

April 18, 2023
By Amber Heckler

San Antonio park promotes conservation with new birdhouse exhibits and tours



Multi Martin Housing by Lake Flato. Photo by Ansen Seale.

Thanks to the month-long “Birdsong Brackenridge” benefit for the Brackenridge Park Conservancy, many new birdhouses are being designed by young children and expert architects alike — all in recognition of San Antonio's [most historic park](#). And you'll get the chance to become a birding expert with a new series of tours through May.

New birdhouses designed by local school children will be on display at the San Antonio Central Library beginning April 18. The project is just one way the library is collaborating with the conservancy to bring together children, leading architects, and local artistry.

The young minds behind the man-made nests are Bonham Academy and Hawthorne Academy fifth grade school children who are part of Kids Initiating Design Solutions (KIDS) architecture program at the University of San Antonio's Young Artists Program. The birdhouses will be unveiled at the public reception during the library's grand reopening celebration at 5:30 pm, and will be exhibited until the end of April.

Suzanne Mathews, Lucifer Lighting director and the coordinator of the Birdsong Brackenridge benefit, said in a press release that she has always considered nonprofit collaboration to be the most important aspect of improving the local community. Her latest endeavor is the perfect pairing to increase community engagement among public entities like the park and library.

“This partnership is one of several collaborations the Conservancy is doing with nonprofits over the next six months, and we look forward to sharing more programming with the community,” she said.

The latest round of birdhouse exhibits follows just a week after the “Party in the Park: Birdsong Brackenridge” fundraising gala that took place on April 11. Grammy Award-winning music supervisor Randall Poster, who is also behind the musical benefit [“For the Birds: The Birdsong Project”](#), co-hosted the evening where ten internationally-recognized architects unveiled specially designed birdhouses for the park. All of the birdhouses are now on display at the McNay Art Museum.

“Great cities are defined by great public spaces,” said participating architects Angie Brooks and Larry Scarpa in the release. “Texas is the most bird-diverse state in the nation, and we are honored to create a unique sculpture for the birds of Brackenridge Park; contributing to the future of this important cultural resource for San Antonio[.]”



Home Tweet Home by Brooks + Scarpa. *Photo by Ansen Seale*

Following their display at the museum, the birdhouses will be installed at Brackenridge Park in the fall. The 10 architects that designed birdhouses for the gala include:

- Marlon Blackwell
- Angie Brooks and Larry Scarpa, Brooks + Scarpa
- Roberto de Leon, de Leon & Primmer Architecture Workshop
- Craig Dykers and Elaine Molinar, Snøhetta
- Ted Flato, Lake | Flato
- Everett L. Fly
- Michael G. Imber
- David Jameson
- Tom Kundig, Olson Kundig
- Judy Pesek, Gensler

If you want to get an up close and personal look at the biodiversity of the park, the conservancy is now hosting bird and nature walks for families and adults from April 18 through May 6. Birding beginners and experts alike will enjoy this all-skill level tour exploring the natural stretches of the San Antonio River. All tours are free to the public, but reservations are required.

Here are the tour dates and times:

- Adult group – April 18 and 19 from 8-10 am
- Adult and family groups – April 23 and May 6 from 8-10 am

More information about the Brackenridge Park Conservancy can be found at brackenridgepark.org.