



PARKS FOR DOWNTOWN DALLAS
For The Greener Good

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2017

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**Parks for Downtown Dallas Announces Approval of Pacific Plaza Contract and Receipt of First Gift
*HKS Makes a Major Donation Toward the Construction of Pacific Plaza***

DALLAS, TEXAS, March 22, 2017 – The Dallas City Council approved development and operating endowment agreements between Parks for Downtown Dallas and the City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department today for the creation of Pacific Plaza. Pacific Plaza will be a 3.2-acre park bound by North Harwood Street, Pacific Avenue, North St. Paul Street and One Dallas Center, incorporating the adjacent .49-acre James W. Aston Park.

Pacific Plaza is one of the priority park sites first identified in the 2004 Downtown Parks Master Plan. Bridge funding from The Trust for Public Land and permanent funding from the 2006 City of Dallas Bond Program allowed the Park and Recreation Department to acquire the site over a three-year period. In June 2016, the City of Dallas approved a contract with Parks for Downtown Dallas to lead a schematic design process for Pacific Plaza. Construction is expected to begin in early 2018 and is estimated to take approximately 12-18 months.

“On behalf of the citizens of Dallas,” stated Mayor Mike Rawlings, “I want to thank Parks for Downtown Dallas for their tireless work over the years to raise money and execute plans to further the greening of downtown. These Pacific Plaza plans are years in the making and will serve to benefit generations of Dallasites.”

Parks for Downtown Dallas has committed up to \$15 million for the design and construction of Pacific Plaza. It is also establishing a \$1 million permanent operating endowment for the park that will assist the Park and Recreation Department with Pacific Plaza’s annual maintenance budget. HKS — a top architectural firm based in Dallas — has made a major gift to Parks for Downtown Dallas to assist in the construction of Pacific Plaza.

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Robert W. Decherd, chairman of Parks for Downtown Dallas, said, "Everyone associated with Parks for Downtown Dallas is excited by the prospect of commencing work on Pacific Plaza, the first of four priority park projects recommended in the 2013 Update of the Downtown Parks Master Plan. We are very appreciative of the unanimous support of the Park Board. And, the extraordinarily generous gift of HKS to help fund Pacific Plaza is an important precedent for all of the priority parks. Hopefully, the generosity of HKS and its partners will help inspire the broader philanthropic community to direct significant commitments to downtown parks and parks throughout the City."

"We are very excited to see this project become a reality," HKS CEO Dan Noble said. "Pacific Plaza will be a tremendous asset to downtown Dallas, and we look forward to it being right outside the front door of our One Dallas Center headquarters. We are honored to give back to the community through our donation and look forward to working with the City, Parks for Downtown Dallas and SWA in bringing it to life."

Pacific Plaza is being designed by SWA, an international landscape architecture firm. SWA has been responsible for the design of Katy Trail and Griggs Park in Dallas, as well as the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in Marin County, California; Terry Hershey Park in Houston, Texas; and Stanford University Terman Park in Palo Alto, California.

Parks for Downtown Dallas exists to assist the City of Dallas and the Park and Recreation Department in the funding, construction and long-term capital repair of parks recommended in the Downtown Parks Master Plan. The 2004 Master Plan and its 2013 Update were unanimously adopted by the City Council and Park Board. As a 501(c)(3) foundation, Parks for Downtown Dallas not only invests capital in downtown park projects but also serves as a vehicle for interested philanthropists to provide financial support for these parks.

About Parks for Downtown Dallas and The Belo Foundation

Parks for Downtown Dallas was created in 2015 from the assets of The Belo Foundation. Parks for Downtown Dallas funds the development of urban parks and green space in downtown Dallas. Prior to its reconstitution as Parks for Downtown Dallas, The Belo Foundation (established in 1952) awarded more than \$54 million in grants during its 63 years of philanthropy.

About HKS

HKS is a team of more than 1,300 architects, interior designers, urban designers, scientists, artists, anthropologists and other professionals working together across industries and across the globe to create places that delight, heal and stimulate peak performance. The firm has nurtured a culture of extraordinary people with curious and creative minds who are passionate about delivering elegant solutions. HKS has a dedicated research team that digs deep to discover processes and ideas that improve outcomes for everyone. In everything HKS does, it is mindful of the fragility of all life and the planet.

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CAPTION FOR PACIFIC PLAZA BIRD'S EYE PERSPECTIVE (source SWA):

The schematic, or initial design, of Pacific Plaza was approved in October 2016. The final design of the park will be unveiled in fall 2017.



PACIFIC PLAZA

Dallas Park & Recreation