

Parks and Recreation Arboretum San Antonio Update



**City Council B Session
February 12, 2025**



Explore and Discover



Henry Cisneros
Founder



Boston: Arnold Arboretum



Boston: Arnold Arboretum



Boston: Arnold Arboretum



Veterans Memorial Rhode Island State House Arboretum



National Arboretum: Washington, D.C



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Arboretum at Colorado State Univ



Fullerton Arboretum – Cal State



Hoyt Arboretum - Portland



National Arboretum - England



Scott Arboretum – Swarthmore PA



Washington Park Arboretum



Baltimore Cylburn Arboretum



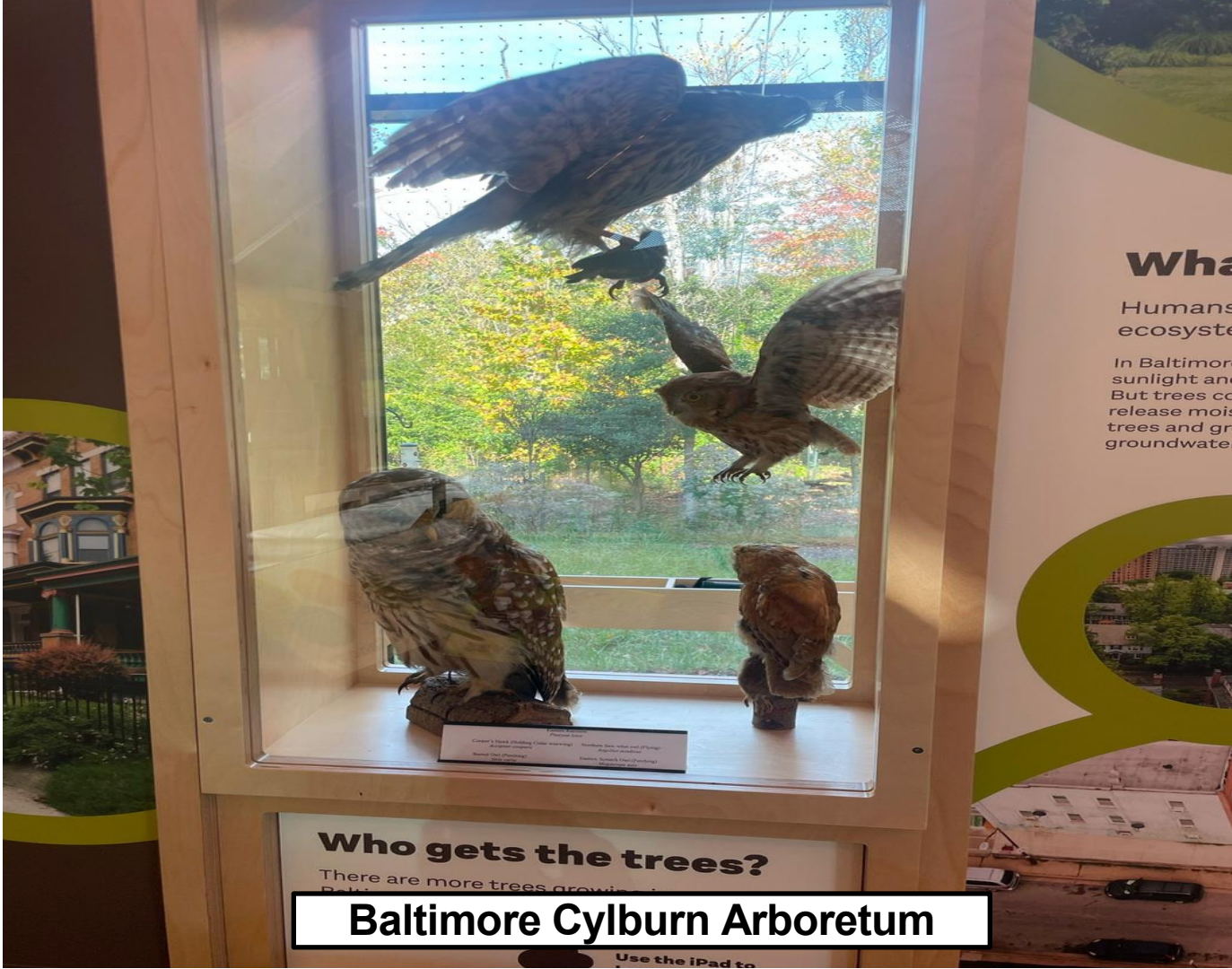
Baltimore Cylburn Arboretum



Baltimore Cylburn Arboretum



Baltimore Cylburn Arboretum



What

Humans
ecosyste

In Baltimore
sunlight and
But trees co
release mois
trees and gr
groundwater

Who gets the trees?

There are more trees growing...

Baltimore Cylburn Arboretum

Use the iPad to



Baltimore Cylburn Arboretum



Rooted in Community

February 12, 2025
COSA B-Session

SASAKI

Photo Courtesy: Robb S. Garcia



Vision

Trees branching generations, inspiring a deep love of nature, Arboretum San Antonio welcomes all to connect with our cultural heritage and collectively build an environmentally restorative future.

Mission

Arboretum San Antonio provides immersive nature-based experiences that reflect South Texas' vibrant cultural and Indigenous legacies. We offer welcoming places for retreat to support the well-being of people and the natural world, provide accessible programming that empowers and delights individuals and communities, and research critical connections between trees and the changing climate.



WHAT WE VALUE

These values drive our decision making



Sustainable Stewardship

We are dedicated to conserving and expanding the region's biodiversity and incorporating sustainable practices at the site. We leverage the best available science to enhance the understanding, function and use of nature, including trees and plants, to support a sustainable and livable community.

Continuous Learning

We are dedicated to lifelong learning about the environment through discovery and engagement with nature. As an organization, we cultivate a culture of continuous growth, collaboration, and shared learning.

Cultural Commitment

Branching generations, trees hold both our history and our future. With deep respect for our roots, we secure a living legacy through trees. We honor the rich culture of San Antonio, the geographic richness of our city's Southside, and the indigenous people who came before us as we steward the original function of the land through planning and programming.

Inclusive Community

We reflect the diversity of our community and are an inclusive space to explore, play, and connect. We serve our community by offering a sanctuary for rejuvenation, inspiration, and restoration through equitable access to nature.

Engaged Partnership

We actively partner with the community, stakeholders, and experts throughout San Antonio and the nation, valuing their input to build appreciation for nature and achieve common goals.



Why an Arboretum?

Arboretums are living sanctuaries where the majesty of trees and shrubs is celebrated, offering a serene space for discovery, reflection, and connection with nature's enduring strength.

- ✓ Health and Wellness
- ✓ Environmental Sustainability
- ✓ Economic Development
- ✓ Research
- ✓ Protect and Preserve Trees

- ✓ Community and Education
- ✓ Equitable Access to Nature





The Team

SASAKI

Board of Directors & Leadership

Junta Directiva y Liderazgo



Henry Cisneros
Founder*
Fundador



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*Founding Member

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Raba-Kistner



Karen Guz
SAWS



Dr. Kelly Lyons
Trinity University



Julia Murphy
Retired from COSA
Sustainability



Peter Pierson
SARA-Arborist



Consultant Team Majority Local Consultants

Sasaki



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Principal-in-Charge
Principal a Cargo



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Gerente de Proyecto



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Lider de Sustentabilidad
Arquitecto Paisajista



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Diseñador de paisajes



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Arquitecto Paisajista



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Arbolista Lider

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Dueño/Principal



Kate Edwards
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Vice Presidente de Marketing
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Civil Engineer
Ingeniero Civil



Will Kroll
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Ingeniero Civil

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Outreach Facilitator
Facilitador de Divulgación

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Arquitecto Paisajista



Mark Padilla
Landscape Architect
Arquitecto Paisajista



Cecelia Garcia- Hours
Landscape Designer
Arquitecto Paisajista

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Architectural Planner
Planificador arquitectónico



Kyle Moller
Planner
Planificador

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Lead Outreach Facilitator
Facilitador Principal de
Divulgación



Christina M. Castaño
Public Involvement Manager
Gerente de Participación
Publica

VISUAL STORYTELLER SBE



Robb S. Garcia
Filmmaker, Photographer
Videografo y Fotógrafo

Key/Simbología

NATIONAL FIRMS
FIRMAS NACIONALES

LOCAL FIRMS
FIRMAS LOCALES

MBE MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE
EMPRESAS COMERCIALES PERTENECIENTES A MINORÍAS

WBE WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE
EMPRESAS COMERCIALES PERTENECIENTES A MUJERES

SBE SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE
PEQUEÑAS EMPRESAS COMERCIALES



The Site



Leon Creek
Greenway

Northside

Alamo
Heights

Salado Creek
Greenway

Westside

Eastside

Downtown
San Antonio



The Alamo

Martin Luther King Park

China
Grove

Lackland
& Kelly AFB

Mission Concepcion



Southside Lions Park



Mission San Jose

Pearsall Park

Southside

Brooks

Mission San Juan



San Antonio River

ARBORETUM
SAN ANTONIO

Palo Alto College

Texas A&M
San Antonio

Mission Espada



Mission
del Lago

Mitchell
Lake

Medina River
Greenway

Salado Creek

Arboretum Site

- 188 acres + 18.5 (Pedrotti tract) : 200 Acres total
- Strategic partnership with Brooks
- Many mature trees, diverse species
- Located along Salado Creek
- SAWS recycled water contract
- 12 min from downtown, off SE Military
- Greenway hike and bike trail system
- 4 miles of paved cart paths

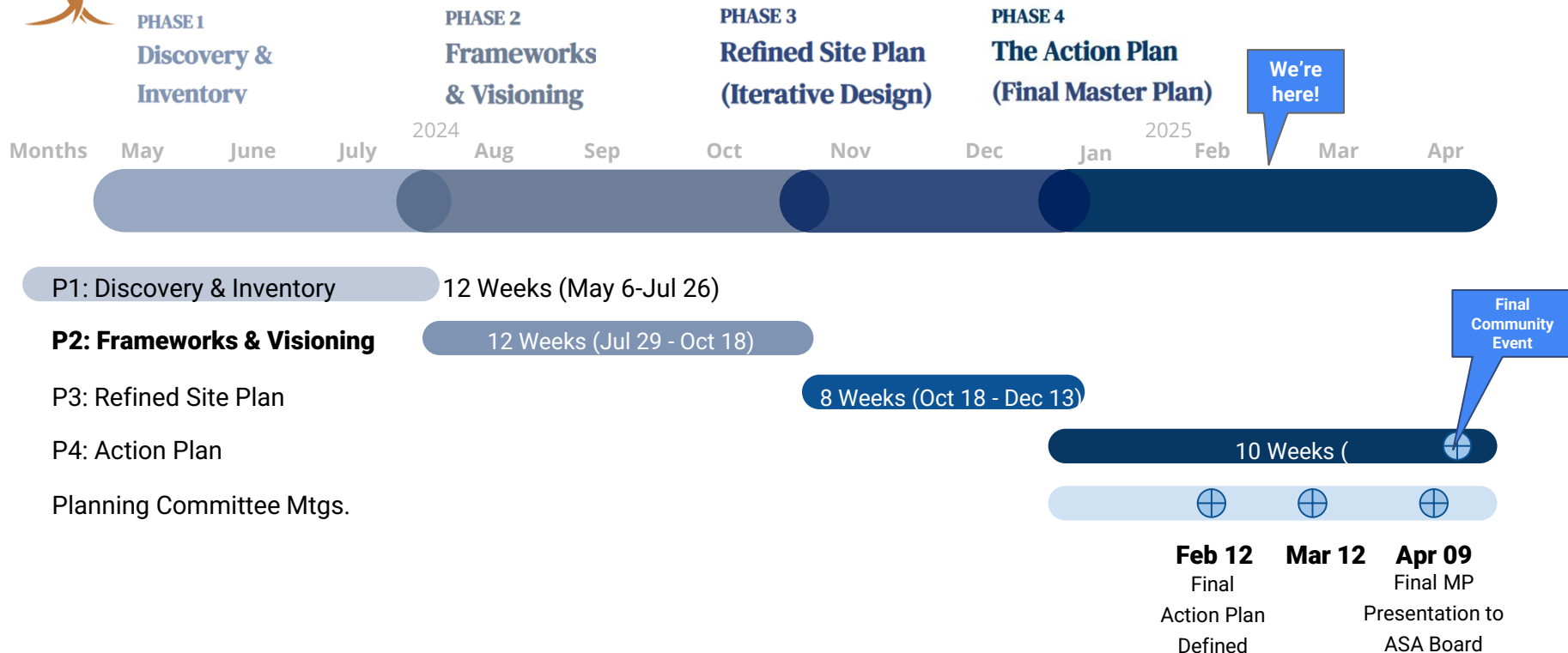




Master Planning Schedule & Status



Master Plan Schedule



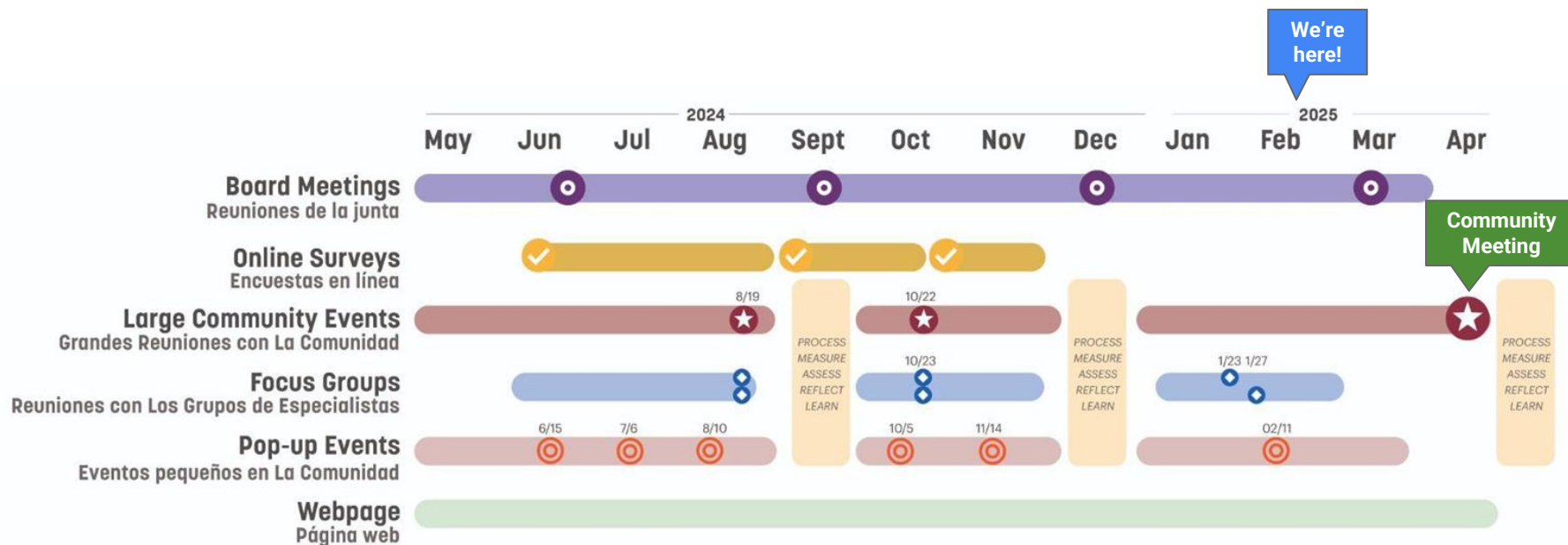


Community Engagement

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Master Plan Engagement





Community Engagement By The Numbers

5 Pop Ups

2 Community Events

6 Focus Group Meetings

3 Online Surveys

80+ Site Tours

Website, social media, and radio

18,000 People Reached!



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Photo Courtesy: Robb S. Garcia



Site Design Direction

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Guiding Site Design Principles

Arboretum San Antonio Values

**Sustainable
Stewardship**

**Cultural
Commitment**

**Engaged
Partnership**

**Inclusive
Community**

**Continuous
Learning**

Master Plan Principles



Respect &
Restore Forest
Resources



Trees as
Connectors
to Culture &
History



Collaborative
Design with City
& County
Partners



Programs as
“Doors of
Relevance”
to Trees



Tree Education
& Research
Inherent in
Design



Pulling the best ideas, not just one concept

Community Crossroads



**Growing trees and
community.**



Wild San Antonio



**Celebrating
immersion in nature.**



The Testing Grounds



**Learning from
the land.**



Final Concept



Tree Nursery Program

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Tree Nursery at Arboretum San Antonio



- 140 tree seedlings planted in 2024 next to pond
- Partnership with Palo Alto College for maintenance
- Underway: water distribution for delivery of recycled water to various cultivated locations
- Awaiting completion of a final master plan concept (April 2025) to initiate formal build-out.



Tree Nursery at Arboretum San Antonio

Benefits

- Expanding Access to Native Trees in San Antonio
- Enhancing Biodiversity and Urban Resilience
- Living Classroom Benefit for all San Antonio Residents
- Opportunities to Increase Biodiversity in the San Antonio Nursery Trade
- Dedicated Space for Production, Research, and Retail



Photo Courtesy: Liz Garza Williams



Next Steps

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Next Steps

- The master plan report will include an Operations and Maintenance Plan, Detailed Cost Estimate, Revenue Generating Strategies, and a Phasing Plan.
- Expect Master Plan completion in April 2025.
- Anticipating a 2027 Bond Request of \$25 million. Bond will be one piece of a multi-pronged funding strategy. Additional funding sources include public funds, and corporate, foundation, and philanthropic donations.

ASA DONORS

\$1M+



Hon. Henry &
Mary Alice Cisneros



\$200k+



THE
Nancy Smith Hurd
FOUNDATION

\$100k+

Mays Family
FOUNDATION



HOLT
FAMILY FOUNDATION



\$20k+



Siebert Foundation

Humberto "Berto" Guerra



TRUIST

Bitterblue, Inc.
...developing a difference.

Sam and Laura Dawson
Family Foundation

80|20 FOUNDATION

John "Chico" Newman



Thank You

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Photo Courtesy: Robb S. Garcia