in the community.
- Environmental initiatives included the [planting of trees](#), as well as the expansion and improvement of three [pollinator gardens](#) at Yanaguana Garden.
- We hosted our [first-ever holiday drive-thru event](#), in partnership with Centro San Antonio. The turnout was spectacular and demonstrated the demand for free, family-friendly community events.
- The Conservancy surpassed its annual fundraising goal of \$740,500 by 9% and made strides in the capital campaign for Civic Park. A generous long-time donor made a legacy gift earmarked for Civic Park. It was the largest bequest ever made for Hemisfair.
- We ended the year on a high note by announcing Hemisfair’s first-ever seven-figure gift from The Mays Family Foundation for the [Peggy Mays Garden](#).